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## DATES & DEADLINES

- Official dates of **Idaho Family Reading Week** are **Nov. 8 – 14**
- Final day to register for the **"Diversifying Your Collections" course** is **Oct. 18**
- Final day to register for the **Idaho Teen Reading Challenge** is **Oct. 20**

## WELCOME

By Kristina Taylor

As fall arrives, some new faces have arrived at the ICfL offices, and we want to make sure all of you have a chance to meet them as well. Read on to meet Ismael and Ash!

## A Warm Welcome to Our Newest ICfL Staff Members!

### Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator

It is our pleasure to announce the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has hired our very first bilingual/bicultural project coordinator! Please meet **Ismael Mendoza Medina**. Ismael will support libraries to better serve our Latinx patrons and communities through professional development, partnerships with other agencies serving the growing Latino population in our state, and direct communication with the Latinx community to spread the word about the programs and services Idaho libraries currently offer. Ismael will work to help staff of the ICfL and our libraries discover gaps in services and identify ways we can better serve our Latinx patrons and neighbors.



Ismael joins us after recently graduating from the University of Idaho with two bachelor's degrees -- one in political science, with an interest in immigration and Hispanic law, and

another in public relations, with an emphasis in studies relating to community outreach and public needs. In addition to this, Ismael is a native Spanish language speaker.

During his time in Moscow, Ismael was a scholar for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and for Trio. He

was active in the Movimiento Activista Social, whose mission is to promote and build equal and just communities in Idaho and to appreciate the worth and value of all humans.

We are excited about the unique range of experiences Ismael will bring to the ICfL's library development team and his connections within the Latinx community.

Ismael said, "I am extremely excited to have this position and to be able to give back to my community by continuing to cultivate and sustain partnerships and to develop collaborative relationships with members of the Idaho library community, state agencies, nonprofits, and all other organizations serving the Latinx population in Idaho."

Please send well-wishes [Ismael.Mendoza@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:Ismael.Mendoza@libraries.idaho.gov). Welcome, Ismael!

### Public Library Consultant

It is our pleasure to announce the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has a new Public Library Consultant, **Ash Whitwell**. Ash replaces Emily Sitz and will provide consultation and support to directors, staff, and trustees of public libraries in northern and northeastern Idaho.

In addition to working in several different types of libraries, Ash joins us most recently from the Albertson's Library at Boise State University. Growing up in rural Idaho, Ash is familiar with the important role libraries play in their communities. His experience in strategic planning and SWOT analyzes will lend itself nicely to our team.

Ash lives in Boise with his wife, Lisa, and their cat, Ms. Kitten. His educational experience includes an undergraduate degree in history, an undergraduate degree in the management of information systems, and a master's degree in business administration with a focus on finance. Ash has spent the last 17 years in education and libraries with stints in a school library, an academic library, as well as the Idaho State Archive with the Idaho State Historical Society.



We are excited about the unique range of experiences Ash will bring to the ICfL's library development team and his connections within the Idaho Library community.

Ash said, "All my life I have loved libraries and while young, when I lived in some very rural areas, they provided a way to see the broader world and experience that which I would not be able to get anywhere else. I greatly look forward to consulting with the small and rural libraries in my regions and assisting them, in any way I can, to navigate the ins and outs of library administration."

Please send well-wishes to Ash at [Ash.Whitwell@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:Ash.Whitwell@libraries.idaho.gov). Welcome, Ash!

## TWEENS & TEENS

### There is Still Time to Register for the Idaho Teen Reading Challenge

The [Idaho Teen Reading Challenge](#) is a way for you to encourage teens to read outside of their comfort zone. All public and school libraries that work with teens are encouraged to apply. This year's categories are: Graphic Novels, a Book Recommended by a Friend, #OwnVoices, Free Choice, a Book that Keeps You Up at Night, a Classic, Memoir/Biography, and a Re-Read.

Here's how the program works:



1. The reading challenge will run from October – April (seven months). Teens will be challenged to read one book from eight different categories (eight books total) during that time.
2. You can [register your library to participate in the program and request bookmarks and tracking forms](#).
3. After you receive them, you will give teens a tracking form to keep track of their books, and a bookmark with the eight categories of books on it.
4. As they finish a book in each category, you will punch their bookmark with a special hole punch that we will send to you.
5. When a teen has completed the challenge, they can upload the titles they read using a form that is linked to a QR code on the tracking sheet (that way you don't have to keep track of who finished the program).
6. In May, we will contact you to let you know how many teens finished the program at your library. We will also hold a drawing for three \$100 gift cards for teens who complete the challenge.

