Library Event Guide

screen-
free
week

Building a Screen-Free Event for your Library

Thank you for your interest in planning an event for Screen-Free Week! We applaud you for stepping up to support this global celebration.

Here's some information to get you started.

WHAT IS SCREEN-FREE WEEK?
Screen-Free Week is an annual, global celebration, **held the first week in May**, where families, libraries, schools, and whole communities swap digital entertainment for the joys of life beyond the screen.

Screen-Free Week is a fun way to reduce dependence on digital entertainment, and a chance for kids and grownups to power down and reconnect with the world around them.

WHO AND WHERE?
Anyone can participate in Screen-Free Week by simply pledging to participate in whatever way makes sense to them.

The goal of Screen-Free Week isn't to get folks to totally turn off ALL screens, which is unrealistic. It's simply to encourage them to try living without entertainment screens for as much of the week as they are comfortable and to evaluate their long-term relationship with technology.

Libraries are a fantastic place to plan a Screen-Free Week! We hold this event each year in conjunction with **Children's Book Week**, because reading is a wonderful replacement for screen time.

Your library celebration can be as big or as small as you like. If you can't organize a whole week of activities, we'd suggest celebrating **Screen-Free Saturday,** or choose whatever day works best for your community.

HOW TO ORGANIZE
Planning a Screen-Free Week for your library event is doable and we're here to help! We've created all the materials to walk you through it including pledge forms and educational handouts in our multilingual resource library at www.screenfree.org/resources.

Before you begin, you may also want to follow Screen-Free Week on Facebook and Instagram, and pledge to participate personally at screenfree.org/pledge to stay in the loop for event emails and promotional materials.

CONSIDER PARTNERSHIPS
Community partnerships are an easy way lighten your planning workload and give your Screen-Free Week a wider audience.

Look on your local event calendars for the first week in May and see what's already listed for your community. Is there something that would be a good fit for your Screen-Free Week? (For instance, a monthly nature walk at a park or a traditionally free day at a museum?)

Ask those organizations if you can add their event(s) to your Screen-Free Week calendar, building the rest of your week around them. Offer to cross-promote and share resources with the hosts of those events.

LIBRARY EVENT IDEAS
Additionally, consider these ideas for planning your Screen-Free Week.

- Host an informational session to educate adults and school age kids on the effects of excessive screen use.

- Offer a Screen-Free poster contest (Share the winning poster with us, too. We'd love to feature it!)

- Offer different craft projects (rotated daily) that can be completed any time in the youth or teen department.

- Offer chalk drawing outside the library or in courtyards throughout the week.

- Host a family board game night with a potluck or set out board games all over the library for families to enjoy on their own time.

- Highlight or modify your regularly scheduled programs that offer screen-free fun year-round.

- Host a building blocks day.

- Offer an event where families can plant a seed for Spring.

- Host an informational session on digital/media literacy.

- Host a "Are You Smarter than a Librarian?" trivia contest, pitting families against librarians.

- Does your library StoryWalk®? If so, host one all week for participants to walk around the library or community space reading a story as they progress.

- Display books for parents such as *Unplug Your Kids: A Guide to Raising Happy, Active, and Well-Adjusted Children in the Digital Age* by David Dutwin and picture books for kids such as *Hello! Hello!* by Matthew Cordell.

- Organize a scavenger hunt with community support from local businesses and organizations.

- Share a list of books that support screen-free pursuits, like nature or hiking guides or how-to books for creating art or composing music.

- Download and provide handouts of some of the free resources from our Screen-Free Week library (screenfree.org/resources) like: 101 Screen-Free Activities, Screen-Free Games, Fantastic Forts, 55 Nature-Related Screen-Free Activities, 100 Screen-Free Reading-Related Activities, and our Screen-Free Bingo card.

- Organize a family fun night in collaboration with community organizations like the PTA, Kiwanis, etc.

- Organize a hike, walk, or bike ride on local rail trail or hiking areas in your community. Have a special person in the community, like the elementary school principal, lead the hike, walk or bike ride.

- Organize a Playground Fun Night using the elementary school's or local park's playground. Encourage families to bring along a picnic dinner or lunch. Ask local eateries to discount their take-out food.

Do you have other ideas? Share them so we can add them to this list!

SPREAD THE WORD
Once you have your Screen-Free Week planned, please register it at screenfree.org/events. Tracking our global participation is how we continue to keep Screen-Free Week free and open to all!

Then, take advantage of screenfree.org/resources to access press release templates, social media wording, event logos, and more to promote your week. Need something else? Email screenfreeweek@fairplayforkids.org for help! **Most importantly, have fun!**

Thank you to past library participants, Voorheesville Public Library in Voorheesville, NY, the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library in Tiffin, OH and the North Tonawanda Library in Tonawanda, NY for sharing some of above ideas with us.