

October 2026

Early Learners & Kids

EVENTS GUIDE

Ridgecrest Branch Library

find us!

131 E Las Flores Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
www.kernlibrary.org

contact us!

email
info@kernlibrary.org
phone
760.384.5870

hours

Tuesday - Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

newsletter

Subscribe to our newsletter(s)

Stay updated on the
branch, programs,
and/or receive book
recommendations!



Find us on social!



KERN
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Intergenerational Collaborative Art Poster

Ages 3+

THU., OCT. 1 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.



Stop by and help us make some artwork to be used on a poster celebrating multiple generations!

Learn Useful ASL Signs

Ages 3+

FRI., OCT. 2 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.



Anyone who wants to learn American Sign Language can come by and learn some basic signs in honor of the International Day of Older Persons.

Family Bingo (Monthly)

Ages 3+

SAT., OCT. 3 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Bingo winners can choose a book to build a home library, a seed packet, or a small prize. We have book choices for babies through adults. NOTE: We use magnetic bingo chips which can be a potential choking hazard.

Thank A Veteran Card Making

Ages 3+

SAT., OCT. 3 | 12:30-3:30 P.M.
TUE., OCT 13 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.



Come by and make a card to thank our veterans. The Oct. 13 session will be in the MAKERSPACE.

Pokemon Learn & Play with Fistful of Cards (monthly)

Ages 6+

TUE., OCT. 6 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Bring your 60-card deck or use a loaner deck. A volunteer from Fistful of Cards will be available to teach people how to play. Trade at your risk, as we will not monitor trading.



= United Nation's 36th International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) Program: Ridgecrest's 9th annual celebration was organized, and sponsored since 2018 by the Cross Cultural Exchange Club & Cheryl McDonald Creative (in memory for 2025) with the collaboration of many local partners.



= One Book Project Program: A countywide reading and discussion project that fosters empathy, promotes awareness, and strengthens the fabric of our community.



Did You Know?

90% of a child's brain develops before they are 5 years old. This sets the foundation for health, learning, and social development. Reading to your child is an excellent way to help build neural connections during this time of rapid development.

- * Sign up your baby, toddler, preschooler, or even kindergartener! Ask staff at the Circulation Desk or go to kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365 to sign up. (Beanstack has a mobile app too!)
- * Get a lanyard at sign up and pins for every 100 books listened to or read.
- * You do not need to use library books AND the same book 10 times counts as 10 books!

Does 1,000 books seem overwhelming?!? It doesn't have to be!

- * 5 books a week for 4 years = 1,040 books
- * 1 book a day for 3 years = 1,095 books
- * 10 books a week for 2 years = 1,040 books
- * 3 books a day for 1 non-leap year = 1,095 books



Older children can help (and practice reading out loud and fluency) by reading to participants. Listening also counts, so books read during library programs (Toddler Time and Preschool Storytime) count!



Ridgecrest Branch Library Amazon Wish List

Scan the QR code to see our upcoming programs or branch needs. Items are shipped to Bakersfield then delivered to our branch in our weekly shipments. We truly appreciate the generous donors who have already purchased items for us!

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Life Size Candyland

Ages 1+ SAT., OCT 24 | 11:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

Stop by and play "Life Size Candyland" in our Children's Room! Families will receive a set of cards and baggies for holding their candy. They will use the cards to move across the "board" and collect a piece of candy at each of the Candyland stops until they reach the end. When reaching the Candy Castle, finishers can choose a piece of candy or a small prize.

Mini STEM Building Challenge

Ages 6+ TUE., OCT 27 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Come in and use one of our building sets to build something awesome! IN THE MAKERSPACE.

Halloween Fun for Little Ones

Ages 1.5-5 THU., OCT 29 | 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Join us for some Halloween-themed activities for our littlest participants! We will offer some toddler and preschool-friendly activities and crafts to choose from.

Halloween Fun

Ages 6+ THU., OCT 29 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Kids are invited to stop by for some Halloween-themed fun. We will have some fun Halloween crafts and games to choose from.

Catch Up Crafts

Ages 3+ FRI., OCT 30 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
SAT., OCT 31 | 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Stop by to work on a variety of previous crafts that you may have missed that we have extra supplies for (as supply lasts). Feel free to request a specific previous craft that you missed, in case we have leftover supplies available for it too!

Show Us Your Costume for a Treat

Ages 1.5+ SAT., OCT 31 | 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Happy Halloween! Stop by and show us your cool costume at the Circulation Desk and choose a prize. We will have candy and non-candy options to choose from.

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Read or Listen Your Way to the Desert Empire Fair!

Challenge Dates: 9/1/2026-10/17/2026

Ages 4-18 can participate.

* Age 4-5 read or listen to 10 BOOKS to enter for the unlimited ride wristband (ages 5 and under already get free entry to the fair).

* Ages 6-8 read or listen to 5 BOOKS to get 1 free entry to the fair.