We will accept registrations through **October 20**. Questions? Email Jennifer:

[Jennifer.redford@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:Jennifer.redford@libraries.idaho.gov). Check out the [Idaho Teen Reading Challenge website](#) for more details.

### YALSA October Webinar: Connecting Teens with Technology at the Library!



a makerspace in the library.

Marie Harris and Kelly Czarnecki will be discussing their recent publication, *Connecting Teens with Technology at the Library*. (Rowman and Littlefield). They will discuss how to host a technology program in your library that you may not have tried before. You will also gain ideas for how to set up technology. They will also discuss the benefits and worked involved to sustain

When: Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 12 p.m. MDT/11:00 a.m. PDT

[Register](#)

# KINDERGARTEN READY CORNER

## Kindergarten Readiness Grant Recipients

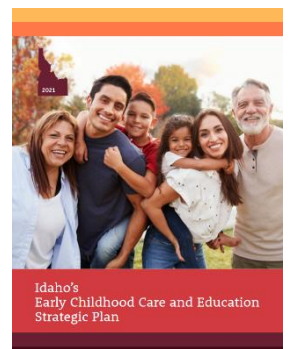
Congratulations to the following libraries, which will receive grant funds to implement/expand programs and resources in 2021-2022 to support the development of early learning skills and help ensure more children are prepared for school:

- **Aberdeen District Library:** Focus on serving Latinx families, early learning kits, preschool technology
- **Benewah County District Library, Tri-Community Branch (Fernwood):** Expansion of kindergarten readiness classes (“K-Club”), marketing campaign
- **Burley Public Library:** Focus on serving Latinx families, early learning kits, preschool technology, Ready! for Kindergarten™ workshops
- **Community Library Network, Hayden Branch:** Extension of “Launch into Learning” program: Activity guide and early learning backpacks, training for community partners, community events, parent workshops
- **Fremont County District Library (Ashton):** Early learning kits, preschool technology
- **Garden City Public Library:** Kindergarten Readiness workshops (in-person and virtual), early learning materials
- **Gooding Public Library:** Creation of early STEM component to supplement Ready! for Kindergarten™ workshops in both English and Spanish, creation of early STEM component for Laundromat Literacy center
- **Kellogg Public Library:** Parent/caregiver workshops with early learning materials, screening of “No Small Matter” documentary
- **Meridian Library District:** Adaptation of “Kindergarten All-Stars” program to virtual format with take-home materials (Kindergarten All-Stars in a Box)
- **Oneida County District Library (Malad):** Early learning kits, parent/caregiver workshops and storytimes through Niche Academy, outreach to daycares and kindergarten

More details about each program will be available on the ICfL [Kindergarten Readiness Grant website](#) soon!

## Idaho’s Statewide Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Strategic Plan

Through the work of the first federal **Preschool Development Grant**, received by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (Idaho AEYC) in 2020, a vision, mission, goals, and strategies were created to support early education throughout Idaho and build capacity for advancing high quality early educational experiences and training. **Public libraries** are a vital part of the ECCE Strategic Plan and are listed in several goals and objectives throughout the document, most



relevantly in “Goal 2: Children and Families Prepared, Empowered, and Thriving,” and “Goal 3: Resources for Early Child Care and Education Educators Expanded.”

Representatives from the ICfL and the Idaho Library Association are working with the Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council to support existing objectives listed in the plan, as well as ensure libraries are included in additional goals and objectives in which library staff and resources are relevant.

[Learn More](#)

### Discussion sessions regarding libraries and the ECCE Strategic Plan

- Join us at the [Idaho Library Association Annual Conference](#) October 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. MDT for an in-depth session showcasing how libraries are involved in the goals and objectives, facilitated by ICfL and ILA representatives, and featuring Idaho AEYC staff and Idaho library staff. **This session will be recorded**, so if you can’t join live you can access the session at your convenience.
- **LITT: Early Learning Discussion:** Libraries in Idaho Talking Trends (LITT) is a way for Idaho library staff to come together and talk about trends and issues. We’ll be extending the discussion about libraries and the ECCE Strategic Plan at an Early Learning LITT scheduled for **November 1 at 1:00 p.m. MDT**. No registration is necessary, [find Zoom link here](#). This session will NOT be recorded. You do not need to attend the Idaho Library Association session in order to join us for this session.

