

2020 Conferences/Professional Development in Colorado for Youth Services Staff

Winter & Spring: PEP (Parents Encouraging Parents) Conference (great for parents too!)

January 23-25: Colorado Springs

April 2-4: venue TBD

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/pep>

PEP conferences are non-specific disability conferences based on commonalities, not diagnoses. The design of the conference promotes partnerships that are essential in supporting student learning and including children with disabilities and their families in schools and the community, and also creates a setting for participants--both parents and professionals--to share ideas, discuss concerns and celebrate success.

Jan 31-Feb 1: Courage to Risk Conference (great for parents too!)

Colorado Springs

<https://www.couragetorisk.org/2020-conference>

The Courage to Risk Conference is a collaborative conference comprised of a variety of organizations committed to the educational success of students with diverse learning needs. The mission of the CTR conference is to provide quality educational experiences to parents, students, teachers, and community members; to provide networking experiences for participants; and to motivate those working with students with diverse learning needs.

February 5-8: CCIRA (Colorado Council of the International Reading Association) Annual Conference: Innovation - Imagining the Future of Literacy

Denver Marriot Tech Center

<https://www.ccira.org/>

The CCIRA Conference on Literacy is one of the largest in the Rocky Mountain region! Each year, we host incredible speakers, authors, students, teachers, and vendors who remind us why literacy matters. Join us for the largest collaboration on literacy in the region! 2020 speakers include Matt de la Pena, John Schu, and many others.

February 20-21: PEAK's 2020 Conference on Inclusive Education (great for youth and parents, too!)

Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, Denver

http://www.peakparent.org/conference_on_inclusive_education/about

PEAK Parent Center's annual Conference on Inclusive Education is an excellent professional and personal development opportunity for EVERY PERSON involved in the education and inclusion of diverse learners. Family members, youth, self-advocates, general and special education teachers, school administrators, college students and other professionals are all encouraged to attend!

February 21: Teacher-Librarian Day 2020

History Colorado Center, Denver

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teacher-librarian-day-2020-teach-boldly-tickets-78033661783>

The day consists of a suite of short, carefully prepared talks, demonstrations, and performances on a varying range of subjects to foster learning, inspiration, and wonder - and to provoke conversations that matter. Our theme, Teach Boldly!, asks us to revisit how we approach teaching in our diverse melting pot classrooms.

February 27-28: Picture-Perfect STEM Lessons: Using Children's Books to Inspire STEM Learning
Denver Museum of Nature and Science

<https://www.nsta.org/district/pps.aspx>

Sponsored by the National Science Teaching Association, the Picture-Perfect Science Program combines the appeal of children's picture books with standards-based science content. Help students better understand scientific concepts and skills; explore applications of science; define engineering problems; apply science and engineering practices; practice creating tables and graphs; and use geometry. A 2-day workshop and a train-the-trainer package are available (as is also an online course).

March 2: CATS (Children and Teen Services Division of CAL) Winter Workshop
Library 21c, Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs

<https://cal-webs.org/meetinginfo.php?id=74&ts=1578690731>

This will be a great day for learning, sharing, exploring new ideas, and networking! Join children and teen librarians from across the state to attend a wide variety of sessions that will introduce you to new topics and allow you to explore existing programs and concepts in depth.

We are seeking proposals for sessions; submit by February 3 at

<https://forms.gle/Bkzeb2CGbgHiphGT9>.

Scholarships are available! Apply by January 29 at

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5396731/2020-CATS-Winter-Workshop-Scholarship-Application>.

March 7-8: Rocky Mountain STEAM Fest (great for your patrons, too!)

Boulder County Fairgrounds

<https://makerboulder.com/steam/>

STEAM Fest is an awe-filled, jaw-dropping chance to tinker, hack, build, crumble, fly, drive, drink, DO, dabble — PLAY! You can touch it, interact with it, test it, experiment with it and sometimes you can even take it home! STEAM Fest activities are all experiential – you'll build, hack, tinker and laugh!

Learn more, see the full schedule, and purchase tickets:

March 13-14: Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference (RMECC)

Colorado Convention Center, Denver

<http://www.rmeconference.com/>

This annual conference provides top-notch keynote speakers, 11 professional development tracks and more than 150 workshops and presentations. It's an excellent opportunity to network and share with professionals in the early childhood community in and around Colorado.

March-April: CLiC (Colorado Library Consortium) Spring Workshops

March 19-20: Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction

March 27: Fort Morgan High School, Fort Morgan

April 27-28: CSU Pueblo

<http://www.clicweb.org/continuing-education/spring-workshops/>

These conveniently located workshops are an excellent all-around opportunity for learning, networking, sharing, and exploring new ideas about youth services and all aspects of libraryland. With a wide range of session topics and excellent keynotes, you're sure to find many relevant opportunities.

Scholarships are available! Apply here by February 5 (application deadline is the same for all 3 workshops): <https://www.clicweb.org/continuing-education/spring-workshops-2019/scholarship-application/>

March 31-April 3: TESOL 2020 (Teaching English as a Second Language)

Denver

<https://www.tesol.org/convention-2020>

The TESOL Convention offers professional development opportunities to English language educators at all levels from around the world. With 6,000 attendees and nearly 1,000 sessions, the convention has something for everyone. It's been more than 10 years since the convention has been in Denver.