* Ages 4-8 can continue reading or listening to enter the drawing for 1 unlimited ride wristband. One drawing entry for each additional 5 BOOKS.

* Ages 9-18 read or listen to 5 HOURS to get 1 free entry to the fair. Continue reading or listening to enter the drawing for 1 unlimited ride wristband. One drawing entry for each additional 5 HOURS.

Sign up on Beanstack and MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S AGE IS LISTED CORRECTLY (to be able to see the challenge and to be entered in the correct drawing as in the past we've awarded kids and teens separately to ensure having 1 unlimited ride wristband going to a teen participant).

<https://kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

There will be NO official paper log for this challenge but you can bring in your books or hours on a piece of paper.



Trick-or-Read
Ridgecrest Branch Library
AND Fistful of Cards
10/20 - 10/30/2026



Both locations will offer a special challenge to complete to earn a FREE comic book (thanks to Fistful of Cards) and candy. Comic book and candy are available as supply lasts.

* Ridgecrest Branch Library will have a Trick-or-Read activity checklist for ages 5-12 and for ages 13-18. Complete all activities on the list to earn the comic book and candy.

* Fistful of Cards will have a Pokemon Ghost Hunt Challenge. Participants get a checklist to search for Pokemon throughout the store to earn the comic book and candy.

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LEGO Challenge

Ages 6+

WED., OCT. 7 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.
SAT., OCT. 10 | 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
FRI., OCT. 23 | 10:00-11:30 A.M. (SSUSD NO SCHOOL DAY)

LEGO enthusiasts are invited to stop by to try to complete the LEGO Challenge for the day or you can also build anything you want instead.

10/7: Animal; 10/10: Ocean; 10/23: House

Cub Club Service Project: Thank-A-Veteran Card Making

Ages 3+

THU., OCT. 8 | 4:00-5:00 P.M.

Join the Ridgecrest Lions Club's Cub Club members in making a service project for our local community. This month's project is making Thank You cards and pictures that will be given to veterans in our community!

Book Bingo (monthly)



Ages 3+

FRI., OCT. 9 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Bingo winners can choose a book to build a home library, a small prize, or 3 seed packets from our mobile Seed Library (a portion of the seeds available in our Seed Library). We have book choices for babies through adults. NOTE: We use magnetic bingo chips which can be a potential choking hazard.

Beyond the Book: Fall

Ages 3+

WED., OCT. 14 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Listen to some fall themed picture books while working on some fall-themed crafts or doing fall-themed activities. You can also collect a themed button (as supply lasts)!



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Homeschool Hangout

Ages 3+

TUE., OCT. 20 | 12:30-2:00 P.M.

Current or prospective homeschool families (using ANY program or curriculum) can network with other homeschool families, learn about homeschool options, and/or discuss learning and resources. There will be basic activities for kids to do to socialize while the caregivers can chat with each other. NOTE: Starting in November, there will be an additional monthly Homeschool Hangout, on the first Wednesday of the month from 2:00-3:30 pm.

Chess Open Play



Ages 8+

TUE., OCT. 20 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
WED., OCT. 28 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Stop by to use one of our chess sets to challenge other players (or feel free to bring your own)! Instruction MIGHT be available, depending on volunteer availability but is NOT guaranteed.

Pumpkins with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

Ages 3+

THU., OCT. 22 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Sandra from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital will be here to read a story featuring pumpkins and teach us about pumpkins before we decorate mini pumpkins.

Unplugged Game Time

Ages 3+

FRI., OCT. 23 | 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Stop by to play any of our games for ages 3 and up. We have a variety of games available to play, like the classics (Jenga, Candyland, Chutes & Ladders, chess) to newer games (Shark Bite, Kollide, Uzzle). You can also bring a game from home.



Events for Early Learners & Kids

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Crafternoon: DIY Talking Stick Decorating

Ages 3+

THU., OCT. 15 | 3:30-5:30 P.M.



Decorate a Talking Stick to increase communication and listening in families/groups. The intent is that the person holding the Talking Stick is the one who speaks while the rest of the group will listen.

ChompSaw Academy

Ages 6+

FRI., OCT. 16 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
WED., OCT 21 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Kids can learn how to use the kid friendly ChompSaw cardboard cutting tool. We will go over basic or advanced skills, depending on the level of the attendees and will also include a cardboard based project.

Junior Writers Favorite Book Club with the Ridge Writers

Ages 6+

SAT., OCT. 17 | 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

In honor of Dolly Parton and her Imagination Library, come share about your favorite books! You can bring a book from home or the library's shelves, or just tell us about it. IN THE MAKERSPACE.

Chess Learn & Play



Ages 8+

SAT., OCT. 17 & 24 | 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Stop by if you want to play chess or learn how to play chess. We will have a volunteer available to play or teach along with additional chess boards set up for others to play while they wait.



