



Executive Director's Report September 2025

Elevator Lobbies: Marvin, an Eagle Scout candidate from Palatine Troop 209, finished up his Eagle project by painting the two parking garage lobbies. The bold geometric pattern he painted mirrors the shapes and patterns in our finishes, and the colors match the colors of the parking level. The refreshed lobbies have new paint, carpet, and elevators. We hope this helps them stand out and invite our visitors into the building.

Parking Garage: The parking garage will be closed again this month for a few days to finish the repair to the entry drain. Now that the concrete is fully set we will be adding a protective glaze.

RFID: Included in your packet is the final design for the Automated Materials Handler that will be installed with the renovation. The building and grounds reviewed the quote along with the current estimates for the entire project. The quote exceeds our budget, but it also includes five years of service. The committee is recommending we pay the full amount up front, which will save us \$45,000 over time. Staff have been busy tagging the collection with RFID tags; this process is anticipated to take a couple of months.

Staff Development Day: You are all invited to join us at our September Staff Development Day. Below is a draft of the schedule. Please let us know if you are interested in coming for all or part of the day. This day was planned by a committee with representatives from many different departments.



Staff Development Day September 26, 2025

Casual dress allowed. Please wear your nametag for the new staff!

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Café
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Director's Address-Melissa Gardner	Meeting Room 1
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions:	
	Self-Defense-Jan Woods (Beth)	Story Room AB
	Reference Interview-Megan (Susan)	Board Room
24 ppl	Workshop Activity (Justyna)	Workshop
	Dustin Smaby-First Amendment Audit (Carly)	Meeting Room 2
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Break	Café
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Breaking Barriers: A Real-Life Perspective on Inclusion and Accessibility (Darcie)	Meeting Room 1
11:45 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch w/Karaoke, Coloring, Nerf Target (Lisa, Tracie, and Ethan) Pita Pita	Café
12:45 – 1:45 p.m.	It's Time to Get Things Started! What the Muppets Teach Us About Valuing Authenticity and Uniqueness (Susan)	Meeting Room 1
1:45 – 2:15 p.m.	All Staff Photo	
2:15 – 3:00 p.m.	Team Building Games/Activities (Sarah, Carly, and Leslie)	YTS Space
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Break (Snacks Available)	Café
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Safety Drill (Susan)	Meeting Room 1
4:15 p.m.	Closing Announcements	Meeting Room 1

Feedback evaluations will be via MS Forms. Please check your email after the conclusion of Staff Development Day for information regarding accessing the evaluation. Please complete the evaluation by Friday, October 3.





Staff You Should Know

Monica is a Bilingual Library Associate II in Youth and Teen Services. She helps plan and execute programs with an emphasis on branch programming. She is also on the EDI committee. She is always willing to help out a coworker, but you don't have to take my word for it. See what her coworkers have to say about her:

"Thank you so much for handling the teen service project over the weekend! Looks like it went really well!"

"tysm for covering the asd while I was away (-:"

"Thanks for brightening an overcast (and HUMID) day at park district story time with me!😊"

"A HUGE thank you to all of the staff who helped plan, set up and worked or volunteered at the Library's first ever Pride Fair! It was such a fun event and the members had a great time."

