



# YS NEWS

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Colorado State Library

## Focus: Teen Zone, *part 2*

*This feature will focus on learning and reading development for different age groups, beginning with birth to five and eventually going through age 19.*

This second article in the Teen Zone series—research on teen learning and reading development and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will discuss teen library programming. It is from Jayna Ramsey, who has written the 6-month Teen Zone series as part of her practicum experience as a library science student at the University of Denver.

### Teen Library Programs

by Jayna Ramsey

So you, or your library colleagues, have decided that you want to attract more teens to come to the library. One way to do so is to implement more teen programming. Teen programming can be as simple as a one-shot craft program or a more complex after hour event or ongoing series.

Before you can begin the process of planning events for teens, you must first get to know the teens in your community. After all, teens won't want to come to

programs that they don't think will be fun or applicable to their lives. A way to do this is to observe the teens that are already using your library space. Do you see teens playing role-playing games online? Or are they getting together, drinking coffee, and working on craft projects? You can expand on those ideas and make them into library programs.

Another way to get ideas for programming is to solicit your teen library council. They may think of things that you didn't even know they wanted to do. From personal experience I have found that just asking the teens about what they wanted to do makes them excited about teen programming at the library. You can ask your teen library council about what kind of voids they see in programming at school or other community centers. If, for example, the local high school has a great sports program, but very few art classes, you could fill that void by offering basic drawing or photography classes.

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### Welcome to YS News!

This newsletter will feature articles on learning development, summer reading updates, timely tidbits, children's and teen literature news, and an exchange of what's happening in CO libraries.

Would you like to see a topic covered in the newsletter? Want to share info about your programs? Or perhaps contribute an article? Let me know!

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*Going to the library was the one place we got to go without asking for permission. And they let us choose what we wanted to read. It was a feeling of having a book be mine entirely.*  
—Rita Dove

Please see *Teen Zone* on page 8

## SRP: News & Ideas

### Great 2013 SRP Programs across the State!

Thanks for a very successful 2013 SRP 'round the state! We're loving your SRP photos and stories; please keep them coming. Take a look at some of the summer fun:



*Red Feather Lakes Community Library posted the names of the kids that completed their Level 3 reading goals as reading stars.*



*Panning for gold at the Nederland Community Library.*

### Summer Reading Program Evaluations

Please complete the online [2013 CO Summer Reading Report](#) by August 31. Your input into this annual evaluation goes a long way to maintain funding for the statewide program, as well as to assist in improving the program for the future. Thanks for your time and input!

Also, if your library received an Early Literacy Mini-Grant this year, please also plan to

complete the [online evaluation form](#) for that program by September 18. Thank you!

## Book Nook

### Voting is Open for the 2014 Colorado Blue Spruce Award

The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award recognizes the most popular books among middle and high school students in the State of Colorado. Teens nominate their favorite titles and select the winner – adults do not vote. All the materials needed to participate in the Blue Spruce Award can be found [on its website](#) and may be freely printed and distributed. All votes must be submitted by January 15, 2014. Don't have time to read all the titles? Use the [award committee's booktalks](#) to recommend these books to your teens! Check out [this year's list of nominees](#) and promote the contest to teens in your community!



### Fun Children's Book Infographic

[This infographic](#) was published by the Rossier School of Education in March 2012 to promote reading among children.

## One Book 4 Colorado

### OB4CO 2013 Wins CAL Award!

The Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) has awarded One Book 4 Colorado its 2013 Library Community Partnership Award! The award, given to encourage collaboration and community partnerships, recognizes achievements in planning and implementing collaborative library programs or services between Colorado libraries, or between a Colorado library and a business, organization, group or individual. One Book 4 Colorado involves a strong statewide partnership, including YOU--every public and military library in Colorado! Congratulations to you for a very successful 2013 One Book for Colorado!

[See highlights](#) from the successful 2013 One Book 4 Colorado program, and check out [this blog post](#) from the Library Research Service at the State Library about the program, including links to recent studies about early literacy.



