

Adventures In Beanstack

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

How on Earth can it be July already!? I don't know about you, but June flew by! We are halfway through our summer reading programs. I hope you all had a fantastic kickoff and are enjoying seeing all your patrons participating in your programming.



For our Beanstack Challenge this last month, 12 libraries used Beanstack and 95 readers logged almost 50,000 minutes! It's great to see those numbers so high and to see so many people utilizing this free tracker.

Beanstack may seem intimidating to use, but it's incredibly EASY to use! There's no set up required on your part. Just have your patrons create a free account for their family. From there they add their readers and start tracking those minutes -voila!

Beanstack isn't just for tracking minutes; it's also a great way to keep track of what you're reading and to get ideas from what others are enjoying. Plus, the report that you can generate at the end of the challenge will be extremely helpful when submitting numbers for the Bank of North Dakota's Summer Reading Champion program.

Using Beanstack can also significantly improve literacy for your patrons. By encouraging consistent reading habits and providing a fun, interactive platform for tracking progress, Beanstack helps foster a love for reading. The ability to log books and minutes read motivates readers of all ages to set and achieve reading goals, leading to improved literacy skills over time. Additionally, the use of Beanstack can help grow your library program. With its easy-to-use interface and engaging features, Beanstack attracts more patrons to participate in your reading challenges and events. This increased participation not only boosts your program's success but also enhances community engagement and support for your library.

If you would like a 1:1 session to go over how to promote Beanstack or to just get a rundown of the app, you can [book time with Lexi](#).

[Beanstack](#)

Disability Pride Month

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Disability Pride Month is celebrated every July. The celebration remembers the July 26, 1990, passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The month is a time to recognize the achievements, struggles, and experiences of individuals with disabilities.



To learn more about Disability Pride Month and available resources, access the State Library's [LibGuide](#).

Reference

Why and How to Celebrate Disability Pride Month. The arc of the US. (2024, May 7). <https://cws.thearc.org/why-and-how-to-celebrate-disability-pride-month/>

[Learn More](#)

Exploring Auroras: The Science, the Art, and Participatory Science

STAR Net Webinar Series
July 11th at 2:00 PM

Delve into the beautiful phenomenon of the Northern and Southern Lights! NASA@ My Library/STAR Net is joined by Dr. Elizabeth MacDonald and Laura Edson of Aurorasaurus: a participatory science project that uses web reports to map auroras. Learn more about aurora science, get an introduction to the Aurorasaurus project, create your own aurora chalk art, and discuss ways to bring this topic to your library's programs. Aurorasaurus is a research project that is within the New Mexico Consortium, supported by the National Science Foundation and NASA.



[Register](#)

National Book Festival Author Line Up

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn



The [2024 Library of Congress National Book Festival](#) returns to the Washington Convention Center on **Saturday, August 24**, and will feature more than 90 authors.

The festival's theme this year, "**Books Build Us Up**," explores how reading can help connect us and inform our lives. It's through books that readers can develop strong bonds with writers and their ideas — relationships that open the entire world, real or imagined, to us all.

[Continue Reading](#)

Full Lineup of Featured Authors by Genre

Fiction

- Sandra Cisneros
- Donna Hemans
- Rachel Khong
- Claire Messud
- Edan Lepucki
- Peng Shepherd
- Elizabeth Gonzalez
- James Alexander
- James McBride
- David Baldacci
- James S.A. Corey
- Abby Jimenez
- Casey McQuiston
- Douglas Preston
- Lincoln Child
- Rebecca Yarros

Biography, History and Memoir

- Marie Arana
- Amanda Bellows
- Hampton Sides
- Ned Blackhawk
- Kathleen DuVal
- Max Boot
- Stuart E. Eizenstat
- Camonghne Felix
- Safiya Sinclair
- Doris Kearns Goodwin
- Alexis Pauline Gumbs
- Tiya Miles
- Erik Larson
- Ayana Mathis
- Viet Thanh Nguyen
- David M. Rubenstein

General Nonfiction

- Arash Azizi
- Joy Buolamwini
- Kyle Chayka
- Nathalie A. Cabrol
- Dante S. Lauretta
- Renée Fleming
- Daniel J. Levitin
- Tamron Hall
- Lish Steiling
- Carlos Lozada
- Jeffrey Rosen
- Annalee Newitz
- Peter Pomerantsev
- Aimee Nezhukumatathil
- Annabelle Tometich
- Crystal Wilkinson
- James Patterson

Young Adults

- Tomi Adeyemi
- Vanessa Le
- Terry J. Benton-Walker
- Desiree S. Evans
- Saracia J. Fennell
- K.A. Cobell
- Andrew Joseph White
- Hayley Dennings
- Marie Lu
- Safia Elhillo
- Tony Keith Jr.
- Candace Fleming
- Monica Hesse
- Christopher Paolini
- Gene Luen Yang
- LeUyen Pham