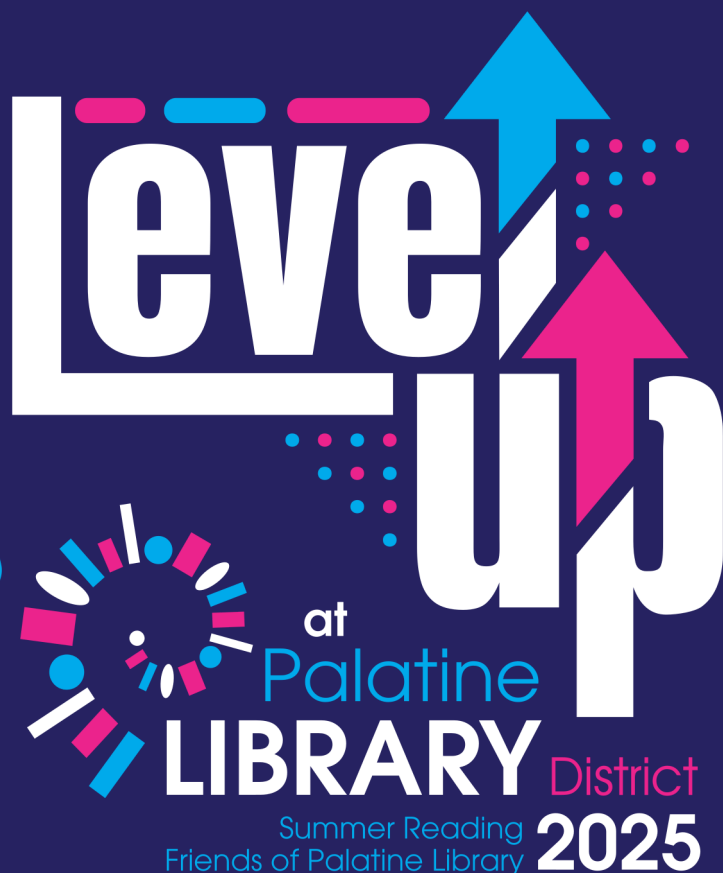


New Employees/Promotions

- Jessica was promoted to Librarian in Adult Services.
- Jean was hired as a Librarian in Adult Services.
- Emilie and Kristen were moved to subs.
- Lily was promoted from an intern to a sub.
- Priscilla was promoted from 20 to 25 hours.
- Lindsay was hired as a workshop sub.
- Ethan went from Technology to Workshop Specialist.

Calendar

- Biblioteca 8/15, 9/2
- HR Source Library Directors Peer Hub 8/19
- POC Executive Committee 8/19
- Friends 8/21
- Streetfest Volunteer 8/23, 8/24
- Engberg Anderson 8/25, 9/4, 9/5
- Rotary 8/26, 9/2, 9/9
- POC Board 8/28
- Oktoberfest Planning Meeting 9/3
- District 15 9/5