April 3-4: Advancing Environmental Education Conference

Granby

<https://caee.org/conference>

Colorado's Advancing Environmental Education Conference is annually hosted by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE), a statewide leader in environmental education since 1989. The event is for individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experience levels to come together and learn and network with one another, including environmental educators, school teachers/administrators, interpreters, higher education professors/students/administrators, youth group leaders, scientists, program managers, volunteers, nonprofit professionals, community leaders, consultants and anyone who supports and wants to learn more about environmental education.

April 18: Colorado Teen Literature Conference (great for your teen patrons, too!)

Auraria Campus, Denver

<http://coteenlitconf.wixsite.com/ctlc>

This unique annual event brings together librarians, teachers, authors, and teens themselves to celebrate and share their love of teen literature. The conference offers many diverse sessions and top name YA authors, featuring keynote speaker Alan Gratz.

Conference registration will open February 3; mark your calendars as this one always fills up FAST!

Scholarships for teens and adults are available; apply by January 31 at

<https://www.coteenlit.org/copy-of-grant-applications>.

April 23, 1:00-5:00: Mental Health Issues in Libraries

Bemis Public Library

<https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/save-the-date-mental-health-issues-in-libraries-2/>

The Colorado State Library is working with LoFaro Consulting to offer a 4 hour workshop on dealing with mental health issues in our libraries. The goal of the training is to increase the knowledge, confidence, and comfort of library staff interacting with community members experiencing mental illness.

Registration will open March 23.

May 5: CAL Makerspace Special Interest Group Workshop

Library 21c, Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs

<https://cal-webs.org/meetinginfo.php>

Join colleagues from around the state to explore all things maker, with excellent networking opportunities.

We are looking for workshop sessions that will address both hands-on practical skills as well as theoretical skills someone might need to succeed in a library makerspace. Submit a proposal by Feb 14 at

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fforms.gle%2ftmy63ifm1aGs8Ep46&c=E,1,NJwoxG6Ujb1HYVvrBbs4mPVXJUBe8Pha9gcBfwwoj93VQ_To0P4dThPaJ8nxVIUs_I36MAXU4VvSmFr5011jHJEDUlvXyLFb21JzWZZtTrNR3FQHxaplj00IRfE,&typo=1.

May 8: Reforma Colorado Conference

Denver Public Library, Central Library

<https://reformacolorado.cvlites.org/2020-reforma-co-conference/>

REFORMA is the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. The Colorado Chapter works on matters of importance to Colorado's Latino/Hispanic communities; this conference supports that mission by providing high quality professional development and networking opportunities to Colorado library staff.

June 6-7: GlobalMindEd Conference

Sheraton Denver Downtown, Denver

<https://globalminded.org/annual-conference/>

Collaboration is at the heart of the GlobalMindED conference - among educators, entrepreneurs and business leaders, policymakers in government and nonprofits, and first-generation college students themselves. Hundreds of dedicated professionals and students will come together to learn from world famous keynote speakers and take part in breakout sessions that target educational change. They will share what has worked in classrooms throughout the country and come away with ways to craft innovative approaches in different settings. Most importantly, they will talk with each other – and build on one another's successes as they grapple with preparing today's first generation students for tomorrow's workforce.

GlobalMindED is about having a collective impact on students who want to succeed at a time when our country needs them to succeed.

June 9-10: Getting Relationships Right
Denver Public Library, Central Library

<https://www.search-institute.org/GettingRelationshipsRight>

The importance of relationships in the social and emotional learning of youth is well documented by extensive research. Yet many professionals who work directly with youth, especially those from marginalized communities, do not have the skills to build developmental relationships. This workshop is for organizational leaders and trainers who want to prepare their direct service staff and teachers to create intentional and inclusive relationships that are life changing. Participants will be guided through the use of the training tools and resources of Search Institute's Developmental Relationships Framework.

June 11, 1:00-5:00: Deconstructing Diversity
Jefferson County Libraries, Columbine Library

<https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/save-the-date-deconstructing-equity/>

Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler Chief Catalyst of The Equity Project, to offer a half-day, skills-building workshop that will allow attendees to explore the multi-faceted world of diversity, equity and inclusion in an environment that promotes sharing, learning and transformation. The workshop will be a blend of facilitated and small group discussions to provide participants with real life tools for challenging and managing their own biases, while understanding how to unpack/understand continuum of equity.

Registration will open May 18.

June 15-18: InnEdCO (Innovative Education Colorado)
Keystone

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innedco-2020-conference-registration-registration-74148037777>

InnEdCO organizes the premier statewide conference helping educators leverage tech tools to engage students in deep learning and to help them develop the skills they need to be successful both now and in the future. Our theme for this year's conference is Adventure Awaits! Our presenters will be sharing stories and practices of innovation that represent an improvement in practice, a problem that's been solved, or a celebration of growth.

