

October 23, 2015

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## Calendar

FY16 State Aid Paperwork due	Now!
LSTA Notice of Intent Due	12/4/15
Public Library Survey Due	12/31/15
Statement of Fiscal Responsibility Due	01/01/16

Outside the Lines (OTL) is a weeklong celebration demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. Started by Colorado library marketers and directors, this initiative is purposed to show communities how important libraries are and how they've changed over the years. This year, 30 public libraries in Alabama participated which is twice as many as last year! Abby Carpenter, Adult Services Manager at Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, played an integral part in bringing Outside the Lines to Alabama and spent a lot of time and energy promoting it and educating librarians about it. Thank you, Abby!

This year, OTL was held September 13th-19th, and the thirty participants did an excellent job meeting the OTL goals by getting people thinking and talking about libraries in a different way, showcasing the library out in the community as well as in the library, highlighting how the library is relevant, representing communities, and hosting engaging, fun, and unique events.

See how a few of the participants celebrated this initiative.

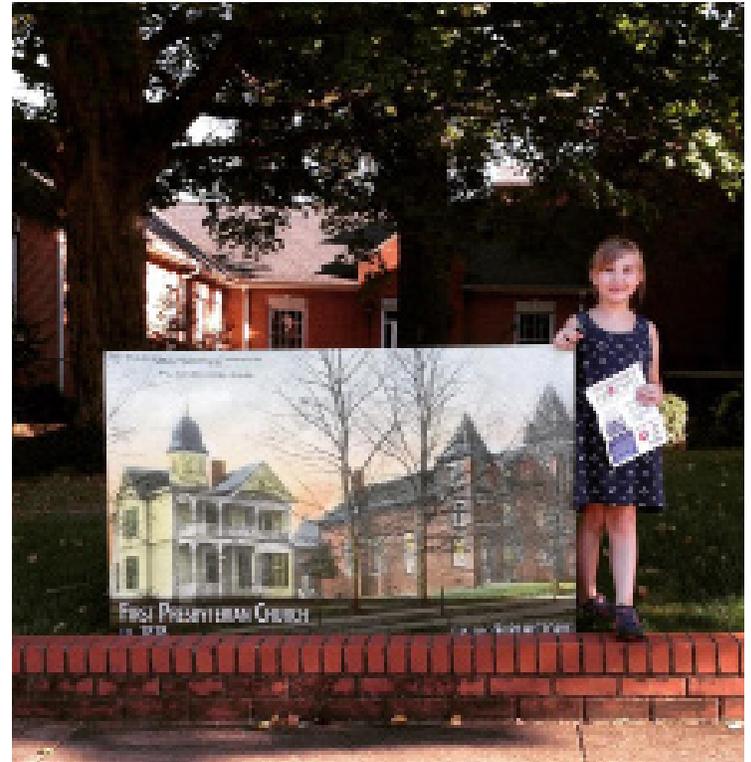
# OUTSIDE THE LINES

# Atmore

Atmore Public Library went outside the lines by having programs of interest for adults. They made dahlia wreaths, painted gourds, and created door decorations. The gourds were entered in an art contest at Williams Station Day, a festival that celebrates the city's railroad heritage. To finalize the programs, the group met on September 30th for a book discussion of *Go Set a Watchman*. The patrons absolutely loved the programs because it gave them a chance to socialize, check out books, and be creative.



# Florence



Florence-Lauderdale Public Library helped the community discover local history with the Florence History Scavenger Hunt. From September 13th-19th, the library hosted a photographic scavenger hunt that took participants on a journey to learn the history of ten locations throughout the city. Each stop on the hunt had a large panel featuring a historical photograph of a building, person, or event related to that location. People could learn more about each photograph by following along with the website descriptions on their mobile devices or by picking up a scavenger hunt brochure at the library. Anyone who visited all ten locations was entered to win a high-quality print of a historical photograph of the Forks of Cypress.



# Gardendale



Gardendale Public Library gave away free coffee and food coupons for a local restaurant to every person who walked through the doors during one day of OTL. On Facebook, they highlighted their tech services librarian, Matt, who was out and about providing his tech services skills to various other departments in the city during the week. They also had an impromptu after school coloring party with teens. On the final day they gave away apples to every patron for International Eat An Apple Day. The staff had fun creating different ways to connect with the city and patrons and look forward to participating again next year!



# Irondale

Irondale Public Library reached out to local small businesses in the community to create a city tour. The goals were:

- Develop or strengthen relationships with area businesses and organizations
- Generate a positive thought about the library in the minds of participants
- Help frame the library as a place to go in the minds of participants

The Irondale City Tour took place September 12th-20th. Passports (fliers) were available at all participating businesses. People could begin at any location and get their passport stamped at any five of the nine locations. After five stamps, passports could be redeemed at the Irondale Public Library for a key-ring flashlight and an entry in the drawing for a Kindle Paperwhite. Nineteen people completed the tour and an estimated 120 passports were distributed.



# Dutton

Dutton Community Library invited Kindergarten classes to tour the library. They read the book *I Am a Rainbow* by Dolly Parton and were given firemen hats.



# Pell City

Pell City Public Library planned several events for OTL including going to a local Chick-Fil-A on September 15th for a story time. Old Macdonald read three books including *The Farmer and the Dell* and *Because Your Grandparents Love You*.



On September 17th they invited the Pell City High School Cheerleaders and newest mascot, E.J., as guest readers for story time. The girls and E.J. read a story to the kids, performed a cheer, and taught a cheer to the kids.



# Huntsville

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library got outside the lines by hosting a yoga class and an Educators' Open House for teachers and mentors in need of free resources. Attendees learned about the library's online resources and saw a demonstration of AVL.

# Talladega

Talladega Armstrong-Osborne Public Library participated in OTL by visiting the Zora Ellis Junior High Library. Director Vickie Harkins showed the students how to get a public library card and talked to the students about e-books. Ms. Latoya Beavers, library aide, led a Literary Trivia Crack contest with the students. The students eagerly participated and did a great job answering the questions. While there, eighth grade students asked to start a book club at the library. They were also very interested in doing a poetry slam. It turned out to be a very positive experience.



# Tuscaloosa

For Tuscaloosa Public Library, it was a weeklong celebration to reconnect the community with the creativity, technology, discovery, and all of the fun and unexpected experiences happening in the library. They set up an information table at Bojangles' restaurant for a Share Night and gave out information about library services and giveaways. A local radio station also did a live, two-hour broadcast to get people to the library and sign up for a card!



# Thomasville



Thomasville Public Library had 824 visitors at the library during Outside the Lines week. They scheduled several activities including the inaugural meeting for the teen book club, pictured above, and Young at Heart Adult Coloring Club, pictured below.



# Montgomery



Montgomery City-County Public Library's Coliseum Boulevard Branch met several OTL goals with their creative and engaging programs that included ukulele classes (pictured above) and a yarn art program (pictured below).



Way to get outside the lines! These libraries did a fantastic job showing the unique services libraries are offering today. So many people still don't understand the importance of public libraries, so this was a great way to change some minds. Thank you, OTL participants! OTL is an annual initiative so you can always participate in 2016.