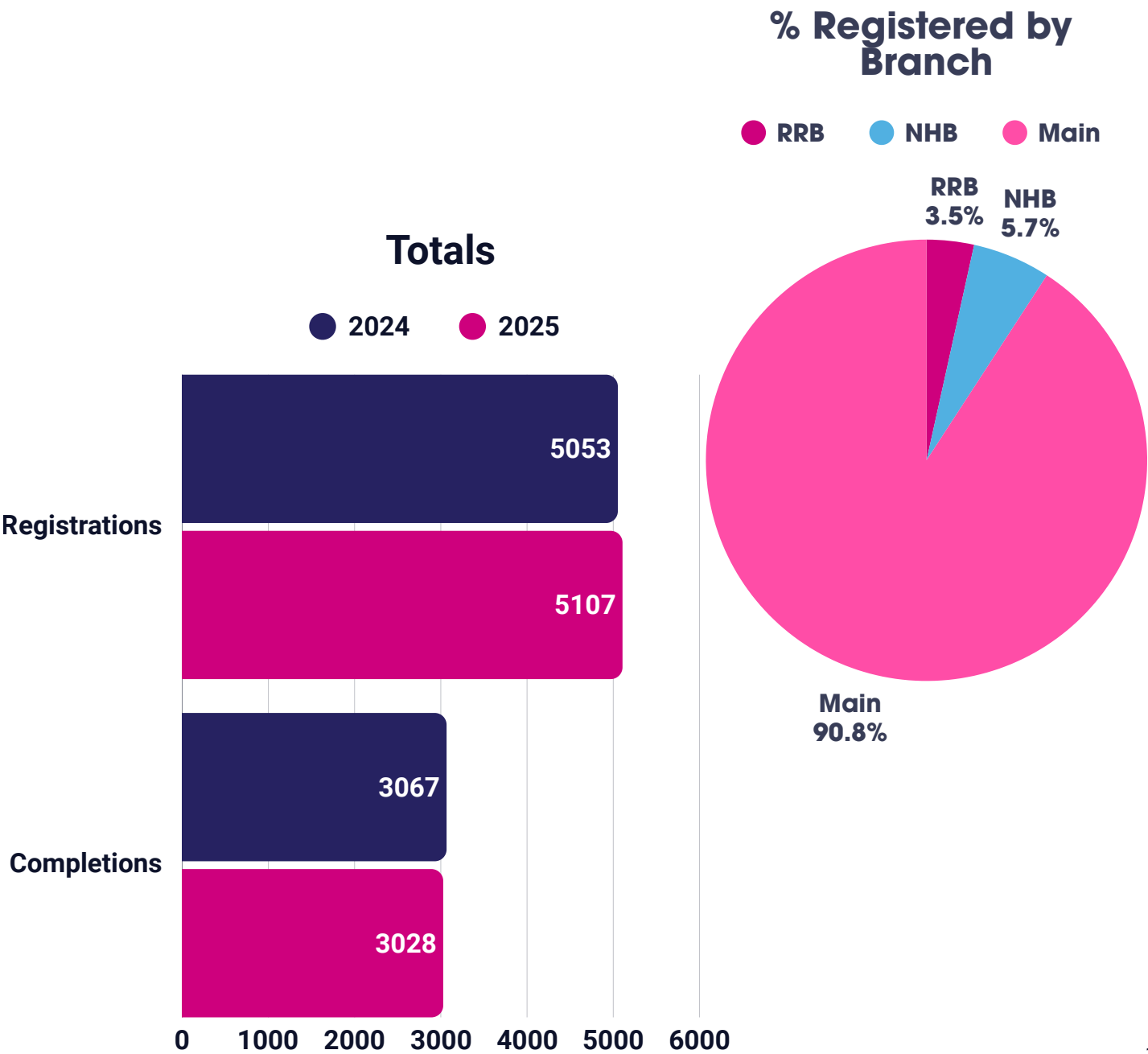


Summer Reading Report

Prepared by:
Dana Mijalski

Executive Summary

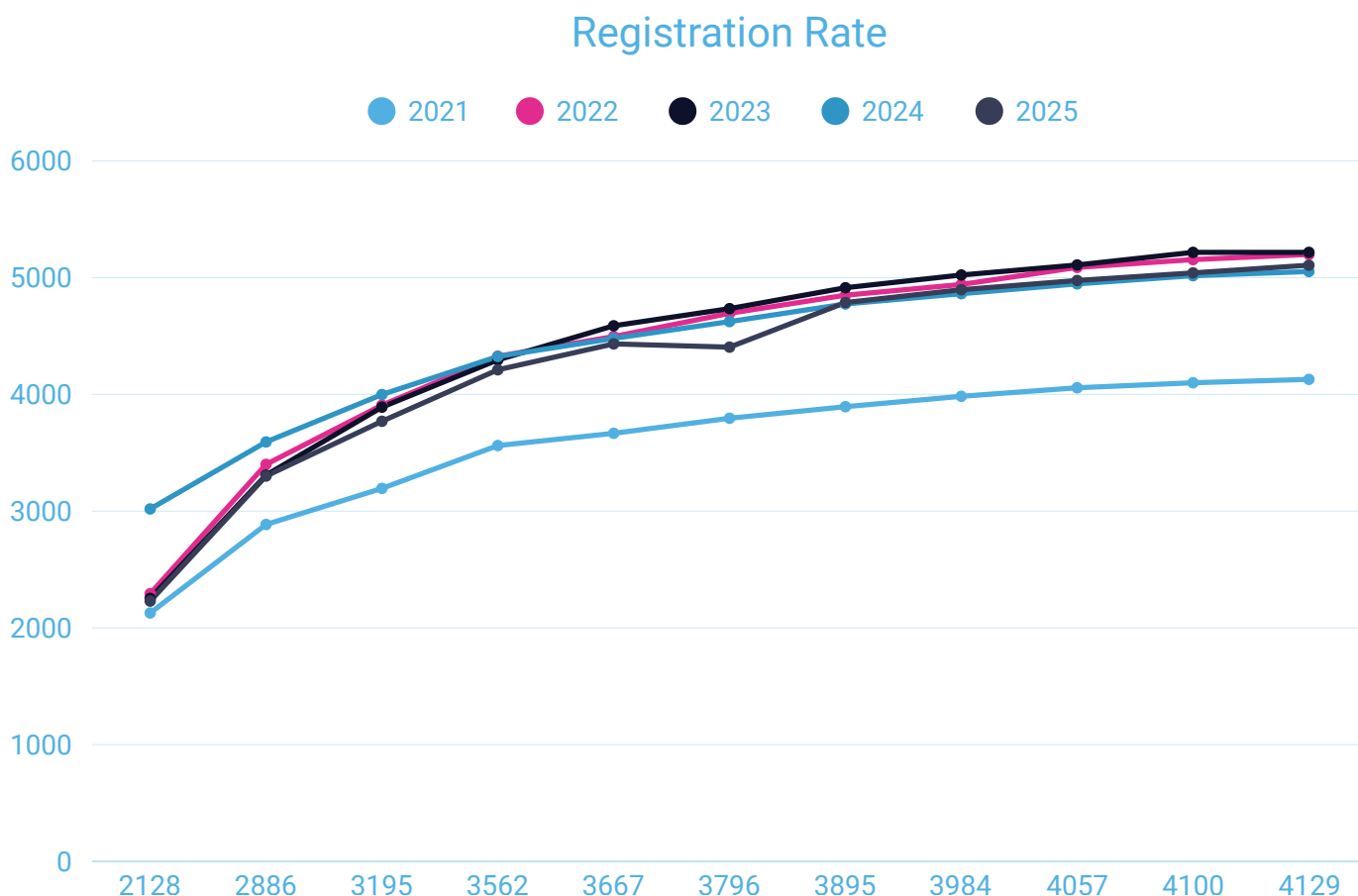
For the 2025 Summer Reading Program, readers Leveled Up at Palatine Library District. The versatile gaming theme was well received by members of the community, with a total of 5,107 registrations and 3,028 program completions across the branches. That is an increase of 54 people registering with a slight decrease in completions, at 39 less than the previous year. At the Summer Reading Kick-off Party, members participated in family bingo and crafts, as well as an entertaining balloon show from Smarty Pants. A highlight of the Kick-off Party was the retro arcade game stations which were generously funded by the Friends of the Library.



