



## Focus: Teen Zone, *part 3*

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 discuss Teen Library Councils. It is from Jayna Ramsey, who will be writing the 6 month Teen Zone series as part of her practicum experience as a library science student at the University of Denver.

### **Teen Library Councils at Your Library** by Jayna Ramsey

Teen Library Council, Teen Advisory Board, Teen Advisory Group, Young Adult Advisory Group—all of these names come down to one simple concept. They all refer to a group of teens that advise the library on a variety of topics, including but not limited to programming and collection development. These groups can also be active volunteers within the library and the community, write book reviews or blogs for the library, or organize and implement programming for teens in the library. Any size library can have and benefit from such a group.

*“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”*  
—Maya Angelou

### **How to start a teen library council in your library**

Teen library councils are usually run by a staff member that works with teens or the librarian in charge of the teen collection. Teen library councils should be run by someone who is a teen advocate and is ready to dedicate the time and energy needed to get the teen library council up and running. To start a teen library council, you must first begin by getting to know the teens in your community and those that are users of the library; then, with the teen, you can begin to form a mission or goal for teen library council.

The mission statement or goal of your teen library council should relate to what you want your teen library council to accomplish. This could relate to a new project that you want the teens to undertake or what kind of input you want your teens to have in programming or collection development. An example mission statement could be “The Teen Library Council’s mission is to ensure

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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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## SRP 2014: News & Ideas



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### Fall Youth Services Workshops

Registration is open for the 2014 Fall Youth Services Workshops! We hope you can join us for one of the sessions:

October 3, RAFT, Denver

October 8, Rifle Gap State Park, Rifle

October 11, Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride

October 29, Nature and Raptor Center, Pueblo

November 1, Adams State University, Alamosa

November 5, Poudre Learning Center, Greeley

### [Register online today!](#)

All sessions are 9:30–4:00.

The deadline for registering is 3 days before the session you want to attend. Please complete one registration form per individual attending. Thanks to the many of you that have already registered! There are spaces still available in all of the sessions.

Registration fee is \$25, which includes morning snacks and beverages, lunch, and venue fees.



We'll gear up for the 2014 program, which features these fun slogans:

- "Fizz, Boom, Read!" (children)
- "Spark a Reaction!" (teens)
- "Literary Elements" (adults)

### Update on 2014 SRP Manuals

The manuals this year are later than last year; they have not yet arrived in Colorado. We'll keep you posted about when you can expect

them. Please remember that once you've completed your 2013 SRP report, you're automatically registered for the 2014 program and will receive one manual per branch once they've arrived. (Haven't submitted your 2013 report? [Please do so here online!](#))

### 2014 SRP Grants for Teen Interns

Courtesy of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, YALSA is giving [2 types of grants to support SRPs](#) in 2014. The Summer Reading Teen Intern Grant will award \$1,000 to each of 20 libraries to hire summer teen interns to assist with summer reading activities. The Summer Reading Resources Grant will award \$1,000 to each of 20 libraries in need to help them purchase resources to bolster their teen summer reading program. Eligible applicants can apply through January 1, 2014.

## 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 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!



## One Book 4 Colorado

### OB4CO 2014 Ramps Up

We have 3 finalists for the 2014 One Book 4 Colorado selected book!

- *Pigsty* by Mark Teague
- *How Do Dinosaurs Learn Their Colors?* by Jane Yolen
- *Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard

These titles will be put to a vote for all Colorado residents; that voting will be open from November 1–30. The winner of that vote will be the 2014 OB4CO title. This month, Rocky Mountain PBS is filming 6 Colorado “celebrities” reading each of the 3 titles in English and Spanish. Stay tuned for more soon!



## Timely Tidbits

### Colorado Teen Literature Conference: Save the Date and Call for Presenters

The fabulous [26<sup>th</sup> Colorado Teen Lit Conference](#) will be April 5, 2014, in downtown Denver, featuring David Levithan and A.S. King!

Registration will open January 1. In the meantime, join the conference’s [email list](#) to keep up with all the info. And consider [submitting a proposal](#) to present a conference session; proposals are due December 1.

Organizers especially encourage proposals in the areas of social media book promotions, kinetic programs to engage teens, and program and collection development.

This is a great conference for library staff, teachers, authors, and teens alike, and will appeal to and inform everyone that works with teens and/or loves teen literature.



### CLEL Bells Announces Silver Bell Winners

The Silver Bells are 25 picture books from the last 25 years, still in print as of summer 2013, that serve as a recommended list for libraries and families alike seeking strong titles for children birth to age 5, and provide activity ideas for each title suitable for library storytimes, childcare and preschool settings, and exploration at home.



Five books each have been selected in the categories of: Read, Write, Sing, Talk, and Play. These categories represent practices that research shows support early literacy development in young children. [View the lists of Silver Bell titles in each category here](#), with bibliographic information, annotations, and ideas for extending the books.

And there’s still time to submit your favorite titles for the 2014 CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards! [Visit the CLEL Bells web page](#) to learn more and submit your nominations online. Deadline for submission is November 15.

