

2024 Book Bracket Program Books By North Dakota Authors

The Book Brackets are back for 2024 with a new theme – Books By North Dakota Authors. With books like “The Round House” by Louise Erdrich, “Stringing Rosaries” by Denise Lajimodiere, and “Hondo” by Louis L’Amour, it is going to be tough to choose a winner! Revisit some old favorites or learn about new ND authors while picking a winner for each battle to decide your ultimate champion.



The rules are simple:

Only North Dakota residents are eligible to submit a bracket. However, anyone from anywhere can vote **once per battle**. Voting will take place weekdays (March 19-28) on Facebook and the State Library’s website. The titles that get the most votes will win their battles and move on to the next round.

Once you have filled out your bracket completely (remember the star in the middle for your championship pick), please submit it to the State Library at nds1pa@nd.gov, or send it to ND State Library, 604 E Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505 or through interdepartment mail (state agency employees).

State Library staff will be at the Capitol across from the Capitol Café on Wednesday, March 13, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Stop by to pick up or drop off your bracket and check out some of the many books by North Dakota authors available at the North Dakota State Library.

Voting will begin on March 19, so please get your brackets in by March 18.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact BreAnne at nds1pa@nd.gov.

[Book Bracket](#)

[Book List - By Title](#)

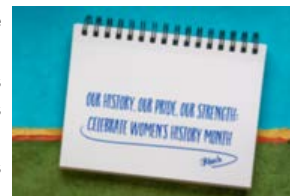
[Book List - By Author](#)

Women's History Month

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

March marks Women’s History Month!

Women’s History Month acknowledges and celebrates the contributions, especially while facing controversy, of women throughout history. There have been various celebrations during the 19th and 20th centuries; however, Congress designated March as an honorary holiday in 1987 (Duignan, n.d.). During March, various organizations and institutions highlight the work, passions, and issues surrounding women. The United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada also celebrate their own Women’s History months.



Reference

Duignan, B. (n.d.). National women’s history month. In Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Womens-History-Month>.

[Learn More](#)

Beanstack Reading Challenges

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Another month is upon us and while I thought we were headed into spring; it seems like Mother Nature has other ideas. But don't let this late arriving winter stop you from meeting your monthly reading goals! This month we have two reading challenges:

Read Across America

Celebrate reading with NEA's Read Across America!! Join us and read across America this month. Log your reading to earn badges all month long!



Want to continue reading across America all year long? Check out [their monthly calendar](#) featuring a different topic / genre each month! March focuses on diversity!

Read Across America Books of the Month:

Elementary: "A Crown for Corina" by Laekan Kemp

Middle School: "You Are Here: Connecting Flights" by Ellen Oh

High School: "Invisible Son" by Kim Johnson

Women's History Month 2024

Celebrate Women's History Month by logging your minutes for this challenge. Need some suggestions for books centered around the accomplishments of women? Check out [NDSL's LibGuide](#) for a visual book list and to read more information on Women's History.



Slam the Scam Day

Submitted by Monica Struck

Technology brings with it many good things, but along with the good comes the bad. According to a Gallup poll published on November 21, 2023, 15% of respondents (adults in the United States) had been scammed in the past year. This means that as many as 21 million American adults (and quite possibly more) have been the victim of some sort of scam. This is a terrifying number, and there is only one way to combat these crimes: education.

Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) work together to promote National "Slam the Scam" Day. This year it falls on March 7 during [National Consumer Protection Week](#). While there isn't ever a bad time to provide education on scam avoidance, there is a good time to pick up some extra resources. On the [SSA website](#), they have Social Media Toolkits and printables available for distribution. You can also find great resources on [consumer.gov](#).

Sources

Saad, L. (2024, February 7). Scams: Relatively common and anxiety-inducing for Americans. Gallup.com. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/544643/scams-relatively-common-anxiety-inducing-americans.aspx>

New Items At The ND State Library

Fiction Books



Fiction E-Books



Nonfiction E-Books



Fiction E-Audiobooks



Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



Elections 101: Absentee Voting

Submitted by Misty Curn, Communications Director,
ND Office of the Secretary of State

It's important that all people who are eligible to vote in North Dakota elections have the opportunity to do so, but you may not be able to take time on election day to travel to the polls. If you are unable to vote in person, absentee voting provides an option for you to cast a ballot in North Dakota elections without going to a polling location.

You will never be mailed a ballot without first requesting one. To vote absentee, you must fill out and return an application for a ballot to your local county auditor. The county auditor must receive and verify the completed application before you are mailed a ballot.

