

Roseburg Library Asks for Community Feedback Christian Sala for The News Review

As the current RARE AmeriCorps member serving as the outreach services lead for Roseburg Public Library, I am leading this spring's library use assessment survey project.

Over the next three months, I will shepherd an in-depth assessment of people's experiences and need for library services, including opinions of and engagement with Roseburg Public Library. I will gather data to determine where the need is greatest and whether current services meet that need.

As library staff, we anecdotally know the importance and significance of what we do for our patrons. There is something to be said, though, for measuring those sentiments with surveys and data.

Therefore, I have divided the assessment into three areas of outreach.

First, a conventional paper/web survey is available for everyone to complete. It is available in paper format at the library and online at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org. In addition, this week we will mail surveys to 400 random households, 100 in each of Roseburg's four wards.

We expect the survey to take 10 to 15 minutes to complete; each question is important. The time you invest in this survey will help us take a community-driven approach to informing future library programs and projects.

Surveys can be extremely useful for efficiently gathering data about library users' attitudes, knowledge, behavior, experiences and demographics. We also want to hear from community members who do not utilize library services.

We have taken time to consider Roseburg's particular community when designing and administering the survey – all of our communities are unique and should be surveyed as such.

The second outreach area is four informal focus groups with free pizza and beverages at the library.

Focus groups will help determine patrons' satisfaction with the library's resources and services. The conversations will be informal and reflect patrons' experiences at Roseburg Public Library. Each meeting will last about one hour. Participants must be at least 11 years old and have a valid Roseburg Public Library card.

Sessions will be conducted at 12 p.m. Tuesday, March 5; 6 p.m. Thursday, March 28; 12 p.m. Saturday, April 13; and 12 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Patrons may sign up on the library's home page or by calling 541-492-7052.

Last, I will conduct informal conversations with patrons at the library and at outreach events.

The intended outcome of my work is a set of findings that will support the development of programs, projects and services based on community needs and library capacity; further Roseburg Public Library's mission to "Promote Community, Inspire Curiosity, Encourage Learning"; and support the creation of the library's second five-year strategic plan.

I will present my findings to the Roseburg Public Library Commission at 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 18 at the library. The written report will be posted on the library's website.

Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts about the library. We value your time and feedback.

This Week's Library Events

Wednesday, February 28, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, February 28, 4-4:45 p.m. – Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

Thursday, February 29, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. – Friends of the Library Book Sale

Thursday, February 29, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, February 29, 4 p.m. – Resume workshop (email csala@cityofroseburg.org to register)

Thursday, February 29, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group

Friday, March 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – Friends of the Library Book Sale

Friday, March 1, 12-2 p.m. – Drop-in tech help

Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Friends of the Library Book Sale