ChompSaw Appointments

Sign up for an appointment to explore and create with the ChompSaw in our Community Room! Limited appointments available. One (1) appointment per family per day. User must provide cardboard. Users age 10 and under must have adult supervision.



Storytimes (Children's Room)

Baby Bounce

Ages 6 mos- 3 yrs

FRI., OCT. 9 & 23 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

Interactive LAPSIT with rhymes, songs, and board books. Siblings can bring a stuffed animal "baby". Baby Play follows.

Preschool Storytime

Ages 3-5 yrs

THURSDAYS | 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Enjoy stories, action rhymes, and a shaker egg song to continue building early literacy skills. Stay & Play follows.

Toddler Time

Ages 1.5-4 yrs

TUE., OCT. 13 & 27 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

Enjoy short stories, movement songs, and action rhymes that build early literacy skills. Stay & Play follows.

Family Storytime

Ages 2-8 yrs

SAT., OCT. 24 | 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Children of all ages can enjoy some stories and fun action rhymes to continue building early literacy skills.

Freeplay Fun (Children's Room)

*starts before we open to the public (library staff will let you in)

Baby Play

Ages 6 mos-3 yrs

FRI., OCT. 2, 16 & 30 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
FRI., OCT. 9 & 23 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.

Babies build social skills and discover baby-friendly items while caregivers socialize with each other.

Stay & Play

Ages 1-7 yrs

TUE., OCT. 6 & 20 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
TUE., OCT. 13 & 27 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.
SATURDAYS | 9:30*-10:30 A.M.

Kids build social skills through play while caregivers can socialize with each other.

Little Learners (Community Room)

Little Learners: Explore

Ages 1.5-5 yrs

TUE., OCT. 6 & 20 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Little learners focus on activities to build and strengthen fine motor skills, which can be helpful when learning to write.

Little Learners: STEAM Time

Ages 1.5-5 yrs

WED., OCT. 14 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Little learners will explore basic activities monthly that are related to science, technology, engineering, art, or math.



Early Learners (0-5 yrs) Kids (6-12 yrs)

OCTOBER 2026

**RIDGECREST
BRANCH
LIBRARY
HOURS**

* before we open to public;
staff will let you in

**Sunday
CLOSED
Monday
CLOSED**

**Tuesday-Thursday
10 am to 7 pm
Friday
10 am to 6 pm
Saturday
10 am to 4 pm**

131 E Las Flores Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.384.5870

		thursday	friday	saturday
		1. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-5:00 pm Intergenerational Collaborative Art Poster	2. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Learn Useful ASL Signs	3. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Family Bingo 12:30-3:30 pm Thank-A- Veteran Card Making
tuesday	wednesday	8. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 4:00-5:00 pm Cub Club Service Project: Thank-A- Veteran Card Making	9. 10:00-10:20 am Baby Bounce 10:20-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Book Bingo	10. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:00 am Family Storytime (2-8 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm LEGO Challenge: Ocean
6. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore: Paint with Water 3:30-4:30 pm Pokemon Learn & Play with Fistful of Cards	7. 3:30-5:00 pm LEGO Challenge: Animal	15. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-5:30 pm Crafternoon: DIY Talking Stick Decorating	16. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm ChompSaw Academy	17. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 11:00 am-1:00 pm Chess Learn & Play 11:30 am-1:00 pm Junior Writers Favorite Book Club (makerspace)
13. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time (1.5-4 yrs) 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Thank-A- Veteran Card Making	14. 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners STEAM Time: Science (Invisible Ink) 3:30-4:30 pm Beyond the Book: Fall	22. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Pumpkins with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital	23. 10:00-10:20 am Baby Bounce 10:20-11:30 am Baby Play 10:00 am - 11:30 pm LEGO Challenge: House 3:30-5:30 pm Unplugged Game Time	24. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:00 am Family Storytime 11:00 am-1:00 pm Chess Learn & Play 11:30 am-3:30 pm Life Size Candyland
20. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore: Play Doh 12:30-2:00 pm Homeschool Hangout 3:30-4:30 pm Chess Open Play	21. 3:30-4:30 pm ChompSaw Academy	29. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 11:30 am-1:30 pm Halloween Fun for Little Ones 3:30-5:00 pm Halloween Fun	30. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Catch Up Crafts	31. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:00 am-4:00 pm Show Us Your Costume for a Treat+ 10:30-11:00 am Family Storytime (2-8 yrs) 11:00 am-1:00 pm Catch Up Crafts
27. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time (1.5-4 yrs) 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Mini STEM Building Challenge (makerspace)	28. 3:30-4:30 pm Chess Open Play			

SUGGESTED AGES: + = age 1.5+

Storytime (ages) 6 mos-3 yrs 1-7 yrs 1.5-5 yrs 3+ yrs 4+ yrs 6+ yrs 8+ yrs