



Focus: Teen Zone, *part 5*

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 5th article in the Teen Zone series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 10–12 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will explore Teen Tech Week 2014.

Teen Tech Week™ 2014: DIY @ your library
How can you get teens into and engaged at your library, allow them to have fun and explore all things tech, advocate for teen services, and help bridge the digital divide? Celebrate Teen Tech Week (TTW) at your library! YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) began the annual celebration in 2007 and it's been going strong ever since. In 2014, it'll be celebrated **March 9–15**, with the theme **DIY @ your library**. Read on for compelling reasons to celebrate the week at your library, ways to leverage TTW to meet larger goals, ideas for celebrating TTW with limited resources, and some great resources to explore TTW further.

Libraries bridge the gap between in-school and out-of-school time, helping teens learn through digital media so they can achieve more academically and develop the digital and media literacy skills they will need in order to be informed, productive citizens.

--Teen Tech Week Ning

Why should we celebrate TTW in our library, and how can we leverage the opportunity to achieve larger library goals?

Bridge the **digital divide**. TTW is a great opportunity to reach out to teens without computer or internet access at home to let them know of the computers, online access, and training they can use, for free, at your library.

Engage new **partners**. Use TTW as an opportunity to develop new partnerships in your community; as a start, think high schools, businesses, city and county agencies, parent groups, homeschool families, colleges, bookstores, and nonprofits that serve teens. They can all play an important role in promoting and exploring technology with teens, and a TTW partnership can lead to longer-lasting collaborations with your library.

Promote **online safety** and **digital citizenship**. During TTW, provide info (through flyers, your web presence, and/or a class) to empower teens to think critically, behave safely,

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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SRP 2014: News & Ideas

2014 Colorado Teen Video Contest

The [2014 contest has launched!](#) Teens, 13–18, individually or in teams, are invited to create a 30–90 second public service announcement video promoting the 2014 summer reading program and theme, "Spark a Reaction," to other teens. There are great prizes for both the teen winner and his/her library! Video submissions and forms are due February 21, 2014.



Fall Youth Services Workshop Wrap to Date

We had some great workshop sessions this fall. The staff at each venue were so hospitable and very informative. Here are highlights from our last 3 venues that you might want to check out, as they are relevant no matter where you live:

[Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo:](#)

This is a beautiful nature center that provides unique experiences in education, conservation and recreation. Located right on the Arkansas River, the 34-year-old center includes a wildlife rehabilitation facility that specializes in birds of prey. Each year more than 200 injured and orphaned raptors are admitted to the facility from throughout southeastern Colorado. Our workshop was held in the center's yurt—a first for all of us!



The Raptor Center's staff presented an excellent session on its work and informed us about the fascinating world of owls using Oberon the beautiful barred owl, pictured here, as our patient model. Nature Center staff also led us through 2 fun, hands-on activities, one on riversheds and the other on aquatic macroinvertebrates.

[Adams State University,](#) Alamosa:

The Nielsen Library at the University was the site of our workshop, with our meeting room fittingly right next to the children's reading room.



We later took a trip across campus to the planetarium, where we received an excellent demonstration of the many programs they offer to students and, through a STEM grant, to the general public—for free! From astronomy to tours of the earth through huge aerial photos to programs for preschoolers, you can find it at this planetarium. And we learned that some libraries can borrow a [Starlab](#)—a portable, inflatable planetarium—from their local [BOCES](#), so check out that possibility in your area!

[Poudre Learning Center,](#) Greeley

The last workshop was held at another beautiful riverside venue, this one along the Cache la Poudre River. In our workshop room, the center's classroom, we were surrounded by live snakes, frogs, fish, and toads (all securely enclosed, of course). The center offers important environmental education programs for students, educators, and the larger community.

The Center's staff collected water samples from river and gave us the opportunity to examine them for aquatic macroinvertebrates. We all had fun trying to spot, scoop, and identify the small water dwellers using magnifying glasses and microscopes.



