

Bat Week 2019 Report

Bat Week Dates:

October 24th – 31st, 2019

Bat Week Description:

Bat Week is an annual celebration of the role of bats in nature. Bat Week is organized by a team of representatives from across the US and Canada from conservation organizations and government departments. In continuation from 2018, MSL and FWP decided to provide resources and materials to libraries across Montana to help them celebrate Bat Week in October 2019.

Participating Organizations:

Participating organizations refer to any library that requested and received a Bat Week package. Not all participating organizations received a full Bat Week package – some only received partial packages, depending on availability of materials.

47 organizations participated and received some part of Bat Week materials from the State Library. The breakdown of participating libraries was as follows:

- 2 school/community libraries
- 2 tribal libraries
- 1 academic library
- 9 school libraries
- 32 public libraries

Bat Week Packages:

The 2019 Bat Week Packages had the following materials:

- 20 bat pencils
- 15 bat erasers
- 10 I'm Batty About Bats stickers
- 15 bat tattoos
- Bat posters (as many as libraries requested)

The materials were purchased by Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and we were able to create 39 complete Bat Week packages, with the bat erasers being the limiting factor. With the remaining materials, we were able to create 8 additional partial packages, with a total of 47 packages.

Supplementary Materials:

Supplementary materials were sent out on WIRED for anyone to use for Bat Week. It is unclear how many people used these resources as they were in a freely accessible PDF. To see the PDF, please click on [Bat Week 2019 PDF](#). The resources contained within were:

- Bat Information Websites
- Presentations from FWP Wildlife Biologists
- Bat Book list
- Bat Videos

- Coloring pages
- Bat Crafts
- Building a Bat House
- Montana Field Guides on Montana Bats
- Bat Display Materials
- Quick list of Bat Facts
- Bat Bingo Card Template

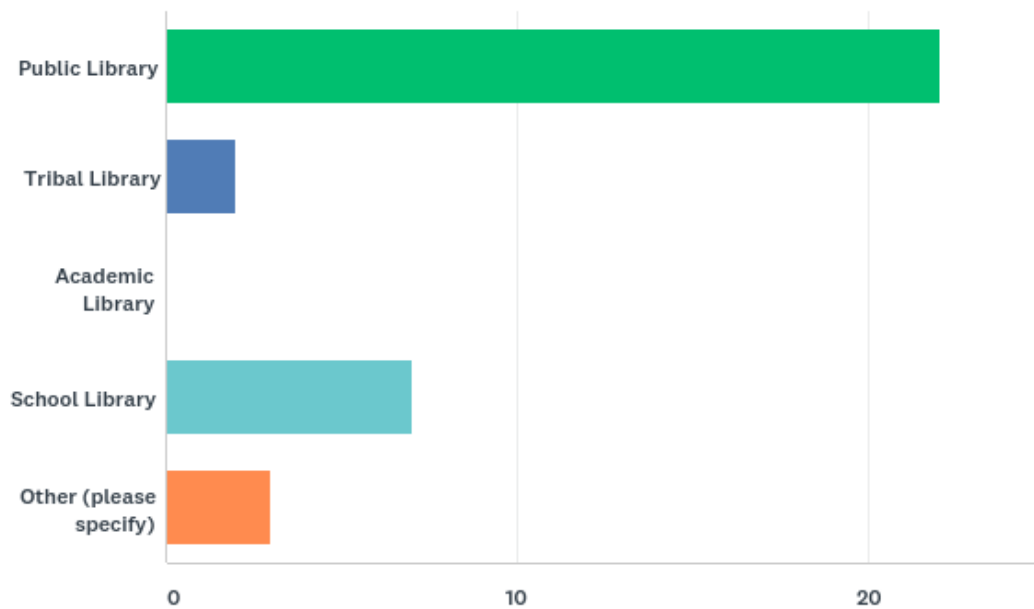
Initial Impressions:

1. Bat Week was again a very popular event – once the email regarding Bat Week packages was sent out, all packages were claimed within a few days. There was a lot of enthusiasm and excitement from participants, both from people who had participated in the year before, and those who were new to Bat Week
2. We had more school libraries participate this year than last year which was great. Some were repeats from last year, and some were new.
3. Bat Week package delivery went much smoother this year, mainly because we started the process sooner, and also we didn't have to rely on the courier as much this year. A significant portion of the packages were handed off at in-person trainings and meetings which ensured that participants received their materials in a more timely manner.

Survey Feedback:

A feedback survey was sent out to all Bat Week participants to ask for feedback on the materials and support provided for Bat Week. Of the 47 who participated, 33 responded to the survey.