## SCHOOL ZONE

### Augmented Reality Maker Project for Washington Elementary!



The 1st grade students at Washington Elementary in Caldwell were the first to try out the new AR (augmented reality) equipment that their librarian, Jill Kroll, was able to purchase through the Make It at the Library Grant. The students were so excited and fully engaged with the Shifu Orboot AR Dinosaur and World Globes. Students explored topics like animals, cultures, and dinosaurs, and they keep asking when they get to go exploring again!



### Opportunity for High School Juniors to Join the Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars program!

The Idaho State Department of Education is accepting applications from Idaho high school juniors for the Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars (ISAS) program, a STEM course provided at no cost to the student! More information, including a printable flyer, and the application are available [here](#); the application deadline is November 1.





**IDAHO SCIENCE & AEROSPACE SCHOLARS**  
STEM Program for High School Juniors  
Apply by November 1

ISAS is a competitive program that allows high school juniors to take an engaging online NASA-developed course on Space Exploration through the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance that teaches a broad range of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills! This graded course consists of eight online

units and a semester project allowing students to build their knowledge of space exploration and its relationship to Idaho STEM. Master educators will work with students online throughout the course. At the completion of the course, students will have the opportunity to participate in a regional gathering Capstone Celebration at the University of Idaho, Idaho National Laboratory, at Idaho State University, and with the Idaho National Guard at Gowen Field. Based on their performance in this course, students will be invited to participate in a week-long summer academy at Boise State University and NASA Ames Research Center in California. Students will receive one high school science elective credit for successful completion of the online curriculum or may register for (2) concurrent credits for a fee through Boise State University. In the event that in-person activities are not advisable due to safety or health concerns, alternative virtual events will be available.



## Low Hanging Fruit

Did you know that October is Blind Awareness Month? Check out the October edition of [Low Hanging Fruit](#) for resources to help blind and low-vision students at your school!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LSTA Focus Groups

The ICfL gets its federal funding (about \$1.5 million annually) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Every five years, the ICfL is evaluated to determine if the goals of the agency's five-year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) plan have been met and what the ICfL should prioritize for the next five years.

Focus groups will be held in October at various times through Zoom as part of our evaluation process. If you are an Idaho library staff member or trustee, we encourage you to sign up. Participants will be asked about their experience with ICfL's LSTA programs and activities and how they have made a difference in staff and trustee knowledge and library operations.

[Register](#)

## "Evaluating, Auditing, and Diversifying Your Collections" Course

In case you missed it... there's still time to sign up for this great three-week course by Library Journal & School Library Journal. We have about seven seats remaining for Idaho library staff to take this course for free!

"In this course, you'll learn from an outstanding group of experts as they explore key concepts essential to cultivating and promoting inclusive and equitable collections. You'll conduct a diversity audit of your collections, and learn how to include diverse books, wider perspectives, #ownvoices, and how to be both more responsive to the community you serve and more reflective of the diversity of our world." Review the detailed course description, live webinar speakers, and course features [here](#).

Any library staff member working in an academic, public, school, or specialty library in Idaho is eligible to take this course through the ICfL for free, pending their library supervisor's approval.

Participating library staff shall understand and agree to meet the following course requirements:

- Attend each of the online, interactive live webinar sessions that will be streamed by Library Journal with real-time presenters and Q & A sessions on: Oct. 19, Oct. 26, and Nov. 2 from 12-2 p.m. MDT.
- Complete the self-guided video lessons, homework assignments, and course reading in between each interactive online session.
- Complete a post-assessment of the course for the ICfL by Nov. 30.

Questions? Please contact [Kristina Taylor](#). Registration is open until October 18 or until filled.

[Learn More / Register](#)

## Idaho Family Reading Week is November 8-14



The official dates for Idaho Family Reading Week (FRW) 2021 are November 8-14, but libraries can host their literacy events anytime in the month of November. As of 10/6, four spots remain available to public libraries and public-school libraries to register their events and to receive additional materials.

