



**2025**

Timberland Regional **LIBRARY**

**Annual Report**





## Message from Executive Director



Thank you to staff, leadership, and the Board of Trustees for another eventful year at TRL. We are proud to highlight the following accomplishments from 2025:

- Finalization of a new collective bargaining agreement for 2026–2028
- The “Level Up at the Library” teen video contest, engaging patrons ages 12–18
- The annual Summer Library Program, our largest initiative of the year, supporting reading and learning for all ages and connecting communities throughout the summer
- New podcast episodes covering a diverse array of topics
- Implementation of the Intelligent Materials Management System (IMMS), improving how library materials are ordered, processed, and shared across locations so items move more efficiently and reach patrons faster
- New online library card registration, making it easier for community members to sign up for services anytime, anywhere
- Debut of the “Support Public Libraries” capsule collection in the TRL Online Store for Library Giving Day
- Grand opening of the new Mountain View Timberland Library
- First remodel of the Tumwater Timberland Library in its 30-year history, our largest refresh to date, including new flooring, paint, layout, furniture, and expanded children’s area
- Refresh of the Ocean Park Timberland Library with new paint, flooring, furniture, improved workflow, and enhanced children’s space
- Comics Plus digital service, providing access to thousands of free digital graphic novels

These and other projects represent the dedication of library staff at all levels to continually invest in our libraries and communities as we work toward our shared vision of providing welcoming spaces, diverse collections, and vibrant partnerships.

As we enter the new year, we are mindful of the fiscal challenges ahead. TRL remains committed to responsible stewardship of public tax dollars. Special purpose funds designated for capital projects will continue to prioritize health, safety, and essential building improvements. Even as we navigate tighter financial conditions, we will continue finding ways to do more with less - delivering library services in innovative and flexible ways to maximize value for our communities.

*Cheryl*





## 2025-2029 Strategic Direction

# MISSION

We connect our diverse community to ideas, experiences, and each other.

# VISION

Experience the world of ideas through TRL. Our welcoming spaces, diverse collections, vibrant partnerships, and engaged patrons reflect our commitment to creating an equitable future. We are a trusted community service.

# VALUES

 <p>Equitable access and intellectual freedom for all.</p>	 <p>Collaborative partnerships.</p>	 <p>Supporting diverse communities, perspectives, and ideas.</p>	 <p>Responsible use of public resources.</p>	 <p>Embracing change to build a resilient future.</p>
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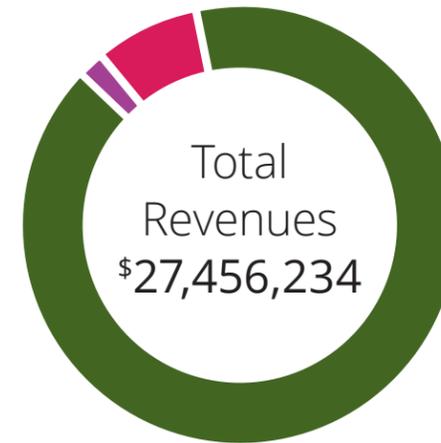
# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Empower people to adapt and thrive in the digital age.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance to improve digital literacy across generations.</li> <li>• Support opportunities that open doors for learning or employment.</li> <li>• Be a low-barrier access point to technology, including charging, printing, and Wi-Fi.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Share our story.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication and outreach to increase awareness of existing services, particularly among non-users.</li> <li>• Meaningfully engage with BIPOC and Tribal communities.</li> <li>• Create strategies for ongoing conversations and open channels of communication that support continuous learning and improvement.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Support school-age youth.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create appealing spaces for kids, tweens, and teens to gather, socialize, and access resources and technology they need to succeed.</li> <li>• Provide engaging programming and library resources that kids, tweens, and teens want.</li> <li>• Develop deeper connections with local schools and education providers, including homeschools.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|





Browsing the shelves at the grand reopening of the Tumwater Timberland Library.