### 2013 CLEL Conference

The 2013 CLEL Conference was a great success! Unfortunately the flooding prevented a significant number of registrants from attending, and CLEL’s thoughts and best wishes have been with you. There were a record number of registrants—we maxed out at 150!—from all across Colorado (but the attendee that won the prize from coming the farthest was from New York!).



If you couldn’t make it, or did attend and want materials from the great sessions, see the [new Conference tab](#) on the CLEL website; it has presentations and handouts from the sessions and activities (and some from last year’s annual meeting).

### Teen Read Week



Teen Read Week 2013 is October 13 – 19, with the theme "Seek the Unknown." Register on the [TRW Ning](#) and browse YALSA's [Pinterest page](#) for programming and display ideas. With TRW-themed articles in YALS and on the YALSABlog, you'll find plenty to support your teens in "Seeking the Unknown" this October! And check out the [CSL in Session archived webinar](#) and resources for a great discussion of Teen Read Week ideas from colleagues across the country.

### AWE Discounts

With the emphasis here and nationally on early literacy, Colorado is one of many states participating in the [AWE Digital Learning Solutions](#) discount program. This is not an endorsement of the AWE products, but simply sharing the lower costs available October 1 through November, 15th, 2013. Please contact AWE representatives if you have questions about this offer, the products, or would like a demo or quote. To find out more information or see what public libraries have to say about these Early Literacy Stations, [click here](#).

CONTACT:

[Cynthia Busse](#), Senior Account Executive, 281–210–7499, or

[Linda Weaver](#), Inside Sales Account, 888–293–5585

### CO LSTA Grants Awarded

Congratulations to the 8 recipients of a 2013 LSTA grant! Most of these projects offer exciting new or enhanced services to youth; [check them out here](#). These grants are provided by the Colorado State Library to assist libraries develop or enhance programs and projects that enable Coloradans to receive improved library services.

## STEM Corner

### Free STEM Webinars

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science offers free, one-hour webinars to educators on STEM topics. Check out the 3 options this fall:

- [Nonfiction Text: Making a Claim for Evidence-based Inquiry](#)  
Thursday, October 3, 4:30–5:30 MT
- [Rigor and Inquiry](#)  
Tuesday, October 22, 4:30–5:30 MT
- [Empowering ECE Students Through Vocabulary Development](#)  
Thursday, November 7, 4:30–5:30 MT

### Girls' STEM Experience Scheduled for Nov. 14

A group of passionate community leaders in southern Colorado has launched the [Southern Colorado Girls' STEM Initiative \(SCGSI\)](#) to promote increased girls' participation in STEM fields. The organization is hosting the Girls STEM Experience for 350 middle school girls at UCCS on November 14. Additionally, the organization is supporting in-school STEM clubs for girls as well as additional mentorship opportunities. [Find them on Facebook](#) for current updates.

### Making STEM Programs Work in The Library

[This brief blog post](#) is a good intro to thinking about STEM programming in your library, and gives links to additional resources.

### Fewer Teens Interested in STEM Careers

[The 2013 Teens & Careers survey](#) of teenagers ages 14 to 18 found a 17% drop in interest in jobs in the STEM or medical fields. Of the 1,025 teens surveyed, 30% of the boys and 16% of the girls indicated some interest in STEM careers. A year ago, 41% of the boys and 21% of the girls were on board. Medical-related jobs also took a hit, dropping to 13% from 30% a year ago.

### State Grants to Libraries

October 1 is the deadline for libraries to submit the eligibility form for State Grants to Libraries in order to receive these funds. The Colorado Legislature included \$2 million in the state's budget to fund the State Grants to Libraries Act. The funds will be available to eligible school, public and academic libraries to fund grants for educational materials in libraries that support or enhance opportunities for early literacy and early learning. Find out all the details on the [State Grants web page](#).

An example of how to maximize your State Grant funds: East Morgan County Library District is working with its school district to plan what to purchase so that the two institutions don't buy the same materials. This will prevent duplication of materials in the community and make funds for both institutions go farther!

### CCIRA Conference Scholarships Available



The CO Chapter of the International Reading Association—CCIRA—is holding its [annual conference](#) February 5–8, 2014, in Denver, with the theme of “Embrace the

Future, Respect the Past.” [Scholarships are available](#) but apply soon; the deadline is October 7.

### Parents Reading Less to Children

[A recent poll](#) from Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) and Macy's, conducted by Harris Interactive, shows that few parents with kids age eight and younger—only 33%—read daily with their kids, and 50% say their children spend more time with TV or video games than with books. More than 1,000 parents across the U.S. completed the survey online in April. More findings:

- Children of families with an annual

household income below \$35,000 are more likely to watch TV (40%) than read books (35%).

- Printed books (76%) are the format of choice for most parents of children age eight and younger.
- Twice as many children prefer a printed book (20%) over an e-book (9%), say parents who read both types of books to their children.
- Less than one in five parents (17%) use a combination of printed and e-books.

### Save the Date! CATS Conference



CATS—Children and Teen Services Division of the CO Association of Libraries (CAL)—is holding its first conference! Save the date: it'll be on Wednesday, January 23rd from 9:00 am –

3:00 pm at the Sam Gary Branch of the Denver Public Library.