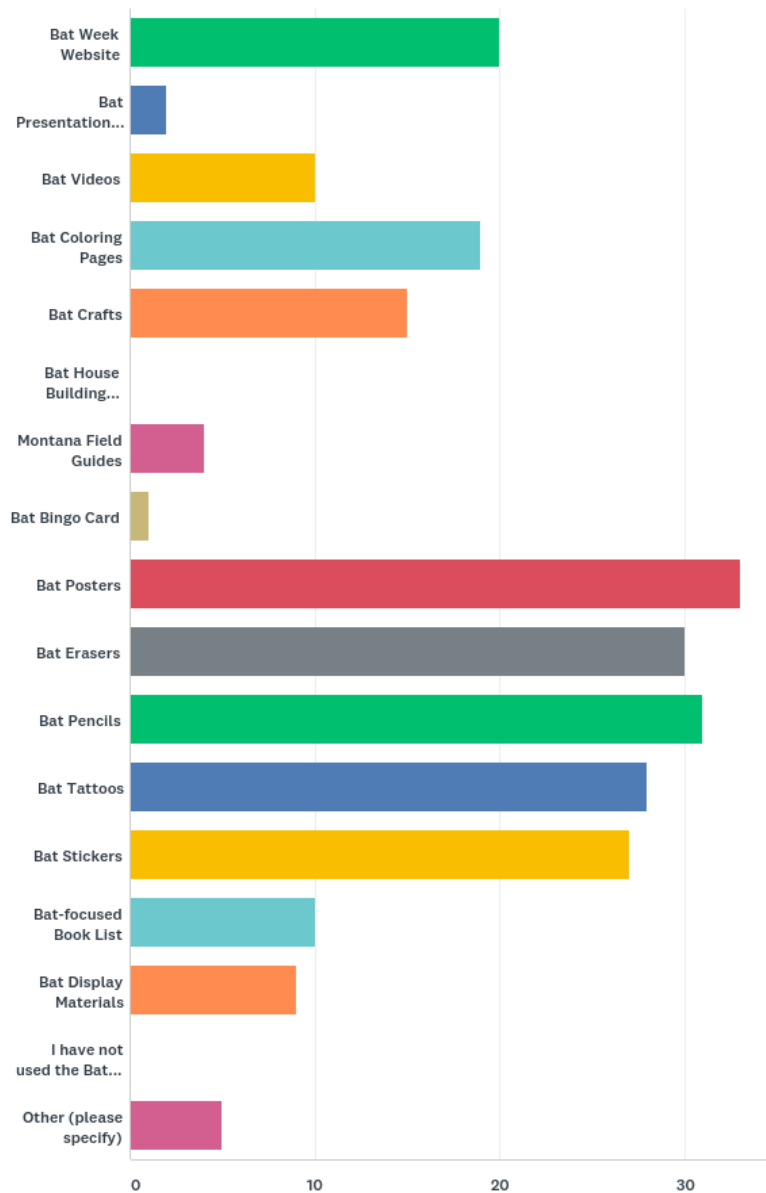
Q1 What type of organization are you from?



Breakdown of organization type:

- Public Libraries: 22
- Tribal Libraries: 2
- Academic Libraries: 0
- School Libraries: 7
- Other: 2 (both responses were school/community libraries)

Q2 Which parts of the Bat Week materials did you use? (Please check all that apply)

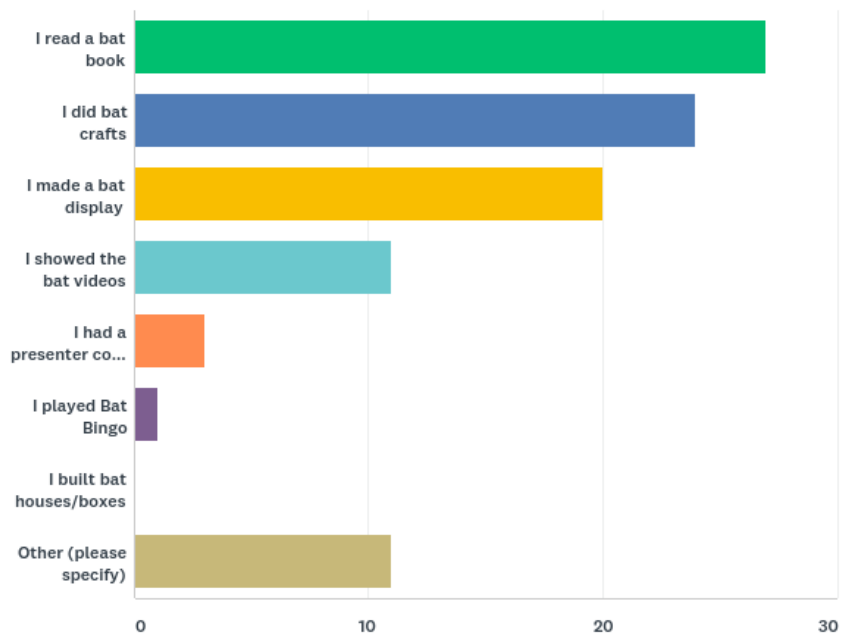


Material use by participants

- Bat Posters: 33 responses
- Bat Pencils: 31 responses
- Bat Erasers: 30 responses
- Bat Tattoos: 28 responses
- Bat Stickers: 27 responses
- Bat Week Website: 20 responses
- Bat Coloring Pages: 19 responses
- Bat Crafts: 15 responses
- Bat Videos: 10 responses
- Bat-focused Book List: 10 responses
- Bat Display Materials: 9 responses
- Montana Field Guides: 4 responses
- Bat Presentations from FWP Biologists: 2 responses
- Bat Bingo Card: 1 response
- Bat House Building Activity: 0 responses