- \$25,347,211 Property Taxes.....92.32%
- \$1,730,633 Timber.....6.30%
- \$378,390 Other.....1.38%

- 68.15% Salaries & Benefits.....\$20,774,678
- 16.42% Books & Materials.....\$5,004,548
- 7.3% Other.....\$2,225,953
- 5.85% Professional Services.....\$1,782,831
- 1.56% Supplies.....\$475,847
- 0.72% Capital Expenditures.....\$221,379

Physical Checkouts ..... 1,598,528  
 OverDrive Total ..... 2,388,627  
 Kanopy ..... 123,515  
 Total Circulation..... 4,110,670

Wi-Fi Sessions ..... 122,520  
 Library of Things Checkouts .....2,281  
 LaunchPads Checkouts ..... 36,421

Print Jobs..... 864,195  
 Sheets of Paper Used ..... 4,104,303

New Patrons ..... 47,164  
 New OverDrive Patrons ..... 19,989  
 Active Patrons..... 340,612

**AskLib**  
5,736 emails

**Live Chat**  
1,576 chats

### Turnaround Time for New Collection Items





Social Media



Our most popular reel with famous librarian Mychal Threets.



Jeff Evans takes a selfie while performing at the Westport Timberland Library.

 Facebook

**747K**  
total views

 Instagram

**100%**  
increase in interactions

 TikTok

**741K**  
total views

 Youtube

**48K**  
views





Public Information Officer Chris C. cohosting the podcast.

# Podcast

We continued to tell our story this year with the No Shhh...it's the TRL Podcast where we covered topics from "Where's all the Books?" and Life as an audiobook narrator to more serious topics like the loneliness epidemic & IMLS Funding Cuts. We look forward to more fun and insightful conversations in 2026!

Find us on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), & [Apple Podcasts](#).

The podcast is produced entirely by our Creative Services Team with filming and editing executed by our Video & Media Specialist.



Video and Digital Media Specialist Ben N. recording the podcast.



*"Thank you, Chris and Anna Lisa, for this amazing episode. [...] I feel like you planted a seed of kindness in my heart."*

*"Dear Librarian / Podcast Presenters, This conversation was important to me. Thank you"*



Co-host Anna Lisa R. interviewing audiobook narrator Corey Snow.





Anywhere Librarians Emily L. and Ariana S. at the Tokeland Woodfest this summer.

# Anywhere LIBRARY

TRL.org/Anywhere

Anywhere Library is a mobile library that brings TRL materials and services directly to community sites.



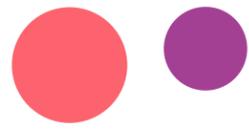
Anywhere Librarian Amoreena W. loading the Anywhere Library van.



Issac, who designed a library cards for our contest 2 years ago, at a stop in Rochester.



Patrons crafting at an Anywhere Library stop at Rochester United Methodist Church.



**1,193**  
Library Stops

**87**  
Events

**12,852**  
Checkouts

**28,906**  
Patrons Served

**471**  
Storytimes & Programs

**1,647**  
Summer Library Books Distributed

**142**  
Give Away: Laptops, Tablets, Hotspots





Our teen video contest winner, Eva Shaw, made an animation in Blender to showcase her passion for game design with a creative take on the challenge.

# Level Up at the Library

## Teen Video Contest

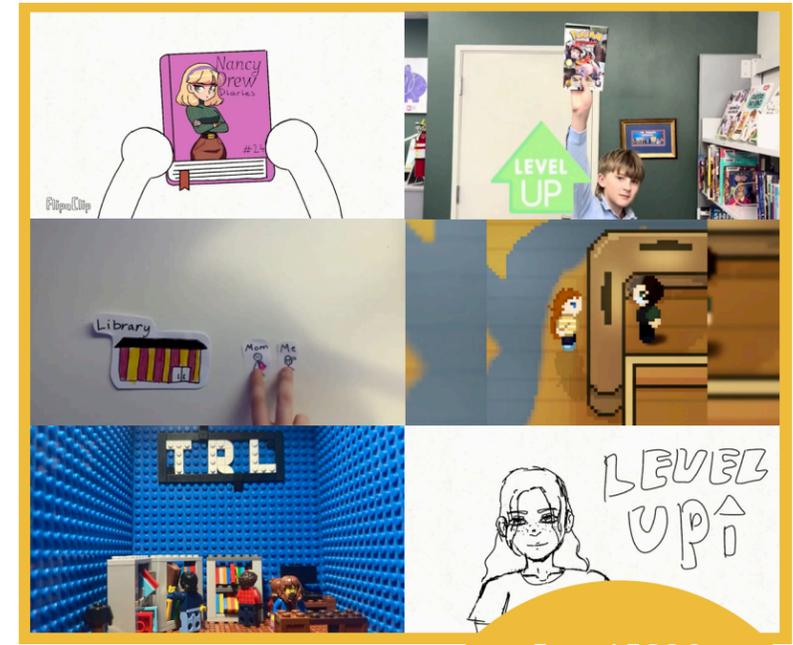
The Level Up at the Library Teen Video Contest ran from July 1–31, 2025. It was a great opportunity to engage teens during the summer and highlight how library services support their growth, creativity, and passions.

