



Black Rock Branch AUGUST 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards:	34	Number of questions answered:				
	number of visitors:	1795	[Reference, Technical, Other]				
			REFERENCE:	318	OTHER:	236	TECH:
			TOTAL: 682				
Collections Statistics	Collection Size:	33427					
	Total Added:	107					
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ:	1429					
	In House:	62					
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month:	297					
	Total Wifi connections:	269					
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance						
	Bookings:	14					
	Attendance:	30 (estimate)					
Programming	REGULAR PROGRAMMING:						
	4 Weekly Crafts:		14 Patrons				
	7 Story Times:		14 Patrons				
	1 Adult Book Club:		4 Patrons				
	1 Nutmeg Book Club		0 Patrons				
	2 STEAM Thursdays		10 Patrons				
	2 Digital Orientation		0 Patrons				
	4 Family Movies		19 Patrons				
	4 Movies for Grownups		6 Patrons				
	2 Lego Club		7 Patrons				
	2 Crafternoon		5 Patrons				
	1 Adult Take and Makes		15 Patrons				
	SPECIAL PROGRAMMING						
	8/14/2025	Marvelous Marvin	19 Patrons				
8/23/2025	Bridgevolt	14 Patrons					
Other Services	Digital Navigator	9 Sessions	5 Patrons				
	Notary	17 Patrons	17 Documents				
	Passport	N/A					
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached						
	8/2/2025	BR Farmers' Market	18 people				
	8/16/2025	BR Farmers' Market	44 people				
	8/23/2025	Kidfest (part of Porchfest)	17 people				
Staff Development	No major training this month						
	Joel started at BR and so is familiarizing himself with our building, our procedures, our collection, etc.						

HIGHLIGHTS

COLLECTIONS

We continue to weed and to build collections as usual. A number of carts of books have been ordered so far, and finally we are in a place where much of our material is pre-order instead of catching up. While I've reported in the past a minority of patrons who don't seem to care for our newest materials, we have had patrons complimenting us for not only purchasing materials for them but for following up with phone calls to ensure that they received their requests.

We've also been told by at least one other branch that many of the new materials that patrons are seeking end up being holds fulfilled by BR, so it seems that we are starting to develop a collection that is not merely responsive to the community, but actually anticipates emerging reading and research trends.

PROGRAMS

While our overall stats for programming this month were pleasing (we are especially pleased with the turnout for Marvelous Marvin and Bridgevolt) we did see a downturn in some formerly steady attendance such as that of story times. I expect this is due to camps ending in July and parents having to find alternative care for children. However, something we observed in July was that most of our attendance overall was low. We will be using this info to reconfigure the thrust of our summer programming next year to coincide better with the summer camp schedule; in Summer 2026 we intend to host the majority of our summer programming, especially paid programming, in August and leave July to smaller, in-house activities when kids appear to be engaged in other activities.

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

We were able to attend a few outreach events this summer including the second year of Kidfest, where we hosted an hour long story time for attendees. The kids who attended LOVED the stories I selected, and in fact were running over to my bag and digging to see what other books I might have. Not only did I read all of the books I brought, I read some of them twice because new kids kept dropping by and some kids just loved the stories so much they wanted to hear them again!

CONCERNS

No major new concerns popped up this month. Some concerns were expressed by staff with the opening of one of our lower level rooms to be a quiet study area for patrons during the day. Most libraries offer spaces for quiet study, and I am not sure why there is consternation about doing it here but it is a necessary adjustment to how we manage our spaces. Perhaps it is because it is a new use of space that people are skeptical.