

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Celebrating Idaho's Literary Heritage at the National Book Festival in D.C.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries will celebrate Idaho's literary heritage at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual National Book Festival. The Festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress, will be held Saturday, August 30, 2014 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Last year an estimated 200,000 attendees explored the Festival, which featured over 100 bestselling authors, poets, and illustrators. The U. S. Institute of Museum and Library Services sponsors the Festival's "Pavilion of the States" to celebrate reading and the literary traditions of the 50 states, District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. At Idaho's table in the Pavilion, Commission staff members will visit with attendees and share information about how Idaho promotes reading, literacy, and books. This year they will also highlight how Idaho libraries support "digital readiness" by providing opportunities to enhance digital literacy skills.

Idaho's featured book at this year's Festival is N. D. Wilson's *Boys of Blur*, a juvenile fiction page-turner about a boy and his discoveries of the ancient secrets that hide deep in the heart of the Florida everglades. This is the second time a Wilson novel has been selected for Idaho's book at the Festival. In 2011, *100 Cupboards* was featured.

"We are pleased to feature *Boys of Blur* by Idaho author N. D. Wilson at the Festival," said State Librarian Ann Joslin. "Commission staff members look forward to answering questions about Idaho books, authors, and libraries. It's always a pleasure to see thousands of families visit the Festival's Pavilion of the States and deepen their excitement about reading and learning."

Commission staff attendance at the Festival is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). See more about the National Book Festival at <u>www.loc.gov/bookfest</u>.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of libraries to better serve their clientele through support of statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. To learn more, visit <a href="http://libraries.idaho.gov/">http://libraries.idaho.gov/</a>.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit <u>http://www.imls.gov</u> and follow IMLS on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.