SRP Manual Error

There is an error on page 147 of the Children's Manual, under Fibonacci Fun: the number three (3) is missing from the sequence...

0, 1, 1, 2, **3**, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...

In this activity, the next number is found by adding up the two numbers before it. So,

- The 2 is found by adding the two numbers before it (1+1)
- The 3 is found by adding the two numbers before it (1+2),
- and so on!

The formula doesn't work if the 3 is not there.

Book Nook

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 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. Check out [this](#)

[year's list of nominees](#) and promote the contest to teens in your community!

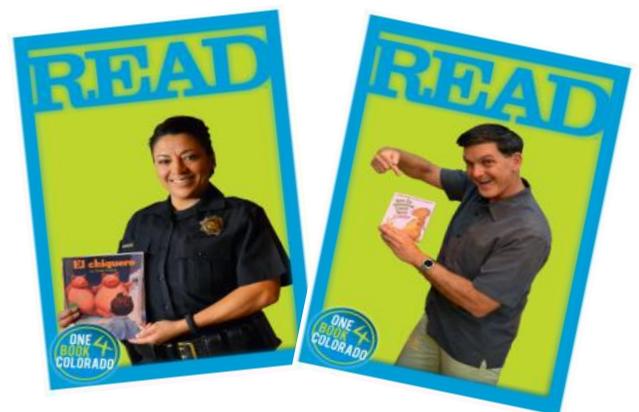
2013 Teens' Top Ten titles Announced

YALSA has announced its 2013 Teens' Top Ten titles. Teens voted for this annual teens' choice award this fall, with more than 32,000 votes cast and 28 nominees. [See the list here](#). Did your favorites make it?

One Book 4 Colorado



[Voting is on](#) for One Book for Colorado! You and your patrons can vote for your favorite of the 3 final titles, pictured above, through November 30. And please follow the program on Twitter and Instagram @OneBook4Co, as well as on the [project's Facebook page](#)—and spread the word to your patrons!



And don't miss the fun, colorful READ posters of some of our celebrity OB4CO readers—[Dr. Scott](#) from PBS's Dinosaur Train, [Rodolfo Cardenas](#) of Univision, Colorado Rapids head coach [Óscar Pareja](#), and Denver police detective [Raquel Lopez](#). Print them out and share them in your library!

Lt. Governor Garcia Promotes OB4CO

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia recently made several excellent appearances on TV news programs to promote One Book 4 Colorado and encourage people to vote. [Check one of them out here!](#)

Timely Tidbits

CATS Conference & Resources

CATS—Children and Teen Services Division of the CO Association of Libraries (CAL)—is holding its first conference! Save the date: Wednesday, January 23rd from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Sam Gary Branch of the Denver Public Library. Our theme is “STREAM into the New Year” (STEAM being an acronym for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math) and there will be some excellent presentations!



And check out the [CATS blog](#) and [Facebook page](#); there are some great new resources and ideas there!

Congrats to Colorado's 9 Star Libraries

Each year, *Library Journal* provides a list, called the Star Libraries, of the nation's top 30 libraries of their expenditure peer group on a score based on 4 per capita service output statistics: library visits, circulation, program attendance, and public Internet computer use. Congratulations to the [9 Colorado libraries](#) that were named Star Libraries this year:

Arapahoe Library District
 Denver Public Library
 Douglas County Libraries
 La Veta Regional Library District
 Limon Memorial Library
 Mancos Public Library District
 Ridgway Library District

Swink School/Public Library

San Miguel Library District #1 /Telluride

CCIRA: Authors' Festival for Kids and Conference



Registration is now open for the [CCIRA \(CO Chapter of the International Reading Association\)](#)

[Authors' Festival](#) (Feb. 8, 2014 in Denver), which is a 1/2 day writing workshop for kids grades 3–8, featuring authors Patricia Polacco, David Biedrzycki, Cheryl Harness, Lynda Mullaly Hunt, and keynote Judy Young!

And for the adults, CCIRA is offering its [2014 Conference on Literacy](#) February 5–8 in Denver. Registration is now open! And we'll have a booth promoting One Book 4 Colorado!

