

LICENSING TESTIMONIAL:

Tim Rogers

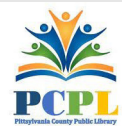
Tim Rogers knew the Senior Planet licensing program was special when he saw the first email. Rogers, Branch Manager at the Mt. Hermon Library in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, was shown the email by the library system's director in the Summer of 2023. By summer's end, The Pittsylvania County Library System was officially enrolled as a Senior Planet licensee.

Pittsylvania County, with a population of around 61,000, is almost completely rural and is the largest county by land area in Virginia. The county's library system, established in 1939, is committed to expanding the well-being of county residents and patrons by connecting them with the information, experiences, and resources they need to make their lives better. It consists of five libraries: the main library in Chatham and branches in the communities of Gretna, Brosville/Cascade, and Mt. Hermon, as well as a History Research Center and Library. The system's Bookmobile is also popular and makes around 60 stops monthly throughout the county.

bills online, FaceTime with their grandchildren, things like that."

Prior to joining the library Rogers spent 35 years in retail management, including 26 years with Barnes and Noble. A tech enthusiast who also serves the licensing program as a tech trainer and administrator, he's seen a lot of training programs over 35 years. Rogers believes that the licensing program's Train-the-Trainer model is especially well thought out. He liked the ease of access to assignments, great follow-up, and handouts and class synopses that users found engaging and easy to follow.

The biggest challenge Rogers faces in the rural community is getting



OF LOCAL
TRAINERS TRAINED:

1 currently active

OF SENIOR PLANET
CLASSES OFFERED:

8 programs

OF LOCAL
ADULTS SERVED:

5 adults

OF SITES:

3 sites

OF TOTAL
ENGAGEMENTS:

5 total engagements

OF UNIQUE
ENGAGEMENTS:

5 unique engagements

“Once I went to the first training, I knew it was a perfect fit,” Rogers said. “We are pushing this out to the whole community.”

Rogers is well acquainted with the community he serves. “About 25 percent of county is over the age of 50, and many residents were born and raised here,” he said.

“The county is so spread out and internet access is limited but that is starting to change. Our libraries are like community centers. Lots of seniors use our computers to pay

more people involved. He has used Facebook to get the word out but isn't sure it is widely used in Pittsylvania County. He plans to advertise classes through an independent regional news service and looks forward to hearing from other Senior Planet licensees about best practices for expanding

Learn more about the free licensing program at oats.org/licensing

reach. Tim is looking forward to an upcoming meeting with a local AARP representative to see how they can work together to expand outreach into the community.

The first Senior Planet classes were held in October 2023. To date, the library system has offered classes and lectures in photo sharing, online telehealth, AI and Canva.

One of the things Tim enjoys most about working with older adults is seeing their confidence rise. It happened in a class about using smartphones to take pictures. People loved it and went home feeling empowered. During the class on online health resources, participants searched for their various conditions and were amazed at how much information was out there. They came to class not having a clue as to how to use online health resources and left committed to searching and learning more.

“Being older myself, I understand,” Tim said. “Your body may not work like it used to, but the mind still does. There’s a part of me that is always 17, and working with the library there is always something to learn. For me, the greatest success is helping people understand, and it’s like magic when you’re a teacher and you see the lights go on. Working with seniors, I know I can remove their trepidation and pass on that sense of excitement and empowerment. That makes me feel like I’ve really done something special.”

The Senior Planet licensing program serves as an open-ended framework for administrators like Tim to develop programs and activities based on unique needs of their community. Learn more about the free licensing program at oats.org/licensing.



Photo of the Mt. Hermon Library in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.