July 3-5: Denver Pop Culture Con (formerly Denver Comic Con) (great for your patrons, too!)
Colorado Convention Center, Denver

<https://denverpopculturecon.com/>

Denver Pop Culture Con is a 3-day, family-friendly pop culture fan extravaganza, featuring the best in pop culture entertainment. It includes a wide range of relevant panel presentations for your professional development, plus the opportunity to see graphic novelists and pop culture icons.

July 7-9: Science in the Rockies: Steve Spangler's STEM Experience
Denver

<https://stevespangler.com/stem-conference/>

Steve Spangler's Summer STEM Conference will provide the attendees with the opportunity to join Steve Spangler for an amazingly fun, three-day professional development experience that is guaranteed to make STEM more exciting and meaningful for their students. Science in the Rockies is perfect for educators, administrators and curriculum specialists (Pre-K to 8) who want to explore best practices, instructional strategies and high-level engagement pedagogy for inspiring students through STEM.

September 10-12: CALCON (CO Association of Libraries)
Embassy Suites Loveland

<https://cal-webs.org/>

This is the largest Colorado-based library conference, with plenty of great sessions specifically about youth services plus many other useful topics around librarianship, plus 3 days of excellent networking opportunities.

Submit your proposal for a session by February 1! <https://tinyurl.com/2020calsubmit>

October(ish): Tattered Cover's Colorado Teen Book Con (great for teen patrons!)
Denver area

<https://www.tatteredcover.com/colorado-teen-book-con>

Founded by the Tattered Cover Book Store in 2016, this is a full day event with two keynote presentations, a bunch of author panels, and a big author signing party at the end of the day. And food trucks. Of course, food trucks. Books will be for sale throughout the day. This event is free, and is open exclusively to teens, but you must register. There's also an adults only evening event with YA authors.

October 9: CLEL (Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy) Conference
Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, Arvada

<https://www.clel.org/conference>

This conference is the only one in the country to focus on library services to young children and their family! The 2020 conference will be bigger and better than ever; don't miss this unique opportunity to focus on early literacy and network with like-minded colleagues!

Oct 26-29: WIDA Annual Conference: Multilingualism for the Future
Denver

<https://web.cvent.com/event/086267df-ed80-4b6c-b9ac-5b77681c5e2d/summary>

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the WIDA Annual Conference is the premier event for educators of early childhood through Grade 12 multilingual learners, bringing together educators from around the globe to network, share best practices, and discover innovative classroom strategies.

Submit a proposal to present a workshop or concurrent session! Proposals due January 19, 2020.

Nov 9-10: Trauma Informed School Conference
Westminster

<https://www.beyondconsequences.com/tiscfall-savethedate>

The Trauma Informed School Conference provides the attendees with the opportunity to come to join in for this comprehensive three-day trauma-informed conference that is designed for educators, school administrators, school personnel, mental health professionals, and community partners. This conference will give the understanding, knowledge, and tools needed to successfully create a trauma-informed learning environment, whether it is in a single classroom, a whole school, or an entire district.

Nov 12-15: International Dyslexia Association's Annual Literacy Conference
Denver

<https://dyslexiaida.org/future-conferences/>

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) is creating a future for all individuals who struggle with dyslexia and other related reading differences to have richer, more robust lives by providing access to the tools and resources they need until everyone can read. Whether you are a researcher; teacher; administrator; evaluator; service provider; parent, student, or adult with dyslexia, we are confident the conference will be an enriching experience for you.

Nov 19-22: 2020 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention
Denver

<http://convention.ncte.org/>

Each November thousands of literacy educators from across the country make the journey to a Convention that inspires their practice and rejuvenates their profession. They leave with strong strategies and best practices for teaching literacy, language, and composition. They learn new ideas for delivering instruction that engages students and addresses the most pressing needs within the school and district. Join us to find new teaching allies, new connections with luminaries and authors, and enough new books to fill entire shelves in classroom libraries.

Additional resources for professional development

- CALLI (Colorado Association of Libraries Leadership Institute) is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 cohort group. This great leadership opportunity includes exploring topics such as mentoring, diversity, communication, and much more, and includes excellent networking opportunities and a group project. The institute begins in August 2020 and includes 13 months of in person and virtual sessions. Application deadline is March 16. Visit https://cal-webs.org/Leadership_Development for application details and to apply.
- Local Early Childhood Councils often have sessions throughout the year. To learn more about Early Childhood Councils, go to <https://ecclacolorado.org/>.
- School districts have teacher in-service days periodically; check with your nearest district(s) to see if there will be learning opportunities relevant for you.

- Keep watch on the State Library's Library Learning and Creation Center, <https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/>, for online resources on a wide variety of topics, plus a calendar of upcoming online and in person professional development opportunities.
- Join CLEL! It's FREE, and provides professional development resources on its website (<https://www.clel.org/>), blog (<https://www.clel.org/blog>), and annual conference.
- For ongoing online opportunities, the Information School at University of Wisconsin-Madison has a strong continuing education program: <https://ischool.wisc.edu/continuing-education/>.