Registration Trends

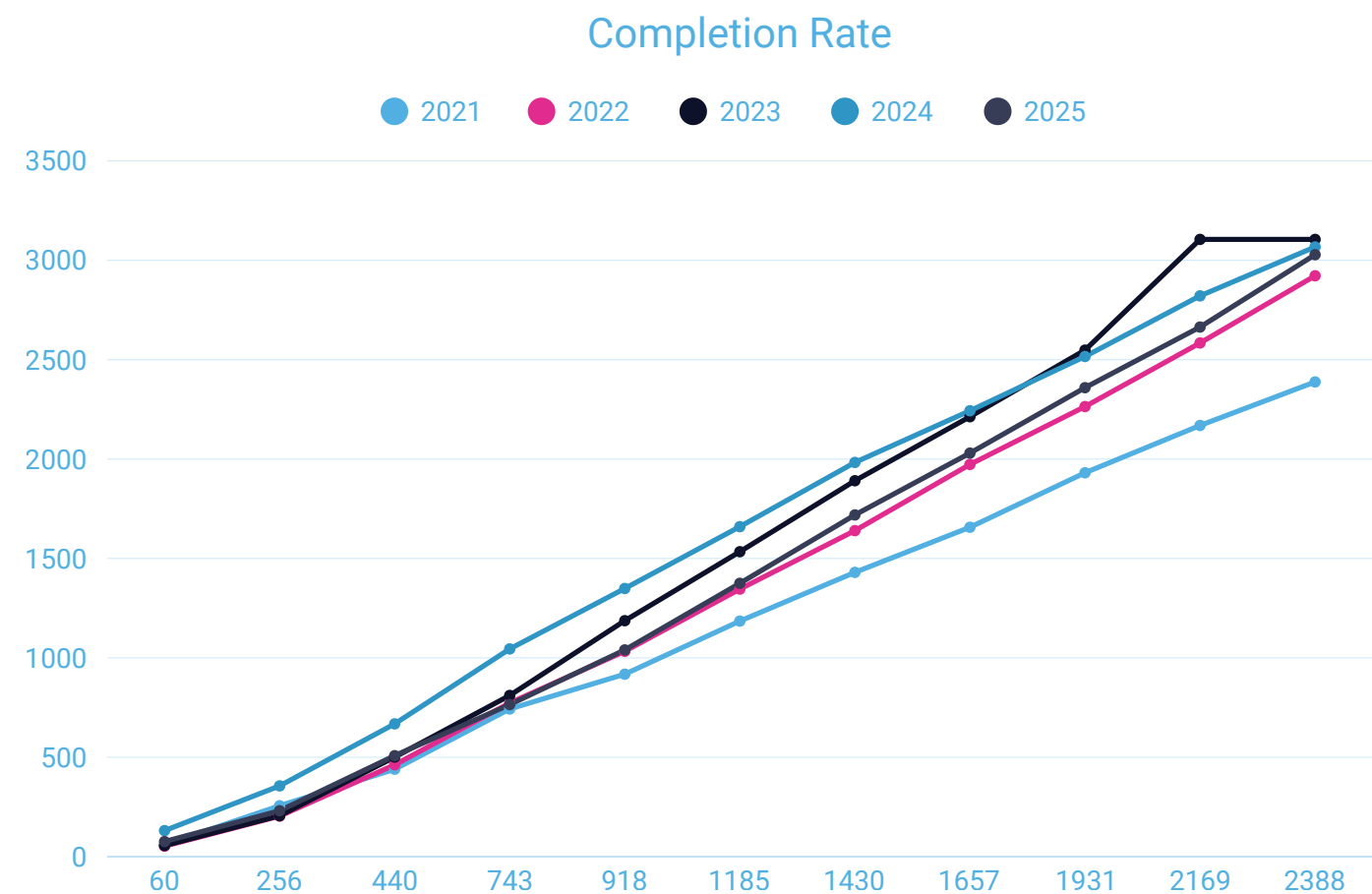
In terms of how members are signing up, 87.4% are still coming into the library to register. Only 11.5% register on their own via personal computer and 1% on mobile.

Adults still carry the majority of the registrations at 47%. The percentage of registrants from both the grades 3-5 and grades 6-12 categories remain rather equal at around 14% each. We saw a noticeable increase in registrations from the birth-grade 2 category, which jumped to 24.4% from only 18.9% in 2024.



Completion Rates

In 2025 there was a 59.3% overall completion rate, which is down less than 2% from 2024.



Member Programs

This summer the Youth and Teen Services department hosted a variety of programs to go along with the Summer Reading theme, *Level Up*. Below were some of the fan favorites.



At the Kick-off Party, 1124 interactions took place with members participating in family bingo, arcade games and crafts. There was also a balloon show which was attended by 180 members.



37 excited teens attended the after-hours Nerf Battle

Other popular programs included:

- Minecraft Mania, 91 attendees
- Toddler Obstacle Course, 120 participants
- Amazing Reptiles, 154 attendees
- Pigeon Party & Scavenger Hunt, 197 participants
- Purple Me Green Science Truck with Science Madness, 169 attendees
- Build Your Own Pokemon Deck, 63 attendees
- Two Storytimes in the Park at Maple Park, 261 attendees



A very popular program, Reading Buddies, allows for emerging readers to comfortably practice their new skills by sharing stories with loveable pups.