In addition, any Idaho library can download, print, and make use of the following themed FRW resources:

- "Believe and Achieve" student journals with related writing/drawing prompts – one for grades pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> and one for grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> (preprinted journals will be available to request for the 100 registered libraries – art files will be on our website for independent library printing). A Spanish translation of the journal prompts is also provided on the FRW webpage.

- A themed storytime outline.
- Recommended reading lists for parents or for library use to create checkout displays.
- Educator book guides for some themed books.
- Author talk info for *Pura's Cuentos* (Hint: she lives and works in Idaho!).
- FRW-themed artwork/graphics/flyers/posters to advertise your events.
- Consider using FRW as a kick-off to ICfL's [Teen Reading Challenge](#)!

Questions? [Contact Kristina Taylor](#)

[Learn More / Register](#)

## CHECK IT OUT

### Jason Reynolds Author Visit Opportunity

Every Child a Reader and the Library of Congress are thrilled to continue working with Jason Reynolds as he extends his term as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

Reynolds will meet with students in small, underserved communities across the country to have meaningful discussions with young people. Through his platform, GRAB THE MIC: Tell Your Story, he will connect with, listen to, and empower students in these communities to share their own stories and start their journey as storytellers.

Proposals are due by Dec. 1. Please note these important criteria:

- Audience for events should be in the 5th-12th grade range.
- The location should have a system in place for how they will select two student interviewees in advance of the event.
- Jason's goal for the Ambassadorship is to visit small, underserved communities that don't often have the opportunity to host authors.
- Events must be private/available to students only.

[Learn More / Register](#)

### National Medal for Museum and Library Service Nominations

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is now accepting nominations for the 2022 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor awarded to libraries and museums for service to their communities.

"Libraries and museums have proven during the pandemic to be the indispensable beacons of culture and community," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "The passion for learning and the need for critical information were fulfilled by our great institutions. The IMLS National Medal celebrates and commemorates the best in the museum and library worlds, the best in our communities across the land."



Anyone—an employee, a board member, a volunteer, a member of the public, or a government official—is invited to nominate an institution. Museums and libraries of most disciplines and types are eligible. Regardless of who nominates the library or museum, to be considered, the institution must complete the online nomination form by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, November 1, 2021.

[Learn More](#)

## Self-Care for Library Workers by Infopeople

Check out Infopeople's [Self-Care for Library Workers](#) module, a collection of freely available resources and archived webinars from Infopeople and other professional development providers supporting self-care work for library workers. The module is completely self-paced and self-guided. You can skip around to create your own greatest hits playlist for self-care. The module topics include:

- Vocational Awe
- Combatting Compassion Fatigue
- Mindfulness
- Putting the "Me" in Mental Health

[Info / Register](#)

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



### Prevention Grant Opportunity.... Some Library-Specific Ideas

The Office of Drug Policy (ODP) has \$1.3 million dollars in grant funds available for primary prevention programs and activities across the state and only a few applications have been submitted for this opportunity so far.

ODP is currently soliciting applications from organizations to assist with the delivery of prevention services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the available awards is to provide supplemental funding for strategies and programs to prevent substance misuse and its harmful effects on our youth, families, and communities. Libraries are eligible for this grant and the ODP Director had this to say about libraries directly:

“We know our families, our youth, and our communities have been directly impacted by the events of the last year. We know we are only now beginning to see the data on the rise of behavioral health, mental health issues, and substance misuse issues. We also know our libraries serve as vital community centers and places where individuals go to seek information and support. I believe this funding could be utilized by libraries in several ways:

**Purchase of educational materials in accessible formats and investing in resources for substance use awareness, health, and wellness:**

- Creating a resource center offering a wide variety of books, materials, and DVDs that address substance use
- Creating a directory of community resources to share with patrons

**Professional Development/Technical Assistance for staff to:**

- provide additional understanding of how substance misuse and abuse affect different age groups and populations
- educate staff on current drug trends, recognizing observable signs of drug abuse, and responding appropriately and safely to uncomfortable or potentially dangerous situations
- discuss safeguards such as Naloxone/providing take home Naloxone kits

**Support student outreach to decrease social isolation with:**

- After-school/Saturday programs for youth
- Facilitating educational and prevention-based programs for tweens/teens
- Technology upgrades

