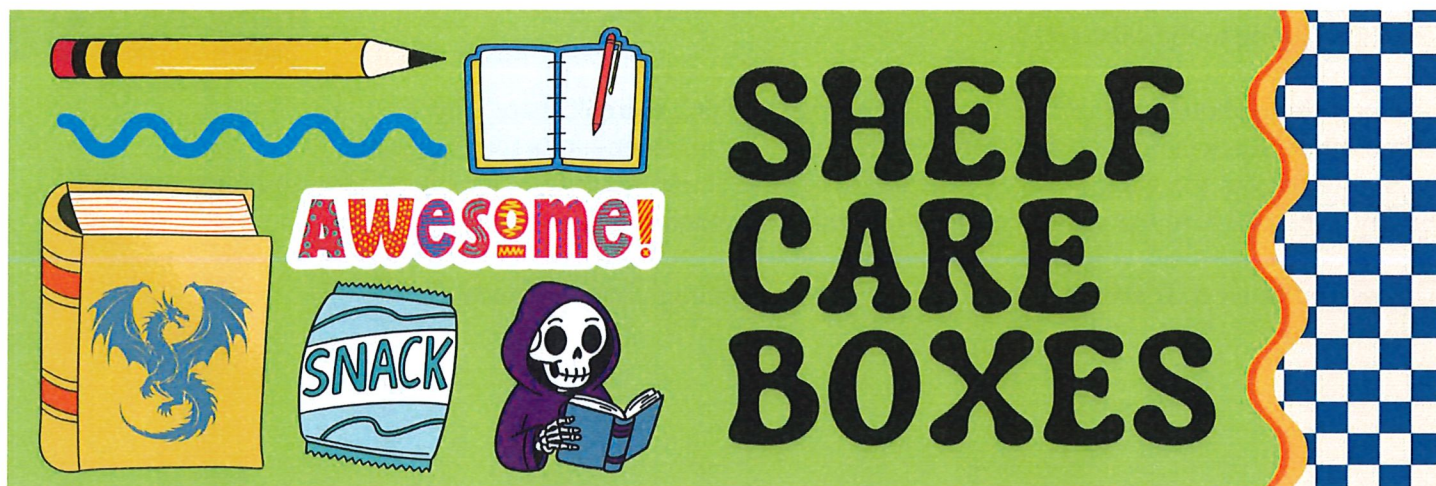


# New Subscription Box Service for Teens-The Shelf Care Box-Available Now at Manitowoc Public Library

Aug 5, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Kristin Keck, a Teen Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

It is a truth universally acknowledged that everybody loves a box. Boxes are presents, surprises, and essential supplies. Boxes encompass multitudes, everything from the much-anticipated order from the internet to a pair of birthday socks from your great-aunt to leftovers that are gaining sentience in the back of the fridge. Only cats appreciate boxes more than humans do.

People of a certain age (like myself) hate to let go of a “good” box. Everyone has their own criteria for the “good” box, but we all can identify them when we see them. “Good” boxes are being hoarded right now in basements and closets across the country. Someday, you’ll want a box and we’ll be there, ready to answer the call with a variety of containers.

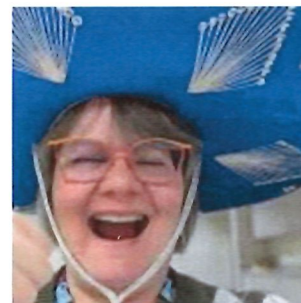
Maybe the best of box applications is the subscription box—a monthly gift you give yourself, coming in the mail like a herald of joy, brimming with the new toys or snacks or stationery promised by the theme. There’s a subscription box for everything from beauty projects and cooking to traveling and writing. Subscription boxes are truly the princes of the box world!

With that in mind, Manitowoc Public Library is proud to announce our first subscription box-inspired service for Teens—The Shelf Care Box!

Each month, Teens can fill out a quick form to get the next month’s box. The form will be available Friday, August 1, through the Teen Services page of Manitowoc Public Library’s website. Complete the form by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and a box will be waiting for you on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month—on hold under your card number at Manitowoc Public Library.

You’ll have eight days to pick up the box. Boxes will be limited for the first couple of months to gauge response, so be sure to fill out the form as soon as possible to guarantee a box on hold.

