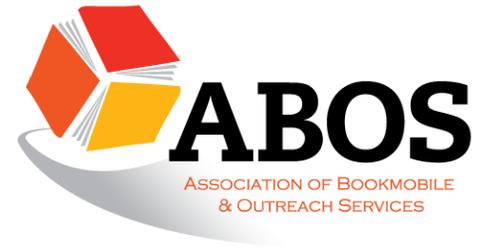


Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services

1190 Meramec Station Road
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Press Release – For Immediate Release

The Winter Park (FL) Public Library is the recipient of the 2021 ABOS Book Bike Community Impact Award. The Book Bike Community Impact Award, sponsored by the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services, is presented annually to a library, department, or an individual who has provided exemplary library book bike service to their community.

The Winter Park (FL) Public Library's book bike allows the library to haul 250 pounds of books and other materials into community centers, parks, apartment and senior living facilities, festivals, conventions and more. The bike allows the library to make available a curated lending collection, provide free Wi-Fi access on site, showcase essential digital resources and online learning content, provide pop-up crafts and engaging activities, and promote library classes all from an ADA-compliant and sustainable vehicle which fits almost any situation.

Winter Park Public Library librarians have taken the bike to the very popular Winter Park Farmers' Market where countless conversations helped build community support for the new library building project. Outreach scheduled for the book bike promotes the contributions of people of color at the local Unity Festival and Juneteenth events each year, reminding the attendees of well-known authors, artists, and scientists and lesser-known local journalists and activists.

Librarians rode the book bike to lead reminiscence stories, games, and activities with the seniors at the Winter Park Community Center each month. The book bike has been ridden to some non-traditional locations and events: a wine tasting at a new spirits store, a wedding vow renewal ceremony, running the Captain Underpants game at the carnival at the nearby elementary school, registering new library members at the local Brewstillery, distributing back-to-school items at the subsidized housing apartments, and supporting public servants at the annual National Night Out. Annually, the book bike attends Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July celebration, and the Halloween Trick or Treat Trail.

The Winter Park Public Library's book bike has appeared at 99 events, had 8,829 interactions, and distributed 1,613 free children's books.

Emily Smith, Volunteer and Program Manager at the Mead Botanical Garden, describes that, “Our partnership with the book bike services has led to a fruitful partnership. During the pandemic, when library services were curtailed, we invited the library to lead story classes in our Garden. The popular monthly program continues to grow and draw in new people for both the library and our Garden. The library has also installed many storybook walks along the Garden paths. The books selected often have a nature theme and are a great way for our families to discover an underused part of our park. The library has even transported the storybook walks using the book bike. The Winter Park Public Library’s book bike provides an outstanding service to the community and has generated new interest in library activities and services.”

Cathleen Daus, Assistant Director at the Winter Park Public Library, shares that, “The librarians at Winter Park Library have made a positive impact on the community through their outreach efforts and the book bike is a pivotal part of their plans ... the book bike provides a valuable connection to our community's library.”

The Book Bike Community Impact Award will be presented at the Awards Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, during the 2021 Virtual Conference of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services. The ceremony starts at 10:15 a.m. CST.