**Hosting public forums, discussions or trainings on substance use, topics might include:**

- Mental health first aid
- Suicide prevention
- Social-emotional learning
- Social stigma
- Relationship between social media and substance use for youth”

Application Due Date – Extended: October 31, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. (MDT)

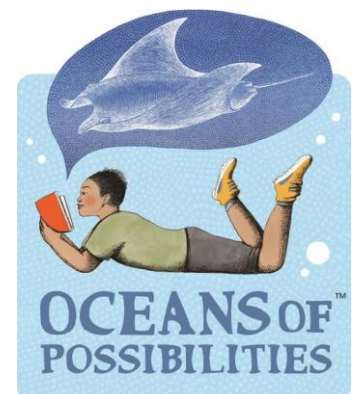
Please find additional details, application information, and a video application guide at:

[Learn More/Apply](#)

## SUMMER READING NEWS

### Ready or not, here it comes!

Program manuals for the **2022 Summer Reading Program**, “Oceans of Possibilities,” are on their way to the ICfL and will be shipped to Idaho libraries around the first week of November. Your library must have submitted a 2021 end-of-program report to receive a manual.



Your library will be shipped the format you requested back in June: USB, paper, or online only. All formats allow you to access the full manual online as well. If you want to begin planning your programs now, email [Staci](#) for the Idaho online manual access code.

You can actually begin shopping for promotional items and incentives now! <https://shop.cslpreads.org/>.

## News from CSLP

The latest **Collaborative Summer Library Program newsletter** features write-up of great “Tails and Tales” programs and decorations from around the US, ideas for the 2022 oceanography theme, and a very cool Haunted Library event for Halloween. [Read the CSLP newsletter.](#)

### Announcing the 2024 Slogan and 2025 theme!

The CSLP held its annual meeting for state reps on September 23, and CSLP state reps voted on behalf of their states for the 2024 summer program slogan and 2025 theme. The winners are...

**2024 Slogan:** *Adventure Begins at Your Library – theme is adventure*

**2025 Theme:** *Art – slogan will be determined next year*

(The Idaho state rep, Staci Shaw, based Idaho’s votes on the feedback submitted by Idaho library staff prior to the meeting.)

Upcoming CSLP themes/slogans:

2022 – Oceans of Possibilities (Oceanography) – artist Sophie Blackall

2023 – All Together Now (Kindness/Friendship/Unity) – artist Frank Morrison

2024 – Adventure Begins at Your Library (Adventure) – artist Juana Martinez-Neal

2025 – TBD slogan (theme will be Art) – artist TBD

### CSLP Summer Symposium: December 2, 2021

The CSLP is excited to announce its first symposium on summer reading!

**Who is this conference for?** All library staff who are interested in summer programming.

**Where is the conference?** Virtually anywhere with an internet connection.

**When is the conference?** Thursday December 2, 2021 ~ 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET) / 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. MT

**How much is the registration fee for this virtual symposium?** FREE!!!!

Sessions:

Summer Matters: Making All Learning Count, Keynote - Liz McChesney

You’re Gonna Need a Bigger Flyer: Library Summer Program Marketing Crash Course

What’s Great About Your Community: Extending Your Connections to Youth and Families

Catch the Programming Wave (with Oceans of Possibilities)!

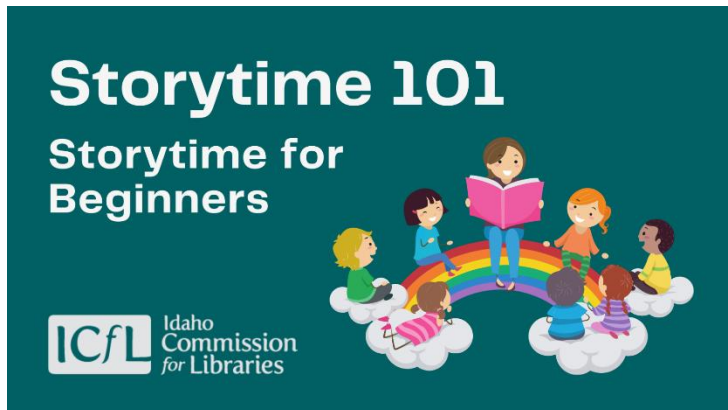


Sessions will be recorded and made available to registered attendees.