And what's in a Shelf Care Box? Magic, romance, mystery, adventure—and that's just the books! Each box will contain three books from MPL's Young Adult section, both fiction and nonfiction, which correspond to the theme of the month posted on the website. There will also be a parade of art projects, pens, notebooks, coloring sheets, keychains, pencils, art and stationery supplies, and whatever other fun things we can find—plus a little snacky snack. It's important to keep up your strength when reading. The box and books need to come back to Manitowoc Public Library, but the rest of the contents belong to the subscriber.



Kristin Keck

The best thing about the Shelf Care box is the price—which is free! There's no subscription service out there that can beat it! So, if you're a teen—or a teen-adjacent adult—check out the [Teen Services](#) page of the MPL website and fill out the Shelf Care Box form before Friday, August 15, to have your box ready Monday, September 1.

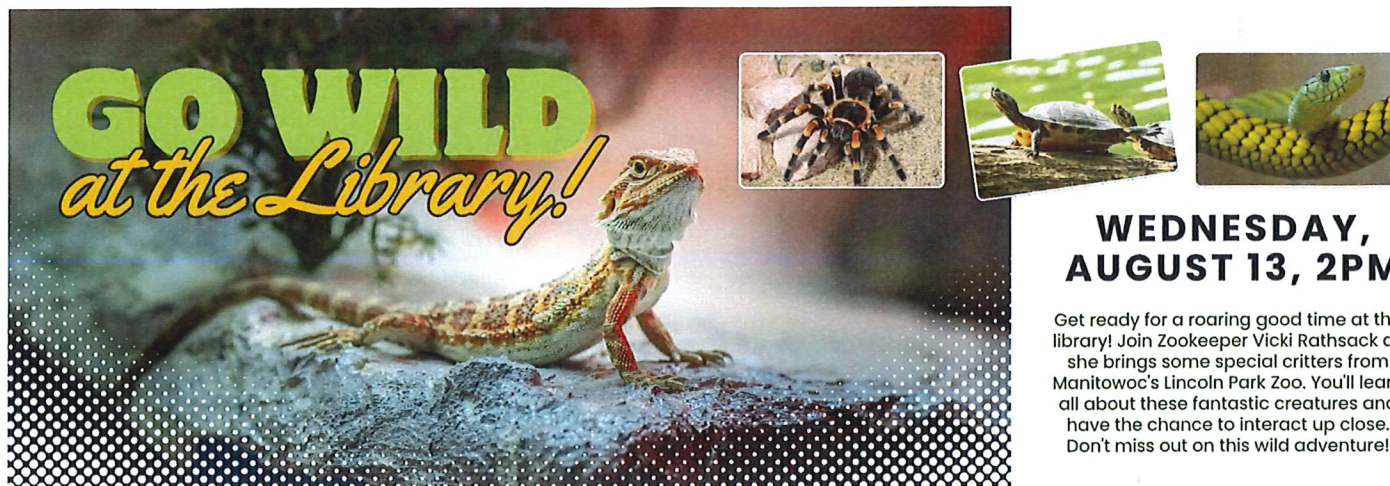
Unless you're a cat. If you're a cat, you probably have enough boxes already.



# Go Wild at the Library!: A Wildly Educational Family Program at MPL

Aug 12, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Kirsten Smith a Youth Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Join Manitowoc Public Library on Wednesday, August 13, at 2 PM to embark on a thrilling educational adventure with the special program, [Go Wild at the Library!](#) This engaging event promises an unforgettable afternoon of discovery, curiosity, and hands-on learning, as **Vicki Rathack, Curator of Education and Special Events at Manitowoc's Lincoln Park Zoo**, brings the wonders of the animal kingdom directly to the Library.

Designed for children and families, [Go Wild at the Library](#) is more than just a presentation—it's an immersive experience that blends science, storytelling, and sensory exploration. Vicki Rathack, a seasoned educator and passionate advocate for wildlife, will introduce attendees to the Zoo's education collection of animals, which includes a Brazilian Salmon tarantula, a bearded dragon, a ball python, a Russian tortoise, a hissing cockroach, and more! Each of these fascinating creatures offers a unique window into the diversity of life on Earth and the intricate ecosystems they call home.