### OB4CO 2014 Ramps Up

The 2014 One Book 4 Colorado dates have been finalized! From **April 7–21, 2014**, more than 70,000 books will be distributed at public libraries, Reach Out and Read Colorado health clinics, Denver Preschool Program preschools, and other literacy-rich environments. For the third year in a row, One Book 4 Colorado will be promoting early literacy by providing children a book of their own in English or Spanish to read with parents, siblings, friends, and family. For the latest info on this year's readers, event updates, and book selection process, follow One Book 4 Colorado on Twitter @OneBook4Co2014!

## Timely Tidbits

### CLEL Conference, September 13



It is time to register for the 2013 CLEL Conference! It is bigger than ever this year. Get ready for an awesome day of collaborating, learning, and networking. We will have great workshops, a keynote speaker, committee updates and of course, raffle prizes. [Click here](#) to get signed up. Please contact [Lisa Cole](#) if you need a fee waiver or scholarship.

When: Sept. 13, 8:30 – 4:30

Where: Englewood

Fee: \$25, plus an optional \$10 for a box lunch

And don't miss the [CLEL Blog](#), which has been hopping with activity lately! Find out the latest on [CLEL Bells](#), books for a wide variety of storytime themes (and contribute to upcoming lists!), and much more. CLEL has a happening [Facebook page](#), too!

### State Grants to Libraries

As reported earlier, this year the Colorado legislature has voted to give libraries of all types a total of \$2 million for educational materials that support or enhance opportunities for early literacy and early learning. [Find out more here](#), and stay tuned for more information and the eligibility form in September.

The East Morgan County Library District is taking a proactive approach to working with its school district on the State Grants. Staff have visited with administrators from the school to help make sure they apply for the grant, and have offered help in providing information, as

well as a way to coordinate funds rather than compete or duplicate. This is great model to partner with your school district and maximize these funds across your community!

### Keep the *Lights On Afterschool*

Each October, thousands of communities nationwide celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* to shine a light on the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. Celebrate *Lights On Afterschool*, a project of the Afterschool Alliance, at your library on October 17! Learn more about the event, get the [Event Planning Kit](#), register your programs, and more [at the website](#).



### New Early Learning Webinar Series (It's free!)

Follett is offering an early learning webinar series called [Growing Readers](#). Each free webinar, offered monthly, is 90 minutes long; past webinars are archived. There's a great range of topics and expert presenters (including CO's own [Dr. Mary Stansbury](#) from the University of Denver).

### Rocky Mountain PBS (RMPBS) Programs:

#### --StoryMakers Short Story Writing Contest

RMPBS encourages aspiring writers in grades 6, 7 & 8 to participate in [StoryMakers](#), a short story contest for young adults. Students can submit their 700-1,000 word original story [online](#) by October 11, 2013. There's no entry fee. There are some great prizes in store for contest winners! This could be a great creative writing program at a library!



### --Storyblocks on PBS LearningMedia

RMPBS is proud to announce its first local contributions to the thousands of free, digital resources on [PBS LearningMedia](#). "Storyblocks"—a collaboration between CLEL and RMPBS—are now available for use nationally, offering early literacy tips to caregivers through song or rhyme. [Check them out here](#), and explore the rest of the digital learning library!

### --RMPBS Kids

[RMPBS Kids](#) has lots of great online content for kids, like episodes of some PBS kids' programs, fun art activities, and much more.

### --Growing Successful Children Town Hall

Save the date for this town hall meeting featuring keynote speaker Paul Tough at the RMPBS studio in downtown Denver, September 24, 5:00-7:00 pm.

### How Video Games and Social Media Fuel Students' Passion for Art

When teens play around on video games and/or social media, some end up creating art, often with little or no direction or instruction. This interest-driven art creation comes at a time when public schools are cutting art programming, and it offers a promising new way to reach and mold budding artists. Researchers have found informal art-based activities transfer to real skills. Kids who played Rock Band, for example, could sight read and transcribe traditional notation. And exposure to various art forms prompted them to seek formal training. [Read the article](#) for more.

### Keys to The Whole World: American Public Libraries

NPR (National Public Radio) recently aired a special series of pieces on public libraries; [take a listen here](#).