CLEL Updates

As always, CLEL is up to great and useful adventures:



Check out the [blog](#) for all of our new blog posts. We have added several bloggers, so there are some great new posts on the site. We are also posting new things on [Facebook](#) all the time. Like us and you can see all of the posts in your feed. And don't miss the [Silver Bells](#), a recommended list of picture books published in the last 25 years for libraries and families alike seeking strong titles for young children from birth to age 5, based on the 5 early literacy activities in Every Child Ready to Read, 2nd Edition. The lists provide activity ideas for each title suitable for library storytimes, childcare and preschool settings, and exploration at home.

Libraries Supporting Homeschoolers

The [Libraries Supporting Homeschoolers wiki](#) is a useful online forum for CO libraries that serve homeschooling families and groups. You'll need to request access to the wiki, but it's free and easy. After that you can exchange ideas and tips with colleagues around the state to better support this important population in your community.

And for another excellent resource on the topic, [view the slides](#) from the recent CAL Conference presentation by Gail Sohns and Jessica Freeland from Pikes Peak Library District entitled "Homeschoolers in the Public Library: Why? How? Wow!"

Online History Colorado Resources



History Colorado has some great new online

resources available. The [Living West Activity Book](#) has fun crafts, coloring sheets, puzzles, science experiments, and recipes for young children that highlight the state's history; all are great resources for libraries and families alike. They also have [2 new online exhibits](#) that explore the history of American Indians in Colorado and Amache, the Japanese American internment camp in the state during WWII. The interactive exhibits include artifacts, historical images, and multimedia materials.

Colorado's Grade on the Nation's Report Card

Colorado's fourth-graders improved their performance in math and reading, according to the latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as [The Nation's Report Card](#). Eighth-grade student scores in math and reading dipped slightly from 2011 scores, though. Students in both grade levels scored higher on both reading and math than the nation's public schools as a whole. Read more about [CO's](#)

[results](#), and check out [the infographic](#) for results on the nation as a whole.

STEMgirls-Little Free Library Campaign

STEMgirls has launched a [Kickstarter crowd-funding project](#)! The goal is to raise \$400 to purchase Little Free Library (LFL) kits. [Little Free Libraries](#) are community efforts to promote literacy in which anyone can take a book and leave a book, with the books placed in a bird house-type box in a easily accessible area. This LFL will be built by STEMgirls aged 7-12 in Lafayette, CO on January 18, 2014 at the recreation center. Please share this link; even small donations help!

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries](#)

Deadline: February 3, 2014

Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, are grants that encourage libraries and archives to prototype and evaluate innovations that result in new tools, products, services, or organizational practices. The funding range is from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and there are no matching requirements. This year there's a focus on STEM.

[YALSA's 2014 Summer Reading/Learning Grants](#)

YALSA is distributing twenty \$1,000 summer reading resources grants. The grant is meant to help libraries boost their collections by providing funds to purchase reading materials, especially those that help English Language Learners and struggling readers.

YALSA will also provide 20 libraries with \$1,000 each to recruit, train and compensate teen assistants to help with summer reading programs. Individual library branches within a larger system may apply. Applications for both grants are due January 1, 2014. Funding is provided by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

Webinar: What's After Storytime: Programming for Children and Tweens with Autism

This ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) webinar will provide background info on autism and techniques to use when working with school-age children on the autism spectrum. A variety of program types will be discussed and the ways they can be designed to serve children with autism will be introduced. [3 upcoming sessions of this webinar](#) will be offered:

Wednesday, December 11, 5 pm MT

Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 12 pm MT

Wednesday, February 12, 12 pm MT

Fee: ALSC members and students: \$45

Non-members: \$55

PLA Webinar: Partners in Literacy: How Schools and Public Libraries Can Work Together

When it comes to teaching children how to read, both libraries and schools are crucial educators. What happens when you combine the literacy power of libraries and schools? Find out during [this webinar](#) with reps from Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library and their local school to hear how they piloted a rich partnership to help youth literacy...and how you can, too.