Teens ages 12–18 were invited to create and submit a short original YouTube video or short (30 seconds to 2 minutes) showing how they level up with help from the library—whether it's through books, events, learning a new skill, or discovering a hobby.

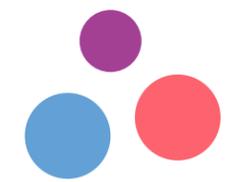
The grand prize was a Nintendo Switch 2, plus the chance to be featured on Timberland's website, social media, and other marketing materials.

[Watch the winning submission.](#)

[Watch the highlight reel of submissions.](#)



From LEGO® reenactments and stop-motion to 2D, 3D, and hand-drawn animation, TRL Teens showed us how they leveled up at the library this summer.



## New Library Cards

Along with the video contest, we launched brand-new Level Up at the Library-themed library card designs.





## Tumwater Refresh

Highlights of the new space include:

- Dedicated areas for babies, toddlers, kids, tweens, teens, and adults
- A baby and toddler area with toys, manipulatives, and play-based learning features
- A whimsical, fairy-tale inspired children's area complete with:
  - A 40-foot castle wall entrance, with a keyhole and "mouse hole" entrances for kids to enter through
  - A cozy and magical reading nook
  - Three imaginative playhouses: a costume shop, a bakery, and a tea shop with props
  - A wooden play structure with a slide, hand-painted elements, and a photo-worthy throne
  - A makerspace zone for tweens
- A teen area with a gaming system, tabletop games, and hangout space
- New paint and flooring, comfortable seating, and refreshed furnishings throughout
- Continued features like meeting and study rooms, public computers, and a dedicated quiet area

Young patrons enjoying the new Children's Area at the grand reopening of the Tumwater Timberland Library.



Cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the Tumwater Timberland Library.



Patrons enjoying the new children's area at the grand reopening of the Tumwater Timberland Library.



[Watch the Tumwater Grand Reopening video on our Youtube.](#)





# Ocean Park Refresh

### Key Features:

- New flooring and paint
- Enhanced children’s area with a Wave Wall reading nook
- New furniture and decor
- Upgraded electrical & data, including high lumen lighting
- New circulation desk and holds pick up area
- Upgrade staff work area for improved workflow



[Watch the Ocean Park Grand Reopening video on our Youtube.](#)

*“This is a big bonus for our community. You can tell by how many people showed up today. It’s a heartbeat of the community.”*  
- Library Patron Becky Winters



Patrons enjoying the new space at the grand reopening of the Ocean Park Timberland Library.



*“This refreshed space allows us to better serve our patrons, continue our community partnerships, and offer free access to information, resources, programs and activities that our community has grown to appreciate and love!”*  
- Regional Manager Michelle Z.

Regional Manager Michelle Z. and Executive Director Cheryl H. cutting the ribbon at the grand reopening of the Ocean Park Timberland Library.

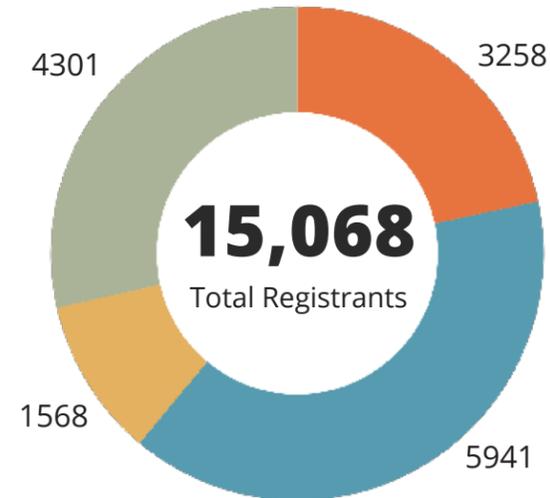


The foam party at the Salkum Library Field Day was a hit!