Middle Grade

- James Bird
- Jonathan Todd
- Vera Brosgol
- Kazu Kibuishi
- Peter Brown
- Pablo Cartaya
- Hena Khan
- J.C. Cervantes
- Zetta Elliott
- Ernest Cline
- Barbara Dee
- Susan Haas
- Lexi Haas
- Anna Lapera
- Sherri Winston

Picture Books

- Steve Asbell
- Stephanie Seales
- Max Greenfield
- Oliver Jeffers
- Sam Winston
- Meg Medina
- Adam Rubin
- Liniers

Poetry and Translation

- M.A.R. Habib
- Emily Wilson
- Tess Taylor
- Aimee Nezhukumatathil
- Forrest Gander
- Ruben Quesada

Attend the National Book Festival

The National Book Festival will take place on **Saturday, August 24, from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM** at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. The festival is free and open to everyone.

Interested attendees not able to join the festival in person can watch conversations throughout the day. Events on the Main Stage will be livestreamed on loc.gov/bookfest. Videos of all presentations will be made available at loc.gov and on the Library's YouTube channel shortly after the festival.

Visit loc.gov/bookfest to learn more about attending the festival. A comprehensive schedule will be available on the website and announced on the Library's Bookmarked blog in the coming weeks. Subscribe to the blog for updates on festival plans and more. The National Book Festival celebrates creators and invites the public to be curious about the Library and its collections in their own creative or scholarly pursuits.

[Learn More](#)

T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program

For communities with populations of 50,000 or less, the T-Mobile Hometown Grant provides up to \$50,000 to help build stronger, more prosperous small towns and rural communities.

Apply for funding to support a community project of your choice, like revitalizing or repurposing a historic structure, creating a downtown asset or destination, or improving a space where friends and neighbors gather. Projects that add to a sense of place or could lead to further investment are of particular interest.

The application period is open until Monday, September 30, at 11:59 PM.

[Apply Now](#)

Exhibit for Teens Available for Public Libraries

Drug Enforcement Administration Museum

Social pressures, a desire to take risks, insecurities, and many other factors affect a teen's decision to try illicit drugs and/or continue to experiment with them. Many teens do not understand the long-term harm these drugs can cause. The consequences of drug use include changes in behavior, academic issues, strained family relationships, depression symptoms, and even suicide risks and loss of interest in the future. Research has found that teens desire the facts about drugs, without lectures or scare tactics. They are very interested in knowing more, and they need help in staying drug-free.

The DEA Museum has developed a new exhibit, for use in public libraries, to inform young people about drugs. The exhibit addresses teens and younger children by asking, "So what's the big deal about drugs?" The exhibit, entitled **Drugs and You: Use Your Head**, provides information about specific drugs, addiction, and peer pressure, but goes on to encourage teens to develop dreams for their future, engage in healthy activities, and build positive friendships.

Drugs and You is a "pop up" two-sided, three-dimensional unit/exhibit approximately 8 feet high and 5 feet wide. All exhibit information is presented in a friendly, engaging way that welcomes the visitor to explore the exhibit in discrete sections.

An appealing graphic novel design and informational "bubbles" invite teens to learn through words on the panel and through the content connected to QR codes that are integrated within the design.

It is recommended that a five-foot circumference surrounding the exhibit be maintained for visitor viewing and engagement. While there are no computers or speakers in the exhibit, teens/visitors will be viewing videos on their phones or tablets, so audio should be considered when the library location is chosen.

The exhibit is being loaned to libraries at no cost for an agreed upon duration **while supplies are available**. The length of time the exhibit will be shown is up to the venue, but a recommended time duration is at least two months. The exhibit is easy to set up and take down by following the included directions.



DEA Museum



Upcoming NDSL Webinars

[Gen Z Students in the Academic Library](#)

July 11 (10:00 AM – 10:30 AM)

Attend this webinar as we explore, discuss, and learn about Generation Z and how the academic library may best provide support and guidance in their information laden world. At the end of this session attendees will have answers to the following questions.

- What are some characteristics of Generation Z?
- Who makes up this population?
- What does Generation Z value?
- What careers is this population heading towards?
- What do Gen Z'ers expect from the academic library?
- Can Gen Z'ers expectations be met? If so, how can they be met?

[BookTalk with Lexi Whitehorn](#)

July 23 (11:00 AM – 11:30 AM)

Playing off of Tik-Tok's #BookTok, let's BookTalk!! Join Lexi in this webinar as we share the current books we're reading, excited to read, or just join to talk books! Lexi will showcase some upcoming titles, but it will be an open forum for anyone to share so come prepared to share, discuss, and enjoy one another's company.

More Webinar Opportunities

Recorded Webinars

In case you missed the following recent webinars presented by the North Dakota State Library, here are the recordings that were uploaded to our YouTube Channel.

North Dakota State Library Webinar: Writing SMART

Goals

Presented on April 23, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/@NDStateLibrary/videos>



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