### 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten at the Park County Public Library

Orion, held by his mother in the photo, is the first child to complete the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program started in all the Park



County Public Libraries in April of this year. His mother said that it was a challenge to get it done in 4 months before Orion began Kindergarten but he was determined. She said that being the middle child of 3 boys, it was a special time for them to spend time together. They read

10–14 books a day. For the last 10 days Orion would take a stack of books and read by himself. Congratulations to Orion!

### Library 2.013 Worldwide Virtual Conference

The [third annual global conversation](#) about the future of libraries is scheduled for October 18–19, 2013. The conference will be held entirely online around the clock in multiple languages and time zones. Everyone is invited to participate in this FREE forum designed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among information professionals worldwide.

### The Digital Shift: Reinventing Libraries

This [free, full-day, online event](#) from *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal* will offer thought-provoking discussions and solutions to some of the biggest challenges public libraries are facing, including rethinking collections, engaging the community, and helping students and patrons learn. October 16, 2013. 8:00 am – 3:00 pm MT.

### Building Local Systems to Improve Afterschool

Reflecting the growing number of cities coordinating afterschool services for children, a new report published by The Wallace Foundation, [Better Together: Building Local Systems to Improve Afterschool](#), is intended to share best practices and emerging insights about how cities can weave together efforts of municipal agencies, schools, nonprofit youth programs and other institutions working on afterschool, before school, and summer programming.

### Infographic: How to Master Social Media Outlets

Ever wonder why the picture that got hundreds of likes on Facebook went unnoticed on Pinterest? Or why your clever library update got lots of attention on Twitter but none on LinkedIn? This [handy infographic](#) from My Clever Agency sums up best practices for getting your message out via different social media platforms.



### International Literacy Day (ILD)

The International Reading Association (IRA) is observing ILD on September 9 and encourages schools and libraries around the world to join the celebration. This year's theme, "Invent Your Future," focuses on the importance of literacy as a way for students to achieve their dreams. So how will you and your students celebrate

International Literacy Day? If you need a few ideas, please visit the [Invent Your Future website](#). And join us on September 9 at 6:00 PM MT for an ILD Tweet Chat, using the hashtag #ILD13 to join the conversation.



### News from YALSA

- YALSA offers an updated version of its free [Teen Book Finder app](#) that now includes all titles that appeared on YALSA's 2013 lists of recommended reading and/or that were honored by YALSA's YA literature awards.
- [Around the World in 60 Books webinar](#): Join tour guide Pam Spencer Holley as we travel together via booktalk from Afghanistan to Iraq, Kenya, England, and places in between. September 19 at noon MT. Registration is \$29 for students, \$39 for YALSA members, and \$49 for all others.
- The [AIMing at Tweens online course](#) will focus on the developmental needs and interests of tweens and how we can best meet them in terms of books, activities, and programming. The 4-week course will run October 1– 29, 2013. Registration is \$155 for YALSA members, \$195 for ALA members, and \$215 for nonmembers.
- Voting for the 2013 Teens' Top Ten will end on Sunday, September 15. Teens are encouraged to vote for their favorite titles from the exciting [nomination list](#).
- Teen Read Week Committee members will host the final TRW Twitter Chat on September 3, 11 – 12 p.m. MT, to help you plan your best Teen Read Week ever! Find out what other librarians are doing at this Tweet fest of great Teen Read Week ideas. #TRW hashtag.
- YALSA has a new "[Teen Services in 15 Minutes of Less](#)" Wiki page with quick and easy things that busy library staff can do to serve teens. Read and add to the wiki.

## Upcoming Grant Opportunity

### [Kinder Morgan Foundation](#)

Deadline: 10th of every other month beginning in January

This foundation funds programs that promote the academic and artistic interests of young people, with the focus areas of academic programs, including tutoring; arts education programs; and environmental education programs that work with local schools. Grants are between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

## CO Libraries in the Press

### **Poudre River Public Library District wins award**

Congratulations to the [Poudre River Public Library District](#), which was recognized recently for its innovative approach to helping evacuees during the 2012 High Park Fire. A panel of judges with the Urban Libraries Council selected the library district as 2013 Top Innovator from 140 applications submitted. The library worked hand-in-hand with first responder agencies during the High Park Fire by providing up-to-date and reliable information throughout the crisis and establishing a presence at the evacuation center including a laptop lab and story times, books and programs for children of displaced families.