[Learn More / Register](#)

## CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

### New Storytime 101 Training from the ICfL



Over the past few years, there has been a sizable turnover in youth services staff throughout Idaho. Seasoned storytellers are retiring, being promoted, or moving on to use their skills in new ways. Libraries are hiring a wonderful new group of staff to continue the tradition of offering high-quality storytimes in their communities. **The ICfL has created a Niche Academy Tutorial called Storytime 101 to support those who are new to storytime.** It covers basic skills, like preparing for storytime, reading books out loud, using props and music, and engaging adults and children. Each section has an interactive module filled with useful information, examples, and videos. There are also links to documents and online resources that will support your library's storytime practice.

Storytime is a magical event. Each program is a big deal in the life of a young child. During this tutorial, participants will learn how to make storytimes meaningful and impactful. This tutorial has been enriched with the help of several storytime professionals who work in Idaho libraries. A huge debt of gratitude to the folks who helped make this training better:

- Kasi Allen, Twin Falls Public Library
- Amanda Bowden, Portneuf District Library
- Aaron Branahl, Boise Public Library
- Cherie Bussert, Retired Librarian
- Alex Hartman, Ada Community Library
- Tammy Hawley-House, Idaho Commission for Libraries
- Cherie Millsap, Community Library Network
- Julie Patricia, Ada Community Library
- Travis Porter, Meridian Library District

Finally, thanks to Gabrielle Stoller, from the Meridian Library District, and Josie Bradford, from the Idaho Commission for Libraries, for months of work gathering resources and contributing to the content of this tutorial. We hope this training helps Idaho's new storytelling library staff build basic skills to perform high-quality storytime programs. You will need to create an account with Niche Academy to get started (if you don't already have one), and you can find a link to the tutorial here:

<https://my.nicheacademy.com/idaho/course/22517>.



## DIVERSITY IN ACTION

### October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

Dyslexia is not rare. It affects one in five students.\* According to the International Dyslexia Association, “Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities.” October is Dyslexia Awareness Month -- and a great time to check out the tools and resources available for those who have dyslexia.

There are a multitude of resources available for those with dyslexia, including many provided by Decoding Dyslexia Idaho, an organization that strives to educate, advocate, and legislate on behalf of the condition. For more, including information for parents and educators, visit:

<https://www.decodingdyslexiaidaho.org/>.

Another resource that is likely available to an Idahoan with dyslexia is the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS). The TBS is a free library service that loans audiobooks and magazines to any Idaho resident who is blind, has a perceptual or reading disability, or is unable to read standard print due to a visual impairment or physical disability.

Students who have dyslexia or other reading disabilities, low vision, or physical impairments that may prevent them from reading standard print qualify for the TBS. This free audiobook service provides thousands of titles and magazines youth can download to their phones or devices or free equipment can be requested. A medical doctor’s signature is no longer needed on applications. Counselors, teachers, librarians, reading specialists, or school psychologists can sign and certify applications. Visit the [Idaho Commission for Libraries website](#) for more information or call 208-334-2150 to speak with a customer service representative.

[Learn More](#)

\*<https://www.decodingdyslexiaidaho.org/>



## STEAM

### *Coding as a Playground* Virtual Book Club

*Coding as a Playground*, by Marina Umaschi Bers, is a book that introduces computational thinking concepts in early childhood settings. The second edition of the book recently came out and focuses on engaging children with early computational thinking concepts in ways that promote the development of early literacy skills.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries and Idaho STEM Action Center are collaborating to form a virtual book club for the second edition of *Coding as a Playground*. This project will have two main goals:



- Introduce librarians and early childhood professionals in Idaho to the research and practices of computational thinking for young children, as outlined in *Coding as a Playground*.
- Develop communities of practice who can work together to improve early literacy, including digital literacy, for Idaho's youngest learners.

Registration is now open for this virtual book club series. Here is how it will work:

**Who:** All Idaho library staff and early childhood professionals may apply to be part of the book club. Virtual book club meetings will be facilitated by Jennifer Redford from the Idaho Commission for Libraries and Heather Lee from the Idaho STEM Action Center. There will be around 15 participants in the club.

**When:** We will meet for six weeks on Monday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. MST/1:00 p.m. PST on the following dates: Nov. 8, Nov. 15, Nov. 22, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13. Each meeting will be one hour long.