December 4, 12:00 – 1:00 MT

Fee: PLA members: \$28

ALA members: \$31.50

Non-members: \$35

News from YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association):

- Dec. 19 webinar, noon MT, "[Keeping Your Library & Your Teen Patrons Protected](#): Legal Considerations in Teen Services." Fee: \$39 for YALSA members, \$29 for students, \$49 for all other individuals
- Check out the [2013 YALSA Advocacy Toolkit](#) for a wealth of useful tools to advocate for teen library services

- Take the [Morris/Nonfiction Reading Challenge](#) in December to read all of the nominees for either (or both!) YALSA awards starting Dec. 9 to get to know the nominees before the winners are announced in January.

STEM Corner

YALSA's STEM Resources Wiki

[This wiki](#), sponsored by YALSA's STEM Task Force, is an online community for library staff to share ideas on how to effectively integrate STEM into library programs and services. It's a great place to get ideas and tips, as well as share yours.

Successful STEM Library Program Examples

Check out these [brief descriptions](#) at the Programming Librarian blog for great examples of successful STEM programs, along with links to further useful resources.

Makerspace Resources

Our own Ashley Kazyka is busy finding excellent resources for makerspaces:

[Make it @ Your Library](#) is a great site by librarians to help librarians realize makerspace projects in their communities.

A recent *Library Journal* article, "[Community is Key to Successful Library Maker Spaces](#)," stresses that strong relationships and community involvement, not big budgets and high-tech gadgetry, are key to reaching children and teens in makerspaces.

Partnerships with STEM-Rich Institutions

[This detailed article](#) from Afterschool Alliance offers possibilities for STEM program partnerships with a wide range of organizations, complete with examples of successful partnerships.

CO Libraries in the Press

Jefferson County Library Foundation Raises Funds for Early Literacy Programs

This foundation has undertaken a [fundraising campaign](#) to support the Jefferson County Library's early literacy programs.

Baby chicks hatch at the Highlands Ranch Library

This library, part of the Douglas County Libraries, held [18 fertilized chicken eggs](#) in incubators that patrons could watch hatch and then develop for a few days. For those that couldn't be there in person at the moment of hatching, they set up a live webcam so they could watch remotely.

Elbert County Library District is Thanksgiving Resource

[This article](#) outlines the many helpful resources that the library has to help with holiday planning and entertainment, including children's books.

Teen Zone *cont.*

and participate responsibly in our digital world. Check out Common Sense Media's [K-12 Digital Literacy & Citizenship Curriculum](#) for short videos, posters, toolkits, and more to help get started.

Inform parents about online safety and digital citizenship, as well as the online resources at your library. Many parents are concerned about these issues but may not know how to help guide their teens through them. During TTW, provide resources and maybe a class to address these important issues with parents. Again, Common Sense Media offers a host of [resources for parents](#) as a strong starting point.

Engage **teen volunteers** and/or a **teen advisory board**. Give teens the opportunity to plan and

implement programs (with library staff guidance) during TTW. It's a great way to get them actively involved at the library, as well as give them excellent experience and confidence. The experience during this week may lead to long-term, dedicated teen volunteers.

Advocate for your teen services. TTW is also a great opportunity to make a concerted effort to promote the excellent services and programs your library offers for teens. Share compelling stories about what teens have accomplished in your library, preferably in their own words (and related photos make even more of a statement).

Pilot tech programs for teens. If you're considering a long-term tech program for teens, TTW is an excellent opportunity to try it



out for a short time to see how it goes; you can then evaluate its effectiveness and, if you decide to carry it further, make necessary changes

after the pilot project and launch it as a larger program.

Instill **STEM skills and interest**. TTW can be a really fun time to engage teens in STEM activities. Provide a range of enjoyable, exciting tech programs and activities that both stimulate interest and instill important STEM skills (the activities most effective at this are ones in which the teens are having so much fun they don't realize how much they're learning!).