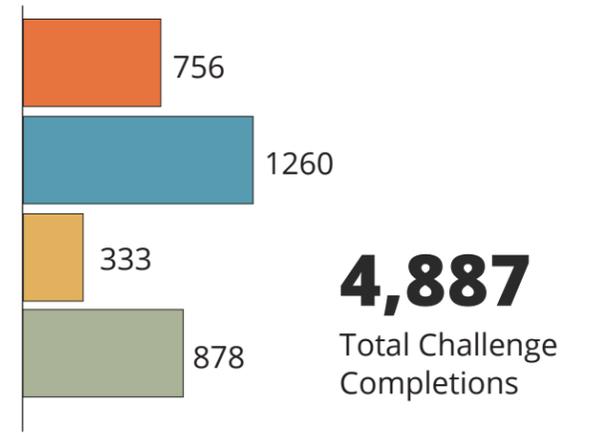
# Summer Library Program

Running June 1 through August 31, TRL's Summer Library Program provided a fun way for people of all ages across our five counties to read, have new experiences, and connect with each other!

SLP Registrants by Age Group

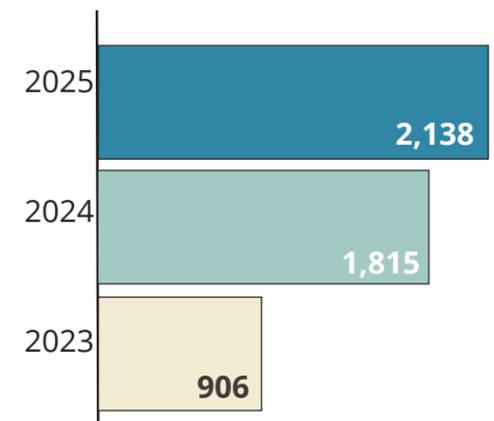


SLP Challenge Completions by Age Group

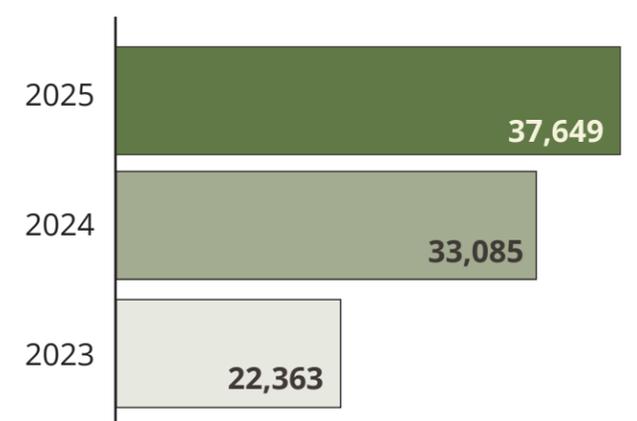


- Babies & Toddlers
- Children
- Tweens & Teens
- Adults

Number of Programs



Program Attendance



## Sponsored Prizes Distributed to Youth

Thanks to the generosity of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium/Northwest Trek, and the Tacoma Rainiers, TRL gave youth who completed SLP activity logs a free zoo pass and Rainiers ticket, while supplies lasted!



**4,500**  
Passes  
Provided



**3,000**  
Passes  
Provided





Media and Design Specialist Korinne B. wearing a shirt from the capsule collection.

# Library Giving Day

Library Giving Day is a one-day, national, fundraising event that encourages people who depend on and enjoy public libraries to donate to their individual library system.

In honor of Library Giving Day, we designed and launched a new limited-edition line of merch in the online store.

The response was impressive, with **two weeks of sales reaching half of what we sold in the entire previous year.**

While we make money on these items, it is also a way for our patrons to show their support for libraries and market our libraries to others every time they wear or use one of our items from [TRL.org/store](https://TRL.org/store).



Alexis H. hosting storytime wearing a sweatshirt from the capsule collection.

Our shirts even made it to Santa Clara City Library!



300 items sold

All proceeds from our store are considered donations to the general gift fund, directly supporting our mission.

# Board of Trustees



**TONI GWIN**  
President  
Pacific County  
Term expires: 12/2028

**The 2026 Board of Trustees:**  
Brian Mittge, President, Lewis County  
Dustin Loup, President Elect, Grays Harbor County  
Mary Beth Harrington, Thurston County  
Toni Gwin, Pacific County  
Hal Blanton, Lewis County



**BRIAN MITTGE**  
President Elect  
Lewis County  
Term expires: 12/2029



**MARY BETH HARRINGTON**  
Thurston County  
Term expires: 12/2030



**DUSTIN LOUP**  
Grays Harbor County  
Term expires: 12/2027



**HAL BLANTON**  
Member-at-Large  
Lewis County  
Term expires: 12/2025



Timberland Regional Library's 255 staff, 29 public libraries, and mobile services provides services to the 550,000+ residents of five counties in Southwest Washington State: Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston Counties.

