



## Annual Library Service Plan – FY 2024 - 2025

### *Echo Public Library*

**Library Vision for the Future** - The Echo Public Library’s community encompasses not only the areas within the city limits, but also includes the entire surrounding area. We work diligently to serve our community as well as planning for the future. We strive to improve the effectiveness of our welcoming atmosphere in our library everyday.

The Echo Public Library must consider not only the present needs of the community, but must try to anticipate future needs in order to give timely service. We also strive to listen to all of our patrons, young and old alike. Though the library attempts to give the best service possible to its regular users, it also has an obligation to update its collections and search for methods of service that will satisfy the needs of those in the community who have not traditionally been library users.

**Goal # 1: K-5 Youth Programs** - Focused on establishing/maintaining a lifelong relationship between the youth and the public library. By doing this we are hoping to foster a love of learning and reading in a safe atmosphere.

**Encourage participation:** The librarian will continue to work with the Echo School District and community members to provide information on what student interests are so that we can incorporate those ideas into real programs.

**Library Exposure:** The Echo School District does not have a library and that leaves the Echo Public Library to provide the only real exposure the students will get. This includes, but not limited to information on the collections, how to use the library and find items, library etiquette and much more. This year we have seen the return of the grade school age classes once a month visiting the library. It is refreshing to see and hear the excitement around the library when the classes are visiting. We have also hosted a local home school program on Wednesdays through the winter months and they bring as many as 30 children ranging from babies up to early teenagers. This group continues to be a huge positive impact and has created a lot of new library users and readers. Our hope is to continue our partnerships and grow them overtime.

**Summer Reading:** We will continue to offer a summer reading program that uses the IREAD by Librarians for Librarians this year and design activities, programs and select materials that closely support that theme.

Such a program not only exposes participating children to a variety of learning outlets including entertainment from actors both in person and digital that otherwise children in a small rural community might not be exposed to. Activities such as these help stimulate a good learning environment.

Using the experience and creativity of our staff we will design activities that are fun and educational for youth.

We will be participating in the area wide library road trip again this and we hope create a few evening programs for our local and out of town visitors. Evening programs are challenging so we will be trying a couple to see how participation goes.

*Our Collection:* The theme will be used to aid in the selection of materials and supplies to help further learning activities.

**Story/Activity Time:** The library will continue to operate a weekly activity time and encourage participation by area children in the program which features activities and reading time for the children. We have been a little slow on getting a consistent group of kids to participate, however we have seen a real increase in participation due to a homeschool program that uses our library a few times a month. We have a large space in our community center to provide adequate room for our story times and activities. As well as taking the fun outside to our City Park next to City Hall.

*Evaluation of programming:* We encourage parents to join their kids throughout the Summer Reading Program and on the last day we will provide a questionnaire for feedback on the current programming and possible future ideas we could utilize.

**Priority(ies):** To encourage our young folks that the Library is an awesome place to come and feel safe.

**2024 - 2025 activities:** Continue all programming and activities outlined above. Our weekly craft time is very popular and we hope that it will keep growing. We have also started sponsoring a community Father/ Daughter Dance, which was a huge success in 2023 and we hope to extend that into 2024. The library is also hosting a monthly paint night for families and it is gaining momentum, so we hope to see that grow in the next year.

**Goal # 2:** Adult Programs: Encourage them to come back to our library and enjoy the updated materials and seek new opportunities.

We now have an active Echo Book Club and get together to share our books and thoughts. This past year the book club popularity has grown and I believe we have around 8 regular participants. Our librarian has engaged with our local garden club at their monthly luncheons. She puts on a presentations occasionally on different topics and it seems to be very popular with the ladies.

**Priority :** Continuing to build and keep trust with our community is very important in order to keep our programming moving forward. The Echo Public Library and the Echo School District are the focal points in the community and we need to find ways to build programming around these entities.

**Year 1 activities** Continue to refine a list of potential programs and activities. Outreach through the website, Facebook and a newsrelease to get input on community interests for programs.

**Year 2 activities:** Continue to add to list of potential program and presenters. Try to schedule at least one program per quarter. Publicize events.

**Year 3 and beyond activities:** Continue to add to list of potential program and presenters. Try to schedule at least one program every other month. Publicize events.



Anna continues to update our beautiful old facility. She recreated this space awhile ago, but I really like that it is open and these displays showcase our newest collection items. It makes it easy to find what is new in our library.