Throughout the program, Vicki will share captivating insights into the animals' habitats, behaviors, and physical adaptations. Children will learn how the bearded dragon uses its coloration to blend into its desert surroundings, how the tortoise's shell provides protection and support, and how the snake's movement and sensory systems make it a master of stealth. Even the humble cockroach will get its moment in the spotlight, as Vicki explains its role in decomposition and its surprising resilience. The tarantula, often misunderstood, will be presented with care and context, helping children appreciate its role in the natural world and dispel common fears.

What sets this program apart is its interactive nature. After the presentation, children will have the opportunity to meet the animals up-close. This hands-on component allows young learners to engage their senses, ask questions, and build empathy for living creatures. For many children, touching a tortoise's shell or observing a bearded dragon's movements in-person can spark a lifelong interest in biology, conservation, or animal care.



Kirsten Smith

[Go Wild at the Library](#) also supports the library's broader mission to provide inclusive, educational programming that fosters curiosity and community engagement. By partnering with Lincoln Park Zoo, Manitowoc Public Library creates a bridge between a local resource and families, encouraging exploration beyond the library walls. The program is designed to be accessible and welcoming to all, with a focus on creating a safe and respectful environment for both children and animals.

Whether your child is an aspiring zoologist or simply loves animals, this program offers a rare chance to learn from a local expert and connect with creatures that are often only seen behind glass. It's a celebration of nature, learning, and the joy of discovery.

So mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 13, at 2 PM and prepare to [Go Wild at the Library!](#) This is one summer event you won't want to miss!



# An Abundance of Take-Home Technology Available at Manitowoc Public Library

Aug 20, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Emily Brandt, a Marketing Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

I remember as a young girl, riding in the back of my parents' car, passing by the local McDonalds, asking, "Mama, can I have a Happy Meal for supper?" And my mom responding with a "We have Happy Meals at home." Fast forward to getting home and finding out that my mom has been slow cooking her favorite meal of all time all along—pork with sauerkraut and dumplings—which also happened to be my least favorite meal. Happy Meal for her? Yes. However, for me? Sad Meal.

You may be asking yourself what is this person talking about and how does this relate to the Library? Well, if you have ever received the super heartbreaking response of "No!" when wanting something because there's another option waiting for you at home, then you may be excited to learn about all the interesting things you may not have at home that are available at Manitowoc Public Library—FOR FREE!

Now that I have your attention and your tummy grumbling because you, like my mother, love a good pork, sauerkraut & dumpling dish, I want to share all the amazing items MPL has for checkout:

- **Blood Pressure Monitoring Kits:** Would you like to check on your blood pressure from the privacy of your own home? We now have two monitoring kits—one with a small cuff, one with a large!
- **Cake Pans:** Looking to bake a unique cake for a special occasion? Take a look at our huge selection of specialty cake pans!
- **DLP Projector:** Connect laptops, video game consoles, DVD/Blu-ray players to the projector to create an at-home theater experience.
- **Happy Lamp:** This handy little device uses light therapy to treat symptoms of seasonal depression. Fall is right around the corner, which means the sun will be setting earlier—stay one-step ahead to help clear the "winter blues."
- **Ice Age Trail Backpack:** Learn about Wisconsin's flora and fauna while hiking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail with these Explorer Backpacks courtesy of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.
- **Launch Pads:** These tablets for children are pre-loaded with educational apps that are ideal for learners of all ages!
- **Line Logger/Meter Reader:** Check your house for energy inefficiencies with an energy/wattage meter!
- **Memory Kits:** A fantastic collection of kits that offer our community a meaningful way to interact with their loved ones who might be experiencing forms of dementia and cognitive decline.
- **Mini Speakers:** Do you prefer not to use headphones with Playaway Audiobooks? Check out a portable mini speaker!
- **Playaway Audiobooks:** With titles available for all ages, this recent addition to MPL's collection is becoming a fast favorite for patrons! No internet or downloading needed—just pop in some batteries and plug-in headphones to listen!

