FoMLASH

Friends of the Monona Library Annual Scavenger Hunt
FAQs*

What is FoMLASH?

FoMLASH - aka the Friends of the Monona Library Annual Scavenger Hunt is the Friends of the Monona Library's annual scavenger hunt … like in the name.

Why have a scavenger hunt?

The FOMLASH hunt is a fundraiser for the Monona Library. The funds will mostly go towards making the library even more fantastic … especially adding to the Monona Library's fabulous programs. FoMLASH is also just a really fun way to hang with friends and support your local community.

When is it happening?

The dates for the hunt are September 8th to the 18th. The task list will be released on the morning of the 8th at approximately 9 am cst. The tasks are subject to change during the hunt so be sure to follow FoMLASH on Facebook and/or Twitter daily during the FoMLA Scavenger Hunt. Tasks need to be finished on September 18th by noon cst. Any tasks that are submitted after noon on September 19th will not be considered.

You won't have to do all these tasks alone. You will be in a team of 7 - 10 people.

Seriously? I have to come up with a team of 7 - 10 people?

No need to get too serious now. You can join on your own, with a couple of friends or with 6 - 9 other people … whatever works for you. If you join on your own or with just a couple of friends, we will put people into teams just before the hunt starts. If your team has fewer than 10 members, you may well end up with some additional team members, aka friends for life that you haven't met yet.

So, what exactly is this scavenger hunt going to be like?

It's going to be a blast! On September 8th at approximately 9 am cst, we will post a list of task items. You will submit your completed items online in the form of a photograph or a video. So all (or most) of your team members will need a phone that can take pictures and make videos as well as having internet access. You will also need a Google account. The tasks will come in all different flavors: Some are things to make, other are things to do, many (but not all) involve costumes.

After the list is published, you and your team members divvy up the items and complete them.

The task types will vary. It isn't a requirement that your whole team be together for tasks. You can split the tasks up and go your separate ways. But working together is super fun.

Here are some samples of different types and ideas on how to coordinate with your fabulous FoMLASH team. These samples will not be in the actual hunt but they are really similar to tasks that will be.

Video: Make a team cheer about how amazing the Monona Library is.

This one can be done with your whole team; you could even invite some friends or talk some actual cheerleaders into helping out. As long as some of your team members are in the video, you're good to go.

Video: Write and Sing a Monona Lake inspired sea shanty.

This could be done with a small group. Anyone in your team who has an interest in writing and singing songs or a useful lack of shame could be involved. And if you'd rather not ask a stranger to take your video, having a team member around to hold your smartphone while you're belting out your shanty is your best bet.

Image: Make a portrait of Mayor Mary out of lunch meats.

This is a good for one of your more introverted and artistic team members. It could be made completely by one person. Probably not by your vegetarian teammate but we'll leave that up to you.

How should we coordinate this much fun without going nutso?

FoMLASH highly recommends that you coordinate with your teammates using a private Facebook or Google + group. You could also use a messenger app to communicate. Always be kind and respectful. Which is just generally a good idea.

Use your private group to divvy up the task list based on interest, ability and overall willingness. Use your online group or app to encourage and keep up with each other as well as ask for help if needed. Your Team members are your new best friends so keeping each other on track and having fun should be easy.

As you complete each task, upload it into your Google folder. See the submission guidelines for a long winded explanation of how that will work. We will judge all the tasks that you complete by the Hunt deadline. The tasks are meant to be fun, silly, heart-warming, ridiculous and enjoyable.

I have an Uncle in Dayton who wants to play along, is that allowed?

If your Uncle, your sweet Nana in Boca or other delightful person who lives in another town wants to join your team, that would be fine. You will need local team members for at least some of your tasks because plenty of tasks happen here.

If your team wins, the Friends of the Monona Library can't pay for travel or housing for your out of town team mates for the celebratory party, if there is one. It would totally defeat the purpose of the fund raiser if all the funds had to go to bringing your team members in from out of town. Your team members need to be in it for the fun, the support of the library and the GLORY!!! The eternal and never ending glory is nothing to sneeze at, even if the glory is fleeting, really, still worth it.

What happens when I've done all of the tasks?

First, there's no need to finish all of the items. Complete the ones that look the most fun to you. Secondly, once you're done, sit back and relax. FoMLASH ends on September 18th and then the judges will judge. This will take some time as our task list is mighty and epic. We hope to announce winners in October but we can't promise anything. Keep your peepers on the FoMLASH facebook and Twitter pages for updates.

So, how do I win?

Each task item is worth 10 points (except for the team photo which is worth 20 points). If you complete an item *exactly the way it's listed*, your team will get 10 points. If you don't quite complete the item but your submission is fabulous in some way (especially if it makes us laugh) you could get as many as 5 points for that item. If you complete the item AND it's fabulous and funny, you could get up to a million points for it - but are more likely to get up to 20 points.

One theoretical team could focus on quantity to get every item done and get 10 points per item and another team could focus on quality and only get half the items done and those two teams could be tied.

We recommend focusing on having fun.

Is there a prize for the winners?

Yes, we plan on offering some sort of prize or party for the winning team. The winning team and two or three runner-up teams will get worthless tokens of their success! Woooooo tokens of success!!!! Also, you will be winner of FoMLASH and those kind of bragging rights just can't be bought.

How much does it cost to join?

It costs $10 a person to join ($11 online). The money all goes to support the Friends of Monona Library.

I have friends who want to join but they just can't pay. Can I pay for their participation?

Yes! You are very kind and thoughtful. What a good friend you are. You can also offer to pay for an anonymous participant who can't pay OR, since you are so very kind and giving, you could just donate more money (on top of your $10 or $11) to the Friends of the Monona Library. Thank you.

Your friend (or their guardian) will still need to sign our waiver and read the deets and agree to be awesome, just like everyone else.

If you think the scavenger hunt is too silly (which I doubt since you've read this far into the FAQs) and just want to support the library, please bring your donation to the library, they accept cash and checks made payable to the Friends of the Monona Library. Thank you.

I want my whole family to do the hunt but my kids are under 14! What to do?

Ok. Your whole family can join. We love the idea. Parents or guardians will need to sign the child's waiver and we hope you'll join as a family.

I'm in! How do I join?

Sign up begins on August 1st through the library event page or at the library. In the meantime, read our long and involved deets, find some teammates, save your cardboard boxes for prop making and start doing your neighbors a bunch of favors. That way, you can ask them for their help during the Hunt with a clear conscience, and also, you'll be making your neighborhood as nicer place, which is always a good idea. **Every team member (or guardian if under 18) must sign the liability waiver and read the deets.** Sign up will end on September 5th so that we will have time to form teams before FoMLASH begins.

*None of these questions have actually been asked frequently … yet! If you have a question that you would like to frequently ask, please send it to FoMLASH@Mononalibrary.org and we may or may not frequently add it to this page.

Thanks!