The conference planning committee is seeking presentation proposals. Our theme is “STEAM into the New Year” (STEAM being an acronym for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math). The presentation slots will be 45 minutes and we would like to feature presentations of interest to both teen and children's librarians. Please email a description of your presentation idea along with names and libraries of all of the presenters who will be part of the presentation to [Nicole Burchfield](#). The deadline is October 11th!

### 2013 State Baby Facts

The National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families has released its [2013 State Baby Facts report](#). The report contains information on poverty levels, health and nutrition, early learning and other important facts for each state. [Colorado](#) currently ranks 22nd overall for child well-being. The report reveals both

encouraging stats and areas in which improvement are needed in CO.

### History Colorado Online Exhibits

Explore the [History Colorado Center's exhibits online](#)! You and your patrons will be able to access primary sources, historical photographs, and the stories that have shaped our state. Two exhibitions are available now, with more on the way soon.

### Statistics on Youth Library Services by State

Check out Colorado's standing in these pages put together by the Connecticut State Library:

- [What states have the highest children's library programming attendance?](#)
- [What states have the highest children's circulation?](#)

### Teachers Share the Joy of Reading

[This brief article](#) shows teachers in Rifle getting into the act of promoting the love of reading to their students, and reading themselves. It's a great model for other schools.

### Libraries across US lend way more than books

Hand tools, yard tools, fishing poles, telescopes, and much more: [check out this article](#) to see the unusual items public libraries circulate.

### 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.
- Young Adults Deserve the Best is a training initiative to help library staff successfully connect to and work with teens in their public or school library. Join YALSA's [trainer community Facebook page](#) to receive and share training tips, strategies, and experiences – all are welcome!

- YALSA is [accepting proposals](#) for papers and programs for its 2014 YA Literature Symposium, which will be held Oct. 31—Nov. 2, 2014, in Austin, TX. Deadline for submission: November 1, 2013.

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### [Build A Bear Workshop Literacy and Education Grants](#)

Deadline: October 31, 2013

We want to provide direct support for children in literacy and education programs such as summer reading programs, early childhood education programs and literacy programs for children with special needs. Grants will be a one-time contribution and range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The average grant is \$1,500.

### [Walmart Store and Sam's Club Giving Programs](#)

Deadline: December 1, 2013

The Walmart Foundation supports organizations that provide opportunities in the communities we serve. Eligible organizations can apply online for grants ranging from \$250 to \$2,500.

## CO Libraries in the Press

### Boulder Public Library Reopens after Flooding

As the city of Boulder recovered from flooding, [Boulder Public Library reopened](#) to a crowd of grateful patrons after being closed for 3 days.

### Google Glass at the Arapahoe Library District

Arapahoe Library District's newest addition to its tech offerings is Google Glass, a wearable computer with an optical head-mounted display that Google is testing out in select locations across the world. [Watch the video clip](#) shown on 9 News.

### Books and Bites at the Jefferson County Public Library

The Sept. 21 [Books and Bites event](#) featured more than 30 local artists at the library, who signed books and talked to readers about their works and how they became writers, and gave advice for aspiring authors.

### Hispanic Heritage Month Events at Mesa County Libraries

Mesa County Libraries are featuring a [number of events and programs](#) to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15), including a Spanish–language puppet show, immigration and citizenship programs, and more.

## Teen Zone *cont.*

the availability of quality resources for both leisure activities and homework assignments for teens. The Teen Library Council encourages teen involvement in the library through creative original programming and suggesting programs to be held at the library.” Once you have your mission statement or goal set you can begin to recruit members.

It is up to you to decide how you want to allow members to join your teen library council. You could allow any teen to join, or have a competitive application process. You can also decide if you want to set rules in place that could potentially remove some teens from the teen library council, such as a rule that the teens are only allowed to miss two meetings in a row without an excused absence before they are removed.

When you’re ready to start recruiting members, advertise using flyers in the teen area of the library and in shops, restaurants and other places that teens in your community gather (not sure where they hang out? Ask them!); the library’s website and social media outlets such

as Facebook and Twitter; and local high schools. Be sure to indicate whether the teens need to fill out an application or if they can just attend the meeting.

At your first meeting, tell the teens what the purpose of the teen library council is. Give them a copy of the mission statement or goals for the group. Let the teens know what is expected of them, but be open to new ideas that they may have for what they would like to accomplish in. Also make sure that your meetings are balanced. Teens want to have fun as well as work on more serious topics. And don’t forget the all–important snacks; you don’t want your teens making decisions on an empty stomach.

### The benefits of a teen library council

Teen library councils are a win–win for both the teens and the library. Teens who are members of a teen library council become more connected to their library and are more likely to become more involved lifelong users. A teen library council can also give teens more opportunities to volunteer both at the library and in their community, allowing them to feel more of a connection to their community. The teen library council allows for safe social interactions for teens, allowing them to develop meaningful relationships with adults and their peers. The experience is also great for teens to include on college and job applications.

### Sources:

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