- **Science Kits:** Borrow a kit and learn more about Bird Watching, the Human Body, Micro-Science, Space, and Weather—with the books and supplies for each subject contained within the respective kit.
- **Toys & Games:** Toys and games can get expensive! Try out items from our collection!
- **Ukuleles:** Uke won't believe it, but these popular instruments can be checked out from MPL!
- **Video Games:** A great selection of video games for an array of platforms. Check one out for a test run!
- **Vox Books:** The world's first audio books that live in print books. The permanently attached VOX Reader transforms an ordinary print book into an all-in-one read-along. No need for computers, tablets, or CDs—children simply push a button to listen and read.
- **Wi-Fi Hot Spots:** Internet on the go! No internet at home? Going on vacation? Whatever your reason—Wi-Fi hotspots are a great gadget to take with you!



Emily Brandt

I could go on and on about the wonderful and unique things MPL has to offer. This list is just *some* of the amazing things you can take home. And the list of things you can use *at* the library? HUGE! To see all of the items on MPL's Special Collections page, visit [www.manitowoclibrary.org/special-collections](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/special-collections).



# Indulge Your Inner Author During Manitowoc Public Library's "September Writing Challenge"

Aug 26, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)

## September Writing Challenge



*The following article was written by Kristin Keck, a Teen Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

*A word after a word after a word is power. – Margret Atwood*

*Once upon a time, there was an era of heroic deeds, a month of unbounded creativity and caffeine, a largess of ambitious ideas and all-nighters, known as National Novel Writing Month. Lo, plot bunnies and wild subplots roamed untethered through the fertile heartlands of writers large and small, bounding over the walls of Writer's Block and overrunning the Hairy Doubts that grazed there. The duplicitous voices of inner critics were silent and the people rejoiced!*

*But, all was not well. National Novel Writing Month was laid low by the kind of financial and organizational problems that plague nonprofits, and the Voice of the Inner Critic once more was raised in the land. The Voice that says, "You don't have time for this." The Voice that says, "You don't know what you're doing, trying to write." The Voice that whispers, "You'll never be any good. Why bother to start?"*

*The people looked for a new age to dawn.*

*And just over the horizon, the month of September appeared, bringing glimmers of hope.*

Sometimes you just have to get your Tolkien on, you know?

I'm Kristin Keck, the Teen Services Associate at Manitowoc Public Library, and I loved National Novel Writing Month. I've been participating for 15 of the organization's 25 years. According to the website, before it got taken down, I've written over 790,000 words. The disappearance of the NaNoWriMo website and community has blown a hole in my year that I needed to do something about.

So, I asked about doing a small program here at Manitowoc Public Library, a writing challenge that would help to fill the void a bit. I proposed a calendar that would encourage people to write every day during the month of September.

There would be no word goals, unless someone wanted to set one for themselves. Fostering the habit of writing is the main goal. Just getting words on paper has a magic all its own. And words lead to more words and more words snowball into stories and poetry and screenplays and all kinds of literary art that expands minds and take people places they've never dreamed they could go.

That's magic open to everyone.

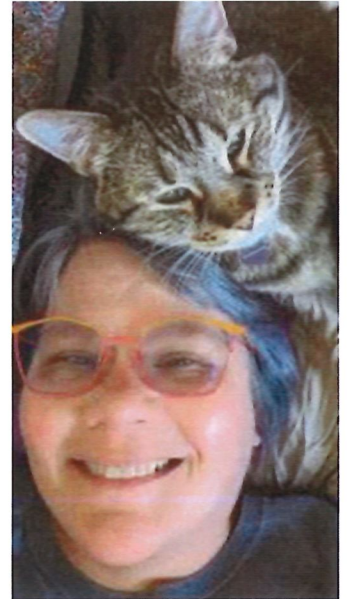
*And lo, the People In Charge said "Yes!"*

In order to encourage people who are still listening to those inner critic voices, there will be a small prize for participation. Just bring in a completed calendar between September 30 and October 10 and receive a disposable fountain pen to continue putting words on the page.

If you want to push yourself, keep track of how many words you write and try for the Most Words Written Prize of a refillable fountain pen and a bottle of ink.

So join me this September. Pick up your calendar at Manitowoc Public Library between Monday, August 18, and Tuesday, September 2. (It didn't occur to me that September 1 is a holiday and the library will be closed. Maybe I picked the wrong month. Probably not, though.)

Let's put pens to paper, fingers to keyboards, and make some magic between the mind and the page!



Kristen Keck