

Athena Public Library

Annual Library Service Plan FY2026-2027

Library Vision for the Future:

Athena Public Library is a bold and vibrant part of Athena, Oregon. We support and develop programs and collections that contribute meaning and value to community life.

1. Goal: Stay and Play Storytime

Community needs being addressed:

- Early childhood literacy and school readiness.
- Opportunities for parents and children to socialize and build community connections.

Priority:

Early Childhood Programs: Focused on developing early literacy skills and preparing children for lifelong learning.

Year 1 activities:

- Revitalize story time by establishing a consistent day and time, improving advertising and outreach, and encouraging a welcoming “stay and play” atmosphere.
- Bring in toddler appropriate learning toys to help keep kids engaged.
- Partner with the school to share information with families preschool through Elementary regarding library programs.

Year 2 activities:

- Evaluate attendance and participant feedback to enhance programming.
- Expand programming opportunities to include themed story times, music and movement activities, or sensory play experiences.
- Explore partnerships with local early childhood organizations and educators.

2. Goal: Kids Clubs

Community Needs Being Addressed:

- Helping children become familiar with the library and utilize it as a valuable community resource
- Encouraging literacy, lifelong learning, and positive relationships with youth and their families

Priority:

K–12 Youth Programs: Focused on establishing and maintaining lifelong relationships between youth and the public library.

Year 1 activities

- Strengthen consistency in youth programming throughout the year by establishing regularly scheduled activities such as:
 - Monthly book clubs
 - Chess club
 - Make and take STEM kits or craft activities
 - Teen Advisory Board
- Get outside the library with the book bike at the weekly Tuesday market and provide take and make crafts, flyers for events, and giveaway books. This way the library can reach more people that don't already use the library and can raise awareness about library programs. When possible, we will have the teen intern host the book bike for this event.
- Provide opportunities for kids to volunteer in the library.

Year 2 activities

- Partner with the school district to increase awareness of youth library programs and participation opportunities.
 - Explore collaborative events with schools, such as reading challenges or family literacy nights.
-

3. Goal: Adult Programming and Social Events

Community Needs Being Addressed:

- Continuing education opportunities
- Access to free programs
- Community engagement

Priority:

Adult Programs: Focused on lifelong learning, continuing education, community enrichment, and outreach to seniors and homebound residents.

Year 1 Activities:

- Offer educational programs that allow adults to learn new skills, hobbies, or technologies.
- Invite local speakers to present programs related to community's interests and needs.
- Host at least four crafting or creative workshops each year to encourage creativity, stress relief, and social interaction.

Year 2 Activities:

- Expand programming based on participant feedback and attendance trends.
- Develop outreach opportunities for seniors and homebound residents.
- Partner with local organizations or businesses to co-host programs and events.