



HOST A **PUZZLEPALOOZA** @YOUR LIBRARY



7 Reasons you need a Puzzlepalooza:

1. Educational
2. Expands the concept of puzzles
3. Introduction to new types of puzzles
4. Grow new puzzle-solvers
5. A peaceful Convention
6. Appeals to multiple generations
7. Low cost, high interest

Step 1: Planning

Gather a committee of puzzle enthusiasts .

- staffing is essential since some attendees were unfamiliar with certain puzzles.
- if enthusiasts aren't experienced, provide training for staff.

Select a location, date, and time.

Select a target audience.

- what ages?
 - what community?
- Organize a schedule .
- include any activities that are not on-going such as Escape Rooms, Jigsaw Puzzle Contests or crafts.

— schedule lunches for staff (and make sure the person filling in understands how the puzzles work.)

Step 2: Focus

Select which categories of puzzles to highlight.

7 Categories of Puzzles:

1. Word
2. Cryptic
3. Mechanical
4. Logic
5. Math
6. Trivia
7. Riddles

January is National Puzzle Month!

January 29 is National Puzzle Day!

Online Resources



Step 3: Evaluate your puzzle collection

Make sure all jigsaw puzzle pieces are there.

Make sure you have puzzles for target ages.

Make sure you have at least one puzzle of each type.

Step 4: Build up your puzzle collection

Create your own crosswords, Sudoku and cryptogram puzzles to avoid copyright violations.

- Develop puzzles far in advance.

—Recruit multiple proofreaders.

Create mechanical puzzles using a 3D printer.

Use online puzzle generators. (QR code link to sites) .

Use your budget to buy more puzzles.

Accept donated puzzles. (have staff verify donated puzzles are complete.)

Step 5: Communication & Floorplan

Keep your committee updated. Meet as needed.

Tell the world about your event.

Map out a track for customers to engage in puzzles.

— Some puzzles can be set up in stations in the middle of the library.

— Some activities need individual rooms.

Consider grouping puzzle stations together so staff can assist with different puzzle types.

Step 6: Host your event!

Invite patrons to participate. Be prepared to explain what Puzzlepalooza is all about.

Gather feedback during your event.

Collect stats. (We used clickers at each station.)

Step 7: Wrap up

Review feedback and statistics.

Survey committee for improvement.

Plan your next Puzzlepalooza.



2019 Puzzlepalooza Activities:

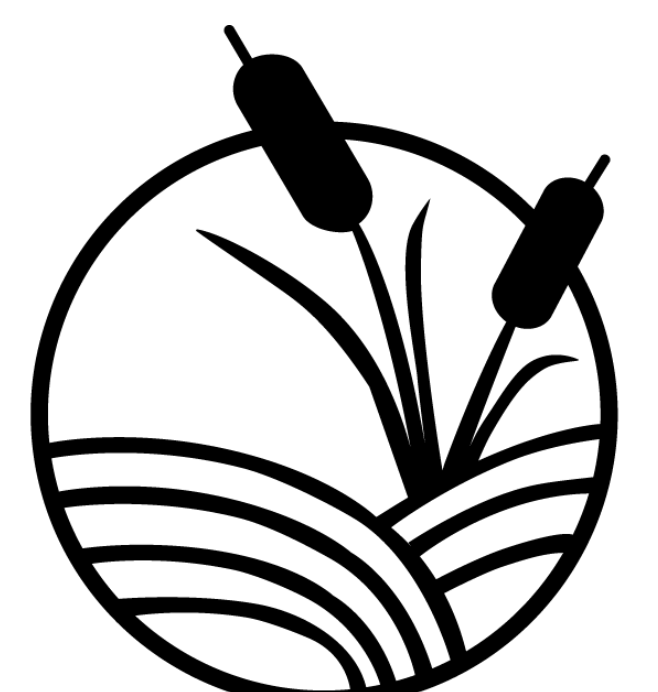
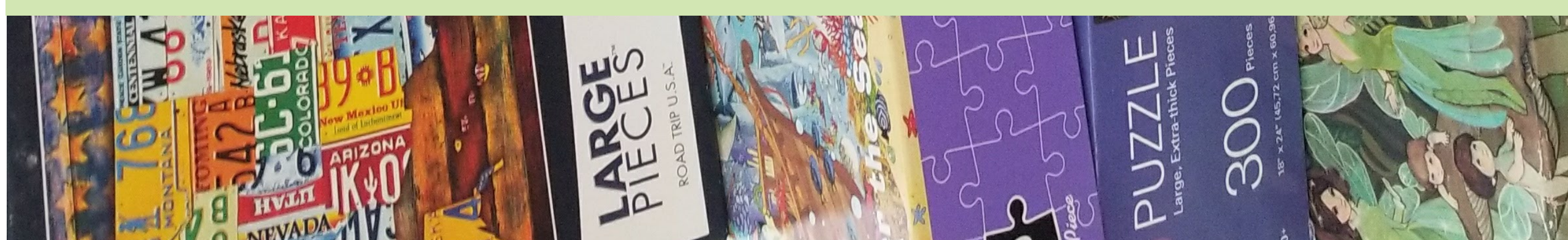
- . 8-10 Paper puzzles created by staff per station.
- . 20-25 Mechanical puzzles.
- . 1 Rebus Scavenger Hunt
- . 4 Jigsaw Puzzle Races (Required 6 identical unopened puzzles per race)
- . 3 Community Builds

2020 Puzzlepalooza Additions:

- . Craft
- . Escape Room
- . Combined Puzzle Stations
- . Sudoku Race

Types of Puzzles

- 1- Crosswords, Fill-ins, Word Finds, Drop Quotes
- 2- Cryptograms, Cryptarithms, Rebus
- 3- Jigsaw Puzzles, Wire Puzzles, Rubik's Cubes, Mazes
- 4- Logic Grids, Sudoku, Nonograms
- 5- Word Problems, Algebraic Quandaries
- 6- Trivia Brain Teasers
- 7- Matchsticks, Optical Illusions, Letter Equations



Chesapeake Public Library