

Watauga County Public Library  
**Library Report for September/October 2025**

***Advocacy/Library Promotion***

A press release will go out to promote September's Library Card Sign Up Month and we have received drawing prizes for those who sign up for a card. Displays planned for September and October include Hispanic Heritage Month, Art Appreciation Month, Halloween, and Banned Books Week. Several hundred families were reached at the Back 2 School Festival in August at the Library's table. We added forty-three names to the newsletter listing and gave away approximately 150 books. Adult Services will attend the Adult Services Expo on September 25 at the Watauga Recreation Center.

***Partnerships/Funding***

For the Library Card Sign Up Month drawing, the Library has received prize tickets from Neighborhood Yoga, Rock Dimensions, Mysterium Escape Adventure, Sky Valley Zip Tours, High Gravity Adventures and Mystery Hill.

We hope to partner with the Board of Elections for National Voter Registration Day on September 16 and beyond until election day. The Library is partnering with Project Challenge to allow middle school students to do their community service hours here; they will be supervised and will volunteer indoors and outdoors around the building. The Youth Services Department is partnering with NC Emergency Management to promote their disaster preparedness campaign titled "Prep A Little, Save A Lot". Each week, families can add items to their emergency kits.

***Programs/Services***

We had 600+ kids sign up for the Summer Reading program and the Western Watauga Branch had 151. Last year it was 515 and 151, respectively. We may have broken the registration record. Donna Bonner and Monica will read bilingual stories on Wednesdays Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1 and 8 for Hispanic Heritage Month. Chess Club, Dungeons & Dragons, Teen Hangout, and Legos will return in September after taking a summer break. Boone Boo is scheduled for October 31st, and the library will participate.

***Staff/Volunteer News***

August brought some staff changes; we welcomed a new Circulation Assistant, Emma Smith. Emma worked in Youth Services over the summer. Sal Powell began work as a new Shelver and Colleen Pepper as the new Youth Services Manager. The Fall Digital Watauga Intern, Krystal Brooke Carter also began work. Angela Constantino, Assistant Circulation Manager, will be retiring effective September 5 so we are in the process of hiring a new person to fill this position. New book donation sorters include Joanne Puliatto, Jim Prather, Priscilla Rich, and Angie Farr. A volunteer drop-in appreciation is scheduled for Friday, November 20, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Thank you to all our 2025 Reading & Rolling volunteers for serving 56 children this past summer. Thanks to volunteers Deborah Pace and Barbara Perry-Sheldon and staff members Abe Williams and Monica for attending the Back 2 School Festival. Finally, we really appreciated our seventeen summer youth volunteers, without whom we wouldn't have had such a rich and enhanced summer reading program.

***Looking Ahead***

We will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 1.

## Statistics for Fiscal Years 2023 - 2025

### SUMMER READING PROGRAM

	MAIN			WESTERN WATAUGA		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Registration	642	515	680	127	151	162
Programs	42	69	65	6	7	7
Attendance	1,978	1,443	2,835	269	390	301
Minutes Read	307,385	265,320	429,660	53,340	63,420	68,040

### E-BOOKS AND E-AUDIO THROUGH OVERDRIVE – REGIONAL CIRCULATION

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
E-Books	11,262	11,878	15,871
E-Audio	4,855	5,757	10,298

<b>MAIN</b>					
	<b>FY 2023</b>		<b>FY 2024</b>		<b>FY 2025</b>
CARDHOLDERS	33,525		35,222		37,241
CIRCULATION	185,634		176,690		170,964
VISITS	102,245		112,606		110,423
PROGRAMS	278		572		303
ATTENDANCE	8,274		11,418		6,035
PAGE VIEWS	57,030		60,358		54,140
JUVENILE BK CIRC	108,362		99,793		97,371
ADULT BK CIRC	61,339		61,058		59,656
AUDIO/VISUAL CIRC	15,564		15,385		13,726
COMPUTER USE	7,886		7,015		7052
WI-FI	79,568		76,980		86,090
MEETING ROOM USE (outside agencies)	58		59		46
MEETING ROOM ATTENDANCE (outside agencies)	5,816		1,270		893

Meeting room use and attendance decrease due to Hurricane Helen.

<b>WESTERN WATAUGA BRANCH</b>					
	<b>FY 2023</b>		<b>FY 2024</b>		<b>FY 2025</b>

CARDHOLDERS	1,475		1,534		1,578
CIRCULATION	14,716		14,481		16,481
VISITS	6,285		6,450		6,533
PROGRAMS	59		63		75
ATTENDANCE	946		1,225		1,878
JUVENILE BK CIRC	4,282		4,369		5,925
ADULT BK CIRC –Includes Outreach	8,924		8,651		9,587
AUDIO/VISUAL CIRC	1,326		1,251		785
COMPUTER USE	337		362		393
WI-FI	5,569		19,222		22,383