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Palatine Public Library District Celebrates The Spinnaker Cove Book Club

By Community News Desk

on September 05, 2025



The Spinnaker Cove Book Club, a group of neighbors united by their passion for reading, marks its 15th anniversary this year. Open to any resident in the Palatine subdivision who is part of the homeowner's association, the club has grown to 44 members who gather on the first Friday of each month for socializing and lively book discussions.

Over the years, the club has made great use of the Palatine Library's Book Club in a Bag service. "The Book Club in a Bag offered by the Palatine Library is a true blessing. Bev and Christi are a pleasure to work with — professional, accommodating, and thoughtful," shared Pat, one of the club's organizers.

Members enjoy the friendships and connections formed through the club.

"Making new friends, rekindling neighborhood relationships, and bonding over a shared love of books has been so special. Age is not a barrier — we have members in their 20s all the way up to their 80s," Pat added.

Michelle, another member, reflected on her experience: "When I moved to the neighborhood 14 years ago, the book club was a great way to meet people. Many of those neighbors are now close friends, and we often get together outside of the book club, which is wonderful. The library has been incredible with the librarians going above and beyond to source books from all over to meet our needs."

The Spinnaker Cove Book Club is a shining example of how reading can bring people of all ages together and strengthen community bonds.

The Palatine Library offers Book Club in a Bag, providing reading materials and discussion questions for your next adult book discussion. Each bag includes multiple copies of the book and an extended checkout period of up to six weeks.

Palatine Public Library District celebrates The Spinnaker Cove Book Club



Members of The Spinnaker Cove Book Club. *Courtesy of Maria Galuppo*

Submitted by Leslie Perez

Posted September 03, 2025 2:09 am

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For more information, contact bookclub@palatinelibrary.org.

Make Your Oktoberfest Celebration Unforgettable

Millions of visitors travel to Munich, Germany, each year to take part in a celebration of Bavarian culture known as Oktoberfest. Although the name implies that the world's largest Volksfest (people's festival) occurs in October, the majority of Oktoberfest actually happens in September, and runs from between 16 and 18 days. For 2025, Oktoberfest begins Saturday, September 20 and runs through Sunday, October 5.

Though it may seem like Oktoberfest is just a beer festival, it's actually a celebration of community, food and music. The origins can be traced back to October 12, 1810, when Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria married Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen and the citizens of Munich were invited to celebrate the royal event outside of the city gates.

Whether one can trace his or her lineage to Germany or not, people of all backgrounds take part in Oktoberfest revelry, even hosting their own fests at home. The following ideas are some ways to create your own unforgettable

These are the only official beer providers of Oktoberfestbier. People replicating Oktoberfest celebrations nearer to home can include beers by Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Paulaner, and Spaten-Franziskaner, and be sure to serve at least one Märzen-style lager at the celebration. Set up a beer tent with all of the beverages widely available for guests to enjoy.

Offer popular culinary delights

Beyond the bevy of beer available, guests to an Oktoberfest celebration will anticipate traditional and hearty Bavarian specialties. Options include hendl (roast chicken), schweinbraten (roast pork), würstl (sausages), brezen (pretzels), and many other culinary delights. Side dishes like potato salad, sauerkraut and red cabbage also are popular.

Wear the right folk attire

Traditional Oktoberfest attire includes lederhosen for men and dirndls for women. Lederhosen consist of leather breeches, and

Alpine hats, Haferl shoes and Loderl socks.

Set the scene

Many people wonder why the official colors of Oktoberfest are blue and white, despite this not matching the colors of the German flag. In fact, Oktoberfest builds its color scheme around the Bavarian flag. Bavaria is a state within Germany. It is one of the 16 states that make up the Federal Republic of Germany, and it has its own traditions, dialect, cuisine, and more.



Play Oktoberfest music

Traditional Bavarian oompah bands, polka bands and other sing-along folk drinking songs are often played during Oktoberfest celebrations. Each style contributes to a festive atmosphere.

—Metro



Mexican Folkloric Ballet

Saturday, September 27

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

All ages. Sign up begins 9/13.