

Volunteers Add Value to Library Kris Wiley for The News Review

April is National Volunteer Month, and we celebrate all volunteers, especially the dedicated crew at Roseburg Public Library.

In 2023, 21 volunteers contributed 1,250 hours to the library.

Nearly all of them spend at least part of their time shelving materials. With 80,000 items in the collection, that requires a lot of effort and attention to detail. If a book is not shelved in the correct spot, it is lost to us and patrons, and volunteers play a crucial role in maintaining proper order and tidy shelves.

Many of these volunteers help us in other ways, including lending a hand at programs and tending the plants. One works the front desk, and another creates the video slideshow of library events.

We also have welcomed student volunteers to assist with programs, package craft kits and fold brochures.

Every single one of them steps up and steps in whenever we need help.

We also are super fortunate to have the Friends of the Roseburg Public Library volunteers, who raise funds for the library, oversee important special projects and advocate for public library services.

In 2023, more than 30 Friends contributed 1,830 hours of service.

Most of the community knows the Friends manage various book sales. There is the book store inside the library that is open during library hours. There are the larger, quarterly book sales. Then there is the Friends' online store at Amazon.

Their work starts well before the sales. They sort the boxes and boxes and boxes of donations as well as library withdrawals, stage the books, then present them for sale. It sounds simple – and the Friends make it look simple because they have developed a fine-tuned system. I assure you, though, that the system takes an extraordinary amount of dedication and time.

Funds raised by the Friends support many library special activities, including the StoryWalk® in the Roseburg parks system, craft supplies, reading program prizes, speaker honorariums and more.

The Friends also serve as the local affiliate for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which mails one free book every month to registered children from birth to fifth birthday in the Roseburg, Winchester, Wilbur, Glide and Idleyld Park areas. Our program serves nearly

1,500 children, and registrations are ongoing at www.imaginationlibrary.com; click Check Availability.

The Friends also adopted the trail behind the library, and volunteers ensure the path beside the Sister Cities Friendship Garden remains clear of litter.

People interested in becoming a Friend may drop by the library for an application form or visit the Friends' website at www.roseburglibraryfriends.org.

Finally, the seven members of the Library Commission volunteer their time and talent to review policies and make recommendations to library staff and the City Council. The group meets at 4 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library, and the meetings are livestreamed on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofroseburg.

We are grateful for all of these folks' enthusiasm for the library and community service.

Thank you, volunteers. Roseburg Public Library is better because of you.

This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, April 16, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Wednesday, April 17, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, April 17, 3 p.m. – STEAM program for elementary students

Thursday, April 18, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, April 18, 3-5 p.m. – Teen volunteer hours

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group