

Youth Services Staff: New to Colorado!

Congratulations on your new position, and welcome to the Colorado library community!

This brief guide will help get you ready for your new position by outlining some useful Colorado listservs, contacts, websites, groups, parent resources, unique programs, professional development, summer reading program processes, an annual statewide youth services program timeline, and grant opportunities. We hope it will be a helpful introduction.

Mailing Lists

We strongly encourage you to subscribe to the CYS-Lib and OBCO lists below, as well as any others that meet your needs and interests.

- **CYS-Lib (Colorado Youth Services Library staff)**. Please subscribe immediately to CYS-Lib! This is the primary way for you to receive important information about the summer reading program, upcoming trainings, a monthly newsletter, resources, and more from the State Library. It's a great way for you to contact and ask questions of other youth services staff around the state, too.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/cys-lib_cvl-lists.org
- **OB40 (One Book Colorado)**. If you'll work with children under 6 and their families, please subscribe to OBCO, the listserv for our One Book Colorado program (which is explained later in this guide).
https://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/obco_cvl-lists.org
- **CYAAL (Colorado Young Adult Advocates in Libraries)**. If you'll work with teens, this list will allow you to receive information from the State Library and other staff statewide that work with teens.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/cyaal_cvl-lists.org
- **CoProLib (Colorado's Programming Librarians)**. Designed for library staff in Colorado to exchange information on adult, teen and children's programming.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/coprolib_cvl-lists.org
- **Libnet (Library network)**. This general list is for all types of library staff and is by far busiest of all of these lists.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/libnet_cvl-lists.org

Contacts

Beth Crist (crist_b@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6908) is the Youth & Family Services Consultant at the State Library. Please contact me when you begin your new position to introduce yourself!





Please consider me a resource that you can contact anytime with questions, challenges, ideas, success stories, suggestions, etc. I'd love to hear from you!

Websites

- Colorado State Library Youth & Family Services website:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibraryDevelopment/YouthServices/index.htm>
All about the [summer learning program](#), early literacy and teen resources, archived professional development, past newsletters, and more.
- StoryBlocks:
<http://www.storyblocks.org/>
This site offers a series of 30-60 second videos demonstrating songs and rhymes to library staff and parents to help teach young children valuable early literacy skills; each includes an early literacy tip. Some videos are in Spanish.

StoryBlocks

Relevant Statewide Library Associations and Groups

- [CLEL \(Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy\)](#). CLEL is a group of librarians from CO (and beyond) working to strengthen young children's literacy through library services and community advocacy. Your membership will connect you to a network of library staff committed to making a difference in their communities, who can help you make a difference in yours. And it's FREE to join, so sign up today!

- [CAL \(Colorado Association of Libraries\)](#). The mission of CAL, an ALA chapter, is to unite to advocate for quality library services, support access to information, and foster the professional development of our members. Membership fees vary. CAL offers an annual conference, a variety of annual awards, and a number of divisions and interest groups.

- [CATS \(Children and Teen Services special interest group of CAL\)](#). CATS's purpose is to provide a forum for all library staff who serve children and teens to share ideas while working together to fill the need of consistently providing excellent services to patrons from birth to 18 and their caregivers throughout the state of Colorado. CATS has quarterly meetings and an excellent blog.

- [CLiC \(Colorado Library Consortium\)](#). CLiC, a nonprofit, is an innovative, collaborative organization that empowers libraries and library staff to better serve their communities through resource sharing (including the statewide courier system), professional development for library staff, and initiatives meeting library needs and interests.


Parent Resources

[Parent Brochures](#). The State Library offers “Getting Ready to Read” brochures for parents that are free for your library to order in quantity, available in English and Spanish. The brochures offer simple ways for parents to incorporate early literacy activities into their daily lives.

[StoryBlocks](#), mentioned earlier, are excellent resources for parents as well as library staff and volunteers.

Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendars. These beautifully illustrated perpetual calendars, available in English and Spanish, provide a fun early literacy activity each day for parents, caregivers, and ECE educators. To request free calendars, complete [this online form](#).

- [Colorado Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar](#) (PDF)
- [Colorado Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar](#) in Spanish (PDF)

Professional Development

- Fall YS Workshops. Each autumn, State Library staff present all-day regional workshops that cover the upcoming summer learning program as well as other useful youth service topics. Watch CYS-Lib in the late summer for the schedule; usually there are 4 offered in varying locations around the state.
- Online from the State Library. State Library staff regularly offer online sessions on a variety of youth services topics; watch CYS-Lib for upcoming sessions. All are archived if you’re not able to participate in the live session. And all are free!
- [CALCON](#). Each September (sometimes October), CAL offers a 3-day conference for all types of library staff, with a changing location.
- CLiC. [Each early spring](#), CLiC offers 2-day workshops in Grand Junction and Pueblo, and a 1-day workshop in Fort Morgan. Each fall, CLiC offers a similar 2-day workshop called Southwest Days in Durango. These reasonably priced short conferences offer a range of session topics. CLiC also offers periodic [online training](#) on a variety of topics.
- [CLEL CON](#). CLEL offers an excellent annual conference all about early literacy and services for 0-6 year olds and their families in the fall in varying locations.
- [Colorado Teen Literature Conference](#). This annual conference, usually in April, provides a unique venue to bring both teens and educators together to learn about and celebrate young adult literature.