### **Collaboration brings literacy instruction to public housing in Boulder**

[This partnership](#) to help prevent summer slide in Boulder has been very successful. Along with language arts classes taught by teachers, the summer program incorporated 26 iPod shuffles and 10 iPads, evening family story times and community visits to the Boulder Public Library.

### **Denver Public Library on Wheels and in the Summer**

The Denver Public Library has a new set of wheels—[a mobile library on a bike](#). The bike –

complete with a Wi-Fi hotspot and stocked with books – is called "DPL Connect." The librarian riding the bike can help passersby with research, digital downloads and reading suggestions. Denver residents can also register for library cards at the book bike.

Denver was also mentioned by *Publishers Weekly* in its [Summer Reading Snapshot](#). The authors looked at summer reading programs and popular books for kids and teens in 10 metro areas, including Denver. The article cites that residents can choose among the central library and 24 branches – one reason for the huge success of its summer reading program, with 40,000 children participating.

#### **Fort Morgan Public Library Summer Reading events**

The 2013 [Fort Morgan Summer Reading Program](#) had strong participation and a great range of fun, educational events for all ages. The events included programs that highlighted exercising for fun and fitness in a nearby park.

#### **Dolores Public Library's After-School Programs**

The [Dolores Public Library](#) is beginning its after-school reading and creative writing program for kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

#### **Mancos Public Library Begins 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program**

Parents can now join the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the [Mancos Public Library](#). The goal is to reach 1,000 before the child begins kindergarten. After each 100 books, children will be given a small reward, and when they reach 1,000 a simple, sweet celebration will take place at the library and participants will be given a book of their choice to keep.

## STEM Corner

### **Air Force wants student help on STEM projects**

A new interactive online platform urges science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) students and educators to solve real-world challenges and seeks to show students how classroom STEM lessons translate to the workforce. The projects will be hosted through the [Air Force Collaboratory](#), a partnership between the U.S. Air Force and GOOD, a social network for activism, which will remain active through November. The Collaboratory aims to inspire participants to use STEM education experiences to solve pressing problems and work to complete STEM projects, and to connect students and educators directly with Airmen.

### **Engaging Latino Audiences in Out-of-School Programs about Science**

[This article](#) describes research conducted to identify how to engage Latino groups in science programs, such as Extension-sponsored youth programs. The article also examines interest levels, barriers to participation, and preferences for program format among Latino parents based on focus groups with Latino parents in 2 communities.

### **Girlstart**

[Girlstart](#) offers an array of online STEM resources for educators. Resources include free online modules and a virtual community for educators.

## Teen Zone *cont.*

### **Making the case for teen programs**

So now that you have brainstormed and want to plan teen events for your library, how can you get your community, library administration, and any other skeptics on board? First consider the size of the teen population in your community. Make the case that library programming should be proportional to the community it serves. Therefore at least some teen programming is needed to satisfy this requirement. It is also good to remind those not interested in investing in teen programming that teens are future taxpayers and therefore financial supporters of the library. It is important for teens to be interested in and support their library, both now and in the future.

Teen programming in the library supports the social and educational well-being of teens. Not only are they learning new skills and meeting new friends, they are doing it in safe environment. Teens will learn to associate the library as a safe, fun place to spend their free time.

### **Implementation**

Now that you have made your case and planned your program, you need to get teens interested in attending it. Advertise the program through several outlets including posters in the teen area, the library's social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and flyers in schools, other community centers, and wherever else teens gather in your community (not sure where they go? Ask them!). Also, ask the teens that already use your library to talk your programs up to their friends; peer-to-peer PR is very effective amongst teens. When advertising your program, be sure to clearly state that the program is for teens. You may

include an age range to make it very clear that the program is for teens only. Teens need to feel like the programs are made specifically for them and imposing age limits does just that.

Once you have completed your program, have the teens that attended fill out a short survey that includes questions about their satisfaction with the program as well as what other types of programs they would like to see in the future. Armed with this data, you will be able to start planning for your next teen library program.

### **Sources:**

- Ludwig, S. (2011). *Starting From Scratch: Building a Teen Library Program*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited.
- Teen Librarian Toolbox, <http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/>