**How it works:** Participants will be mailed a physical copy of the book to keep prior to the first meeting. All meetings will be one hour and will take place via Zoom. Everyone who attends at least five sessions and completes an evaluation form will receive a KIBO robot kit for their library or classroom after the final book club meeting. Six months after the end of the book club, we will ask you to evaluate how you have implemented concepts from *Coding as a Playground* into your library or childcare center.

A few final notes:

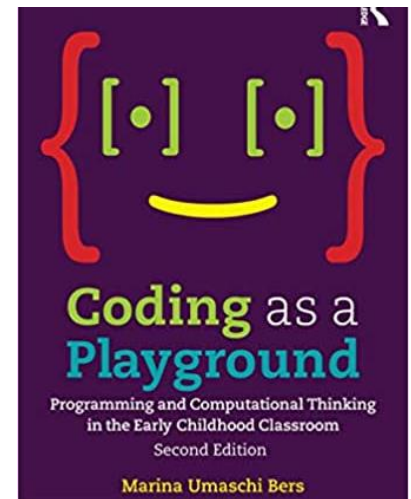
- **If you are not able to attend all six sessions, you should not register for this program.** We will offer a second cohort later this winter – email Jennifer Redford if you are interested in being part of that cohort, and we will try to find a time/dates that work: [Jennifer.redford@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:Jennifer.redford@libraries.idaho.gov)
- Up to two people from each library branch or childcare center may register for the book club. We will send a book to each of you, and both of you are expected to attend each session. Only one KIBO robot kit will be sent to your organization.

If you would like to be part of the book club, [click here to register](#). We have room for 15 participants. If registration is full, you can still register to get on the waiting list in case someone drops out.

Finally, thank you to the Idaho STEM Action Center for generously funding this project and both the STEM Action Center and the Idaho Commission for Libraries for their support.

## Leap into Science Online Training

There is a training opportunity for Leap into Science: Light and Shadow, coming up on **Wednesday, October 13, 2021** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. MT. Educators, librarians, museum-workers, and out-of-school-time providers from Washington, Idaho, and Hawaii are welcome to join us at this virtual training! More information about Leap Into Science is found below, and you can [register here](#).



[Leap into Science](#) is a nationwide program developed by [The Franklin Institute Science Museum](#) that integrates open-ended science activities with children’s books, designed for children ages 3-10 and their families. The program empowers educators to offer workshops in community settings like libraries, museums, and out-of-school time programs to engage underserved audiences in accessible and familiar settings.

As a Leap into Science partner organization, you are committing to:

- Scheduling and leading at least three (3) Leap into Science workshops for children and families living in underserved rural or urban communities.
- Posting each workshop to [The Connector](#), a searchable directory for STEM programs across the country.
- Completing a [workshop report](#) following each workshop.
- Participating in quarterly calls with other trained educators in your state.

Each organization who participates in Leap into Science will receive:

- A virtual training on high-quality science and literacy curriculum and facilitation strategies for two or more educators.
- Ongoing support during program implementation as part of a Leap into Science National Network.
- Access to the national Leap into Science leadership team and online resources.
- A curriculum and materials kit (valued at \$300).
- Web-based training on new curriculum themes in subsequent years.

Leap into Science is funded by National Science Foundation, and led by [The Franklin Institute](#) and [The National Girls Collaborative Project](#).

Visit the [Leap into Science website](#) for more information about this program.

## BOOK LOOK

### 2021 Latinx Kidlit Book Festival – Coming to You Virtually in December!



“Join the largest ever virtual gathering of Latinx children’s book creators!”

The [Latinx Kidlit Book Festival](#) is a virtual celebration of Latinx KidLit authors, illustrators, and books for all students, educators, and book lovers everywhere. The festival will open its virtual doors from December

9-10, 2021, and present two free days of panels, craft sessions, and illustrator draw-offs with your favorite Latinx authors and illustrators of picture books, middle grade, young adult, graphic novel, comic books, and poetry. The sessions are geared toward ALL schools, educators, students and book lovers, not just those identifying as Latinx. Everyone is welcome!

The event will run during the school day because the organizers are hoping to have participation from classrooms! Students are encouraged to send questions to panelists and will be entered into a giveaway for a classroom sets of books. Check out the festival [schedule](#) to see what is in store for you!