Other: 5 responses that included using the Powerpoint information, negative space painting, book displays about bats, bat presentations from a non-FWP biologist, and other fact sheets

Q3 What programs did you put on for Bat Week? (Please check all that apply)



Program Types

- Read a bat book: 27 responses
- Did bat crafts: 24 responses
- Made a bat display: 20 responses

- Showed the bat videos: 11 responses
- Hosted a presenter: 3 responses
- Played Bat Bingo: 1 response

Other: 11 responses that included

- Poster display and discussion (2 responses)
- Handed out bat items (4 responses)
- Created a bat facts quiz for students to take online
- Did research on bats
- Coloring activity (2 responses)
- Bat Week storytime

Attendance Numbers:

- Pre-K: 191
- K-5: 1,118
- Middle School: 23
- All ages (includes adults, and non-age-specified reported/mixed age attendance): 759

Total reach of program: 2,091 patrons

Most of the attendance came from the K-5 age group, although some of the numbers from the All Ages category probably belong to the other categories as well. The participation of this year is significantly higher than last year's participation of 406 children, and 24 adults.

Most Useful Materials:

As this was a free response question, there were a variety of answers. The responses were coded and broken down into various themes. Here is a list of all the mentioned themes, how many people mentioned them, and specific comments that people had about the resource"

- Bat Week Materials – Poster: 20 responses
 - "The posters were wonderful with all the information. Each child got to take a poster home."
- Bat Week Websites: 12 responses
 - "I found the website interesting. I had no idea it was such a big thing, getting adults involved and just educating people in general about bats."
- Bat Week Materials – Pencils, stickers, tattoos: 8 responses
 - "The added bonus of getting to have bat week goodies this year was a real treat! Our first graders were so excited to get to choose a sticker, tattoo, eraser, or pencil from a bin."
- Bat Videos: 4 responses
 - "The students always love the videos because they can see and hear real bats without having to be scared and they can watch them more than once."
- Craft Ideas: 2 responses
- Bat Powerpoint: 2 responses

- “The Powerpoint provided me with succinct bat facts that I could quickly turn into a lesson.”
- Bat Facts: 1 response

People also mentioned that they appreciated many of the resources had a Montana-specific focus so that their patrons could see the bats in their communities, as opposed to bats in far away locations.

Not Helpful Materials:

Most of the responses in this section emphasized the usefulness of all the materials. Decisions to not use part of the Bat Week materials was based on age/material level, rather than it being not useful. One comment did mention that using the craft ideas was a little difficult due to age group, but it is unclear if their audience was too old for the crafts, or too young.

Suggestions for Bat Week Materials:

We asked participants for suggestions on what should be included in future Bat Week materials and these were the main responses:

- More educationally focused craft ideas
- Converting the poster to pamphlet/booklet form
- Including a model of a bat
- Updated contact information for FWP Biologists
- Craft kits with supplies for teachers and librarians to use
- Crossword puzzles/word searches
- Coloring pages for each type of Montana bat
- Organize crafts and book lists by age groups

It seemed that some people had difficulty getting in contact with the correct FWP biologist to come and give a presentation, so that can be something that we work on improving next year.

Fun Stories/Anecdotes from Bat Week:

- “In general, it was fun to see how people reacted to the posters and were excited to talk about bats. Many people took extra posters to give to their children's classrooms because they were studying bats as well.”
- “I used resources during our Pumpkin Party, and some families don’t celebrate Halloween, so these were the perfect non holiday resources to share as these families visited the library.”
- “There is a fun video on YouTube called Bats, Bats, Bats. We played it and kids sang along.”
- “It was funny listening to the kids talking about the bats they have seen. Or, how gross or cool different bats were.”
- “Several of the adults told about having bats in their houses or around their outside yard lights in the summer.”

Overall Recommendations:

- Keep on providing Bat Week packages. Librarians GREATLY appreciate having materials to hand out and give away, and they report their patrons loving them as well.

- Keep on providing Bat Week posters – if possible, create different designs for the Bat Week posters? Collectible card type formats might be a possibility, to make it easier to hand out, and for patrons to learn more about specific bats
- Provide a wider suite of programming ideas to fit different ages and audiences to give librarians more flexibility in planning Bat Week activities.
- Highlight the FWP Biologist presentation opportunity, and make it clear who different regions should contact if they are interested in a presentation
- Organize materials according to age group and audience and make labels clear for easier access
- Provide more coloring sheets of specific Montana bats
- Create easy crossword and word search puzzles to include