Some counties are designated by their Board of County Commissioners as vote by mail counties. If a county is not a vote by mail county, it is an absentee county. The only difference between vote by mail counties and absentee counties is how you would receive your application for a ballot.

- In vote by mail counties, the county auditor mails an absentee ballot application to all eligible voters.
- In absentee counties, voters must request the application for an absentee ballot from their county auditor.

Voter ID laws still apply when voting absentee or vote by mail. The application to request a ballot requires you to include your date of birth, state-issued ID number, and signature on the application so it can be verified against the voter record. When you return your ballot to the county auditor, its validity is verified before it is tabulated. The signature and ID information are validated against the application, and the voter record is updated to indicate that you have returned a ballot.

You can request an application for the 2024 primary and general elections now by going to the Voting by Absentee or Mail Ballot page on vote.nd.gov and filling out the form online or printing and mailing it to your local county auditor. All ballots will be mailed before the election and must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the auditor by 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day.

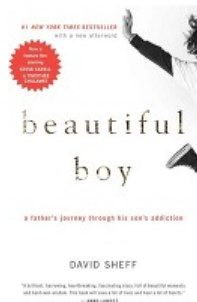
Election officials and the North Dakota Secretary of State are your trusted sources for election information. If you have questions about absentee voting, vote by mail, or other elections-related topics, visit vote.nd.gov, email soselect@nd.gov, or call 701-328-4146.

[Learn More About ND Ballots & Voting](#)

Book Club Kit

"Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction" by David Sheff

From as early as grade school, the world seemed to be on Nic Sheff's string. Bright and athletic, he excelled in any setting and appeared destined for greatness. Yet as childhood exuberance faded into teenage angst, the precocious boy found himself going down a much different path. Seduced by the illicit world of drugs and alcohol, he quickly found himself caught in the clutches of addiction. Beautiful Boy is Nic's story, but from the perspective of his father, David.



[Reserve This Kit](#)

Enjoy Exploring and Learning from National Geographic Kids

Submitted by Kathy Cline

When I worked as a school librarian, I enjoyed taking the newest issue of the *National Geographic Kids* magazine out of my mailbox to quickly browse through the pages before putting it on the shelf for young hands to explore. I appreciated the new shiny, eye-catching pages filled with photos and information on various nonfiction topics. While I no longer work at a school library or hold print copies of the magazine, I still can freely access National Geographic content through the State Library, and you can as well!



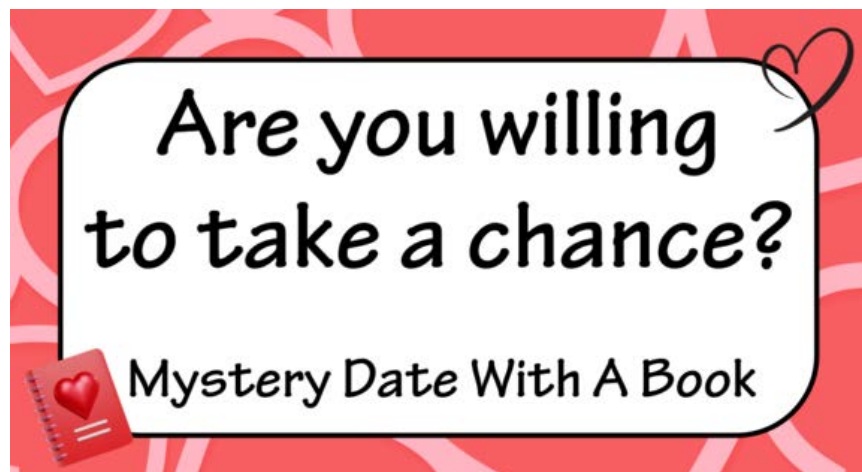
What does *National Geographic Kids* have to offer young readers? Turns out, this resource has a lot to offer! Its attractive and user-friendly homepage presents viewers with the option to explore 230 videos, 1,066 pictures, 726 books, and 150 Kids magazines containing over 3,000 articles. That's a lot of information! (These numbers were taken from the database at the time this article was written.) Children may locate specific information on a topic by using the search bar or an advanced search option. Users not looking for anything specific may satisfy their curiosity by exploring six different topic areas or browsing through the vast number of *National Geographic Kids* magazines beginning with February 2009. Due to a ninety-day embargo, new *National Geographic Kids* issues are added to the database three months after the publication date. Young readers may read content on their own or use the text-to-speech option and listen to magazines and books being read while following along to highlighted text. Non-English readers may use the translate feature to change the language interface to one of over twenty language options.