Kits Available

The State Library has many kits for your library to borrow that will allow you to provide very hands-on programming quickly and cheaply. These kits span a wide range of interests and types of activities, and are great for a variety of age groups. View all of the kits here:

<https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/resource-sharing/resource-kits/>

Programs Unique to Colorado

- One Book Colorado is a statewide program that aims to give a copy of the same book to every 4-year-old in the state—over 75,000 of them—through public libraries and participating Denver area preschools for a 2 week period each spring. This program, the only one like it in the country, is the result of collaboration between the Lt. Governor’s office, Colorado State Library, the Denver Preschool Program, Denver7, Mile High United Way, public and military libraries, the private sector, and the nonprofit and foundation communities. It stems from the idea that providing young children with access to books promotes early literacy and helps families serve as their children’s first and most important teachers. Begun on a statewide level in 2012, it is entirely funded through private donations.



Each fall, the State Library will put out a vote to narrow a longer list of possible titles to 3 finalists; the Colorado public will then have the opportunity to vote on their favorite. Each spring, the State Library will send your library’s supply of books a few weeks in advance of the giveaway period. During the 2 week giveaway period, many libraries opt to offer programming along with the program, such as special storytimes with the selected title, 4-year-old birthday parties, family events based on the theme of the book, etc.; they give away books during the events as well as anytime a 4-year-old or parent of a 4-year-old comes in to the library.

Along the way in the planning period, we’ll provide webinars, PR resources, activity examples, social media bites, and more.

See the program’s [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [PR Toolkit](#) for more info, and watch for emails on the OBCO listserv for important program info.

- ReadingRecord. ReadingRecord is an open-source, web-based application for libraries to track Summer Reading Program participants. It is a cloud (hosted) service, meaning that no additional equipment is required to use ReadingRecord. It can be used to track most any kind of reading program: traditional summer reading programs, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten programs, year-long programs, etc. As this is open source, any library with solid tech support can host it themselves for free. For Colorado libraries that do not have dedicated tech support, Westminster Public Library has agreed to host ReadingRecord free of charge. There is a very low cost hosting option available as well. See <https://www.readingrecord.net/dokuwiki/doku.php> for more info, or contact Eric Sisler, lbylnxgek@gmail.com.

Summer Learning Program (SLP) Processes

Colorado belongs to the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), which almost all states use. The SLP annual cycle begins each fall, when libraries that have completed their SRP report from that summer will receive the coming year's SLP manuals (one per branch, unless you request less); these usually arrive in October, though the exact timing varies each year. Each manual includes hundreds of programming ideas, book and media lists, artwork, handouts, and more. Also in the fall, the State Library will offer regional workshops on the coming year's SLP, along with other useful youth services training.

SLPs usually run June and July in Colorado, though there's lots of variation. There will be a short report from the State Library in August that your library must complete for the entire library jurisdiction (not each branch); your library must complete the report in order to receive SRP materials the following year.

A little later in fall, libraries that completed their SRP report from that summer, and that want them, will receive small "kits" from the State Library that will include basic SRP supplies like posters, bookmarks, reading logs, and rubber stamps (exact items and quantities vary depending on what's available that year). Teen "kits" are also available. Generally we provide one kit per branch to libraries that want them.

As part of CSLP, the national annual Teen Video Challenge encourages teens to create short videos that promote summer reading and library use to fellow teens. The contest accepts submissions June and July. There are 5 national winners, who receive a cash prize. Watch for full guidelines on CYS-Lib each November.

Statewide Youth Services Programs Timeline

January-February

- CATS Winter Workshop

March

- Receive OBCO books (into April)
- Receive SLP kits
- CLiC workshops in Grand Junction and Fort Morgan

April

- CLiC workshop in Pueblo
- OB4CO giveaway period!
- Colorado Teen Literature Conference

May

- Please complete the OBCO survey
- Reforma Colorado Conference

June-July

- Teen Video Challenge
- SLP—whew!

August

- SLP ends! Relax and rest up!
- Please complete the SLP report (deadline: late August)

September

- CAL Annual Conference

October

- CLEL Annual Conference
- Receive SLP manuals
- Fall youth services workshops begin

November

- Fall youth services workshops continue
- OBCO statewide voting period