Attract new teens to your library. During TTW, you may be able to offer fresh programs that will attract new teens to your library. Also, you can use TTW to make a big promotional push for not only your TTW programs but all of your teen services; this effort may stretch beyond your routine marketing to reach new teens.

Highlight your **digital resources** and **online presence**. Promote your e-books, databases, audiobooks, digital music subscriptions, and video games during TTW to teens—and go beyond promoting to *teaching* teens how to use these resources. Offer databases classes, an e-reader petting zoo, and demonstrations of downloading your e-resources onto devices. TTW is also a great time to spruce up and promote your online presence to teens (and maybe engage some great teen volunteers to help!).



That all sounds great, but how can my library celebrate TTW with limited resources?

Use the [TTW Ning online community](#). It includes publicity and event planning toolkits, community discussions, and more. If you register for the Ning (it's free and easy), you'll be able to use the 2014 TTW logo (as shown on this page), participate in a relevant webinar for free, and more perks.

Partner. Back to partnerships: collaborations with community nonprofits, schools, businesses, etc., allow all the parties to share and maximize resources and expertise, cross-promote programs, and reach new teen patrons.

Offer **Teen Choice Awards**. Have your teens nominate their favorite video games, apps, audiobooks, YouTube videos, etc., and then vote for the winners in each category. This is free (though you can put the voters' names in a drawing for a donated prize), and also it gives you valuable insight into your teens' preferences.

Host **teen tech contests**. Social media, web design, digital photography, video, music recording, multimedia, and other tech-related contests for teens can be very popular, easy to plan and implement, and require only a few donated prizes for the winner and a runner-up or two.

Offer a **tech petting zoo** or **gaming night** with borrowed equipment. Team up with local game and computer stores, bookstores, and individuals (including teens themselves) and ask them to bring in and

demonstrate e-readers, listening devices, tablets, games, Wii, and other devices for teens to try out, or gaming consoles and games for a fun gaming event. Be sure to get the equipment lenders to sign waivers in case of damage.

Upcycle technology. Have craft programs in which teens use internal computer or device parts to [make jewelry](#), turn cassette tapes [into wallets](#), or create notebooks from [floppy disks](#), for instance.

Focus on **free online content and services**. Offer programs teaching a variety of social media sites; have your teens create a Wikipedia entry about your library; use your library blog to start a Round Robin short story that the teens write themselves, with each teen contributing one paragraph; have your teens start a blog, Instagram, Pinterest, or Twitter account for other teen library patrons; or host a program in which teens explore 2 or 3 new, fun, free online tools that they've never used before, create and share content on them, and then share in an in-person program what they've learned and how they plan to use them in the future.

Use what you have. Use old computers, printers, telephones, small appliances like hair dryers, etc. (from the library or donations) to host [TSA \(Take Stuff Apart\) Labs](#) to allow teens to explore the innards of common technology items. Leftover craft and office supplies, along with extra items common in libraries like CDs and jewel cases, can be useful too; check out the [staple remover catapult](#), [retractor car](#), and [hovercraft](#) ideas and instructions from RAFT as some great examples that are simple and inexpensive for you, and a fun learning activity for teens.

Pair tech-savvy teens with adults needing a little tech assistance. Arrange for teens with an expertise in a software program or general tech knowledge to provide one-on-one tech training to



adults needing some help. The Wray Public Library has such a program, and they call it [Internet Buddies](#).

For more information:

- 2014 TTW Program Ideas, available for purchase (\$5) at www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=10810
- Teen Tech Week Ning <http://teentechweek.ning.com/>
- *Teen Read Week and Teen Tech Week Tips and Resources for YALSA's Initiatives*, edited by Megan Fink. Chicago: American Library Association, 2011.
- YALSA Blog, Category: Technology yalsa.ala.org/blog/category/technology/
- In the Library with the Leadpipe blog post, Teen Tech Week: Create, Share, Learn @ Your Library www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2010/teen-tech-week-create-share-learn-your-library/
- *Game On! Gaming at the Library* by Beth Gallaway. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2009.