No registration is required, however classroom teachers can sign up for specific sessions if you would like to at: [www.latinxkidlitbookfestival.com/education](http://www.latinxkidlitbookfestival.com/education). Download the festival guide and review the YouTube viewing instructions on page 3; learn how to submit student questions and win classroom books on page 4.

Want to share this information with others or advertise the event in your school or on social media? Find links for event posters and social media posts from the organizers below:

- [social media graphics](#) for the festival that are targeting educators
- [event posters](#) that can be shared and printed out

### Win These Books for Your Classroom!



## 29 Picture Books that Celebrate the Latinx Experience

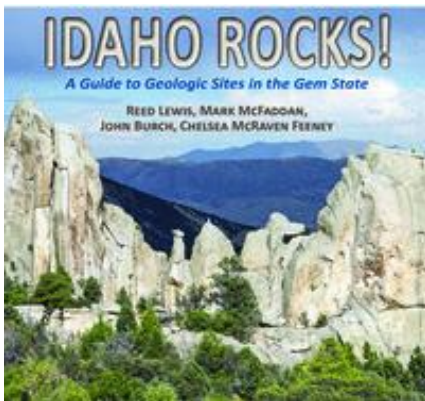
See this [online article](#) in *School Library Journal*, September 9, 2021.



## 2020 Idaho Book of the Year Award

The committee members of the 2020 Idaho Book of the Year Award announced their winner and honorable mentions and invite you to listen to the winners at a special session at the ILA Annual Conference on Thursday, October 7 at 3:30 p.m. More details about this to come. (It is the 2020 award because that is the year the books were published.)

### 2020 Book of the Year Winner:



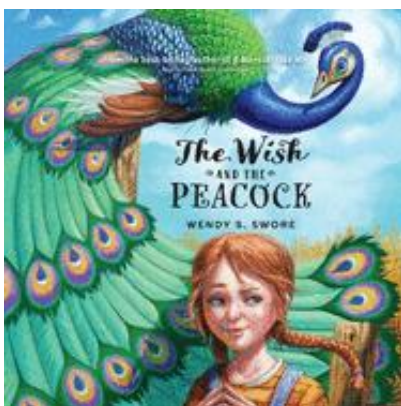
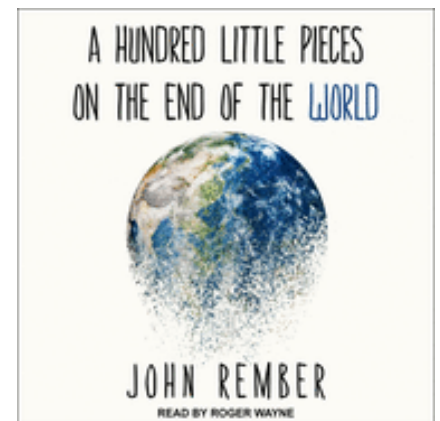
*Idaho Rocks! A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Gem State*, by Reed Lewis, Mark McFadden, John Burch, and Chelsea McRaven Feeny

This well-written and finely researched book gives excellent details about the underlying geology of many fascinating places in Idaho. Complete with maps, charts, and many photographs, this book will be good for any explorer of the state.

### 2020 Honorable Mention Books:

*A Hundred Pieces on the End of the World*, by John Rember

Idaho, and especially the Sawtooth Valley, are vividly depicted as characters in their own right - a last great unspoiled place, but like the planet itself, it is suffering. While doing a highway cleanup near their home, Rember and his wife imagine themselves as "alien archaeologists ... poring over artifacts from a ruined planet... 'One thing we know is that they were religious,' Julie says. 'They worshipped plastic.'" (P. 159).



*The Wish and the Peacock*, by Wendy Swore

In this beautifully written book for younger readers, Idaho and the vanishing family farm are at the center of the story. When Paige's mother and grandpa feel they need to sell their family farm, Paige is devastated. But when Paige's younger brother finds a wounded peacock in the barn, Paige is sure that if she can keep the bird safe, she'll keep the farm safe too.

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**Talk Back:** *We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just email [Staci](#), [Kristina](#), [Jeannie](#) or [Jennifer](#) and we'll print your comments in The Scoop.*

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