## GRAYS HARBOR

Aberdeen, Amanda Park, Elma, Hoquiam, McCleary, Montesano, Oakville, Westport

## KIOSKS

Shoalwater Bay, Toledo



*Timberland Regional Library (TRL) recognizes that we operate within the traditional territories of the Nisqually Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Quinalt Indian Nation, Skokomish Indian Tribe, and Squaxin Island Tribe who have been stewards of these lands since time immemorial. TRL provides library services to Indigenous tribes, extending beyond the geographic limits of Lewis, Mason, Thurston, Pacific, and Grays Harbor Counties. This acknowledgment reminds us to strive for respectful partnerships with all people as we search for collective healing and learn how to be better stewards of the indigenous lands we inhabit.*



## GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

**Aberdeen Timberland Library**  
121 East Market Street; 360.533.2360

**Amanda Park Timberland Library**  
6118 US Highway 101; 360.288.2725

**Elma Timberland Library**  
119 North 1st Street; 360.482.3737

**Hoquiam Timberland Library**  
420 7th Street; 360.532.1710

**McCleary Timberland Library**  
121 South 4th Street; 360.495.3368

**Montesano Timberland Library**  
W.H. Abel Memorial Library  
125 Main Street South; 360.249.4211

**Oakville Timberland Library**  
204 Main Street; 360.273.5305

**Westport Timberland Library**  
101 East Harms Drive; 360.268.0521

## PACIFIC COUNTY

**Ilwaco Timberland Library**  
158 1st Avenue North; 360.642.3908

**Naselle Timberland Library**  
4 Parpala Road; 360.539.3327

**Ocean Park Timberland Library**  
1308 256th Place; 360.665.4184

**Raymond Timberland Library**  
507 Duryea Street; 360.942.2408

**South Bend Timberland Library**  
1st and Pacific; 360.875.5532

**Shoalwater Bay Tribal Community Library**  
4115 State Route 105, Tokeland; 360.267.8190

## MASON COUNTY

**Hoodsport Timberland Library**  
40 N Schoolhouse Hill Road; 360.877.9339

**North Mason Timberland Library (Belfair)**  
23081 NE State Rt 3; 360.275.3232

**Shelton Timberland Library**  
William G. Reed Public Library  
710 W Alder Street; 360.426.1362

## THURSTON COUNTY

**Hawks Prairie Timberland Library**  
8205 Martin Way; 360.252.9658

**Lacey Timberland Library**  
500 College Street Southeast; 360.491.3860

**Olympia Timberland Library**  
313 8th Avenue Southeast; 360.352.0595

**Tenino Timberland Library**  
172 Central Avenue West; 360.539.3329

**Tumwater Timberland Library**  
7023 New Market Street; 360.943.7790

**West Olympia Timberland Library**  
625 Black Lake Blvd SW; 360.764.4440

**Yelm Timberland Library**  
210 Prairie Park Street; 360.539.3330

**Book Return - Fire District 3, Station 35**  
3701 Willamette Drive, Lacey

**Book Return - West Olympia**  
1313 Cooper Point Road Southwest

**Rainier Book Drop at Rainier City Hall**  
102 Rochester Street West, Rainier

## LEWIS COUNTY

**Centralia Timberland Library**  
110 South Silver Street; 360.736.0183

**Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library**  
400 North Market Boulevard; 360.748.3301

**Mountain View Timberland Library**  
10111 US Highway 12, Randle; 360.497.2665

**Packwood Timberland Library**  
109 West Main Street; 360.494.5111

**Salkum Timberland Library**  
2480 US Highway 12; 360.539.3328

**Winlock Timberland Library**  
322 Northeast 1st Street; 360.785.3461

**Toledo Community Library Kiosk**  
241 Cowlitz Street ; 360.864.4247

## ANYWHERE LIBRARY

**Mobile Services**  
TRL.org/Anywhere for upcoming Library Stops

## FOLLOW



[linktr.ee/timberlandlibrary](https://linktr.ee/timberlandlibrary)

## CONTACT

Timberland Regional LIBRARY  
415 Tumwater Boulevard SW  
Tumwater, Washington 98501-5799  
[asklib@TRL.org](mailto:asklib@TRL.org) • 360.943.5001 • [TRL.org](https://TRL.org)