



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Montgomery

Program Title: Meadowbrook Public Library Summer Backpack Program

Program Category: Community & Economic Development

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: F. Craig Meadows

Title: County Administrator

Signature: 

## **Executive Summary | Meadowbrook Library Summer Back Pack Program, Montgomery County, Va.**

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library system is comprised of four branches: Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd (Floyd County), and Meadowbrook. The Meadowbrook Public Library resides in the eastern section of Montgomery County, which is very rural. According to the Montgomery County Public Schools, Eastern Montgomery Elementary School has the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch in the county. During the 2015-16 school year, 55 percent of students attending Eastern Montgomery Elementary School were eligible for free or reduced lunch, qualifying them to receive a bag of food each Friday to take home for the weekend.

Working with various community groups, including White Memorial Methodist Church, Blacksburg Kiwanis, Shawsville Lay Ministerial Association, Shawsville Ruritans, Mt. Valley Charitable Foundation, VFW Post 4920, and private donations, the Meadowbrook Library was able to offer a supplemental food program, not only once, but twice a week during the summer.

Each week, volunteers packed the bags of food for the eight-week summer program. During the last week, hardback books were given to participants thanks to a donation from SoHo press and a local private donation. Also, each child was gifted a bag filled with school supplies. Finally, a Back to School Block Party, which was co-sponsored by Montgomery County Parks & Rec and the Meadowbrook Library complete with inflatables, games, crafts, and door prizes, was held for the children. During the eight-week program, 121 children were served and 724 bags of food were distributed.

## Overview | Meadowbrook Library Summer Back Pack Program, Montgomery County, Va.

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## **Award Submission | Meadowbrook Library Summer Back Pack Program, Montgomery County, Va.**

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The weekend food bags were donated by White Memorial Methodist Church, Blacksburg Kiwanis and others in the community. However, during the summer months students do not have access to the free or reduced school lunches or supplemental food. As a member of the community, the Meadowbrook Library stepped in to fill this gap.

The Meadowbrook Library Branch Manager, Cindy Minnick, began working with the Eastern Montgomery School principal to find a solution for these children during the summer months. Working with various community groups, including White Memorial Methodist Church, Blacksburg Kiwanis, Shawsville Lay Ministerial Association, Shawsville Ruritans, Mt. Valley Charitable Foundation, VFW Post 4920, and private donations, the Meadowbrook Library was able to offer a supplemental food program, not only once, but twice a week during the summer.

Children were able to receive food at one of two weekly events. On Tuesdays, the program was at the library. Each child could come and receive a bag of food; a healthy snack

provided by the Virginia Extension Office; and a free craft provided by the Meadowbrook Library. Every Thursday, Cindy Minnick, branch manager; Janet Wren, assistant branch manager; Sarah Pahl, youth services manager; Angie Helm from the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension Office; and Ruth Heinzelmann, a volunteer; took the program on the road and visited two area mobile home parks. Under a library tent, the team provided a bag of food; a healthy snack; and a STEM craft for the children. A few of the STEM crafts included sun catcher kits, DIY bouncy balls, catapults, and straw rocket. In addition, donated books were available, allowing the children to choose a book. The program was offered to all children, regardless of income due to the low income rates in this area of the county.

The food was purchased at the Feeding America warehouse by the Blacksburg Kiwanis and also Cindy Minnick, Janet Wren, and Ruth Heinzelmann made several trips to Feeding America to purchase food. Some food was donated by members of the community.

Each week, volunteers packed the bags of food for the eight-week summer program. During the last week, hardback books were given to participants thanks to a donation from SoHo press and a local private donation. Also, each child was gifted a bag filled with school supplies. Finally, a Back to School Block Party, which was co-sponsored by Montgomery County Parks & Rec and the Meadowbrook Library complete with inflatables, games, crafts, and door prizes, was held for the children. During the eight-week program, 121 children were served and 724 bags of food were distributed.