

Round UP

FOR DECORAH KIDS LUNCH CLUB BEGINS JULY 10

Meal pick up, volunteer details and upcoming events listed below



Summer Pick Up Details:

Meals are available Monday through Friday for children and youth ages 18 and under. They may be picked up between 12 and 12:10 p.m. at the mobile home community, 12:15 to 12:35 p.m. at Freeport Park or 12:50 to 1:10 p.m. at John Cline Elementary School. Weekday meal distribution for this summer ends Friday, August 11.

Families not able to pick up meals during the day may come to Decorah UCC at 209 W. Broadway on Wednesday from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Additionally, Kids Lunch Club has partnered with (the) Backpack Program that provides weekend food for families who sign up. These are available for pick up either Wednesday from 6 to 6:30 p.m. at Decorah UCC or on Friday during daytime distribution.

Learn more from Decorah Kids Lunch Club Director, Shanna Dibble, in a Co-op Q&A here:

OCC: How does Kids Lunch Club work?

Kids Lunch Club: Any children and youth, ages 18 and under, can come to our distribution sites throughout the summer to get a “grab and go” lunch, as well as breakfast for the next day. Kids Lunch Club aims to provide nutritious meals while giving children and youth choice in what they eat, as this simultaneously reduces waste. Each day they can choose between two to three options for a main course, vegetable, fruit and side item (such as popcorn, animal crackers, etc). They also can choose a juice and a breakfast item (such as cereal or oatmeal) for the next day. Please note that in an effort to reduce waste, bottles of water will no longer be distributed. Please reach out to Shanna at decorahkidslunchclub@gmail.com if you would like support accessing a reusable water bottle for your child.

OCC: Please let readers know of activities families can participate in.

Kids Lunch Club: This summer we’ve worked to expand our family and community engagement activities. Check out Decorah NOW

Oneota Co-op shoppers are invited to “Round Up at the Register” for Decorah Kids Lunch Club Monday, July 10 through Monday, July 24.

The mission of this local nonprofit, notes the organization, “is to ensure all children and youth in our community have access to nutritious meals while also enhancing family and community connections and engagement through the summer months.”

Kids Lunch Club, says Director Shanna Dibble, “supports food insecurity as well as bringing children, youth and families together during the summer months, which can be challenging times for a lot of kids. There are no financial requirements for getting lunches; all are welcome and encouraged to participate in Kids Lunch Club.”



Volunteers pack and deliver Kids Lunch Club meals. To participate, visit <https://decorahucc.org/kidslunchclub/> or email Director Shanna Dibble at decorahkidslunchclub@gmail.com.



Upcoming Kids Lunch Club activities include a July 10-14 book walk sponsored by Vesterheim and Decorah Park & Rec (participants may receive a free copy of “7 Ways to Trick a Troll” courtesy of Vesterheim) and July 12 storytime and book giveaway for those five and under courtesy of Oneota Valley Literary Foundation. Check FB for details.

or Kids Lunch Club on Facebook for pop-up activities at Kids Lunch Club throughout the summer. We’re engaging with a variety of community organizations to make this the most awesome summer yet for Kids Lunch Program! We’re partnering with Vesterheim and Decorah Park & Rec Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14 to bring a book walk to Freeport Park. Children and families will be able to participate in the book walk after their lunches. This is part of a seven week book walk series. If families take a picture of themselves enjoying the book and bring it to Vesterheim they will receive a free copy of the book “7 Ways to Trick a Troll.”

We’re doing three book giveaways throughout the summer as well, with each focused on a different grade level. A “storytime” is set for Wednesday, July 12. We will give books to the five and under age range on this day. Books for the event have been sponsored by Oneota Valley Literary Foundation.

Already this summer, Sugar Bowl Ice Cream has hosted dessert and Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission provided bike safety training. On July 3, students had the opportunity to design 4th of July-themed works of art.

OCC: How does Kids Lunch Club benefit the Decorah community?

Kids Lunch Club: It is estimated that up to 150 kids - just in Decorah - go without adequate access to meals during the summer months. During the school year, all children and youth have access to nutritious breakfasts and lunches at school. If cost is a concern, students may participate in the Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Program during the school year. We provide a summer option. We support our local producers as much as possible, as well as Iowa Food Hub.

OCC: How is Kids Lunch Club funded?

Kids Lunch Club: All Kids Lunch Club funding is raised/provided by our caring and supportive community. Representatives from the faith community, school district, city, nonprofit and business community have all come together in support of our mission. Kids Lunch Club has been a community effort since it was founded in 2016.

OCC: How may readers participate?

Kids Lunch Club: You can donate directly to us at <https://decorahucc.org/kidslunchclub/> (click the “donate” tab) or by mailing a check to: Kids Lunch Club, Decorah UCC, 209 W. Broadway St., Decorah, IA 52101.

Interested in volunteering? You can sign up to pack or distribute meals online at the above-mentioned URL or email Dibble at decorahkidslunchclub@gmail.com. Packing is done Monday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Decorah UCC. Distribution happens daily from 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Oneota Co-op round up campaigns are intrinsically tied to the Co-op’s community service commitment as outlined in the Co-op Missions and Ends statement. Co-op shoppers are provided the opportunity to round up to the nearest dollar to support this organizational end, which reads as follows:

Oneota Community Co-op Organizational End number seven: “Our members are diverse and engaged, working together and sharing time, energy, and resources to build a resilient and thriving local community.”