Educators may find *National Geographic Kids* an easy to use, inspiring, and engaging addition to their classroom learning environment. Links can easily be copied and shared, or content integrated into a learning management system such as Google Classroom. This resource offers a simplified interface making it a good choice when introducing the research process to young learners. Students can learn the importance of citing sources by using an onsite citation tool to build a citation from scratch or, copy a generated one.

National Geographic Kids is an information filled, free resource that has the power to inspire and encourage curiosity in young information seekers. If you haven't introduced this resource to your students, children, grandchildren, daycare, or any other youngsters I encourage you to do so today!

[National Geographic Kids](#)



Are you willing
to take a chance?
Mystery Date With A Book

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

North Dakota Histories

- History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bismarck, N.D., 1908-1958



North Dakota Memories

- Aerial of the Edwin Bender farm, Sheridan County, N.D., 1950s
- Headquarters Hotel Christmas menu, Fargo, 1886
- Henne family history book, 1991
- Wedding portrait of Carl and David Hauser, 1964
- Wedding portrait of Edwin and Martha Bender, 1930



Political Prairie Fire

- Journal of the North Dakota House, 1921
- N.D. Boss Carpenter [political cartoon, 1920]
- Portrait of W. J. Prater, circa 1919
- Portrait of Walter Thomas Mills, circa 1919
- Waters Resigns N.D. Bank Post [newspaper article, 1920]



Digital Horizons

EBSCO Renames Reference Databases

Submitted by Kathy Cline

EBSCO has made a slight name change to its school reference databases. As of March 1, the reference database names have replaced the term "Center" with "Source." This change affects two databases that NDSL cardholders have access to. Science Reference Center will become Science Reference Source, and Points of View Reference Center will become Points of View Reference Source.

EBSCO states:

This change reflects our efforts to enhance the global appeal of our products and make them more accessible and intuitive for users around the world. "Source" is a more universally understood term and better aligns with user expectations. "Source" also signifies the rich and diverse range of materials available in our databases, encouraging students, educators and patrons to view our resources as a primary destination for their research and information needs. (2024)

While EBSCO is making changes to database names, the content they offer remains the same dynamic quality!

Reference

EBSCO. (2024a). DIY Reference Centers Have Been Renamed / Available Through Explora. EBSCO CONNECT. <http://tinyurl.com/4z4b3mnb>

EBSCO Host

Patron Corner and Many Faces of BARD Programs

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) invites Talking Book patrons to attend two online events next week.

Patron Corner (Monday, March 11, at 6:00 PM): The topic is Your Patron Engagement Section: How We Can Provide the Service You Want.

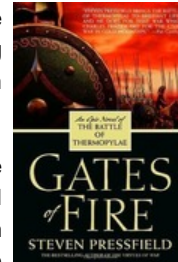
Many Faces of BARD (Thursday, March 14, at 6:00 PM): The topic is Using the Audio Player in BARD Express: A Demonstration.

Book Review



"Gates of Fire" by Steven Pressfield Reviewed by Trevor Martinson

After reading some lackluster books in 2023, I decided to dedicate 2024 to re-reads. Nothing topped the list more than the gripping "Gates of Fire," which is a work of historical fiction by Steven Pressfield.



I originally read the book around 2005. Also around this time, the [book was popular among U.S. troops](#) serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and rightfully so. The book received high accolades in the military. It was on the reading list of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, as well as in the curriculum at West Point, Annapolis, and Quantico.

Like most of Pressfield's novels, the story is told by a narrator after the fact. In this case, the event is the ancient Battle of Thermopylae and the narrator is Xeon, one of its survivors. Xeon begins his long tale with his turbulent past and explains how he came to Sparta. As his story progresses, the Persian invasion looms. The Persian army, said to be two million strong, is coming. The conquest of Greece is imminent.

However, Sparta, a warrior society, will not go quietly. They dispatch 300 of their best soldiers (accompanied by a couple thousand allies) on a suicide mission to stall the invasion for as long as possible at the narrow pass of Thermopylae (also known as the Hot Gates – hence "Gates of Fire").

Pressfield brings the multi-day battle to life in bloody detail. His writing always draws you in, but this novel in particular is outstanding. This is the story that should have been turned into a movie (instead of Frank Miller's "300"). The book is raw and brutal, but it also has moments of tenderness and comradery. The combination of which makes the book difficult to put down.

This title is available as an e-book and in large print at the North Dakota State Library.

[Check out this book](#)

Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

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This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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www.library.nd.gov

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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