

The YAC

*A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children
Brought to You by Iowa Library Services*



March/April 2015

Upcoming Events:

March 8-14 - Teen Tech Week

<http://teentechweek.ning.com/>

March 13 - Digital Learning Day

<http://www.digitallearningday.org/>

April 1 - ILOC Conference (see article below)

April 12-18 - National Library Week

April 16—Celebrate Teen Literature Day

http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Celebrate_Teen_Literature_Day

April 30 - El día de los niños/El día de los libros

<http://www.patmora.com/whats-dia/>

May 4-6 Kids First Conference in Des Moines

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in May:

- May is "Get Caught Reading" Month
- May 3 - Two Different Colored Shoes Day
- May 4 - Star Wars Day ("May the Fourth Be with You")

- May 13 - Leprechaun Day
- May 14 - Chicken Dance Day

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in June:

- June 4 - Doughnut Day
- June 12 - Superman Day
- June 15 - Nature Photography Day
- June 19 - Flip-Flop Day

Kids First News

The Kids First Conference will be held on May 4 & 5 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport. This event only happens every other year, so don't miss out! *[The post-conference session on May 6th with Saroj Ghoting is now filled. To be placed on a waiting list, send a message to Merri Monks at merri.monks@lib.state.ia.us.]* The 2015 Kids First Conference registration is available on the Iowa Library Services website: <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/kidsfirst%202011/kids-first-2015>

We will again hold an **Altered Books Contest** in the craft room. An altered book might be a secret diary, an art journal, a scrapbook or a work of art. Search online or on Pinterest for examples. A small prize will be awarded for the most creative transformation of a weeded book, so start working on your entry now! Youth groups from your library are welcome to send along entries - you might hold your own contest and bring along the winner!

The craft room will feature projects for all ages including eco art, masks, masking, and inchies. Come and see our displays and make a few samples to take home!

Earth Day

April 22nd marks the 45th anniversary of Earth Day. This is a great time to feature crafts and activities using re-purposed materials. It is also a great time to focus on the natural world for programming and displays. Of course, your celebration doesn't need to be limited to one day - make this your theme for the entire month of April!



Easy Crafts/Projects/Programs:

🌍 Use a paper cutter to cut 1" squares from old maps, magazines, etc. Select shapes in "earthy" tones (blues, greens, browns) or that show wildlife, clouds, flowers, etc. Glue

these squares to a square of recycled paper (another magazine page, page from a weeded book, etc.). I made mine 5" x 5" and added a recycle symbol over the top. [Tip: When gluing squares, do one row at a time starting from the top.]

🌍 Regrow vegetables from discarded portions:

Start a window garden with carrot tops, avocado seeds, and so on. For more ideas, see the website: <http://cookingstoned.tv/blog/2014/02/food-that-magically-regrows-itself-from-kitchen-scrap/>

🌍 Free Earth Day mini poster: <http://boymamateachermama.com/2013/04/13/boy-mama-earth-day-poster/>

🌍 Bees are a good subject for Earth Day storytimes - and craft ideas abound. Check Pinterest for ideas. You might plant some bee-friendly plants like marigolds and lavender. It is interesting to note that bees pollinate about 90% of the strawberries and apples in Iowa!



🌍 Teens and older kids might help create an Earth Day display. This might include "mini-posters" featuring the world's most endangered species

(<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/ten-most-endangered-animals>), plants that attract and nourish bees in our area, and recycling or energy-saving tips.

🌍 Some Earth Day-related die cut shapes from your Iowa Library Service District Office: recycle symbol, butterfly, bee, birds, earth, turtle, frog, insects, fish, leaves and more.

Use them for crafts, nametags or decorating. For the whole list, see:

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/diecuts>

🌍 "The World is in Our Hands" - Cover a large white circle with blue and green handprints and post it with those words as a title.

🌍 Plant some milkweeds for the monarch butterflies. See: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/>

🌍 Make new crayons out of old ones. Have children help sort colors that will blend well into piles. An adult may wish to chop crayons into smaller pieces. Bake in mini-muffin tins at 250 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

🌍 Earth Day books for kids: <https://www.pinterest.com/wrenvironment/earth-day-books-for-kids/>



Innovative Libraries Online Conference:

ISLOC has a new name and a new date! Returning for its 8th year, the previous "ISLOC" (Iowa Small Libraries Online Conference) is now unveiling itself as ILOC (Innovative Libraries Online Conference)! Along with its new name, the conference has a new date: **April 1, 2015**. Mark your calendars now and plan to spend the entire day with us as we focus on the theme of "Public Libraries: Invest & Engage."

ILOC will still be entirely online, and it will still be free. There will be multiple breakout sessions of interest to youth services staff, so watch for details as the date approaches! Registration will soon be available through the Iowa Library Services CE Catalog: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>

Odds & Ends

▪ **Iowa Library Commons** at <http://commons.statelibraryofiowa.org/> is a great place to share your ideas with other libraries. Browse the site or find out more about ILC at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/i-j/commons> (note the link to a user's manual at the bottom of the page). You can share photos of events, program ideas, funding resources, crafts, etc. We would like to see more youth services postings! All staff of Iowa libraries may create an account for sharing. If you need help getting started, contact your District Office.

▪ Please **save the following dates** for big events coming in the fall:

Performers' Showcases - There will be THREE Performers' Showcases this year:

- September 23 Sioux Center Public Library
- September 24 Atlantic (location to be announced later)
- September 25 Iowa City (location to be announced later)



Summer Library Program Workshops:

- Tuesday, October 27 Southwest--Atlantic
- Wednesday, October 28 Northwest--Cherokee
- Thursday, October 29 North Central--Mason City
- Tuesday, November 3 Northeast-Waterloo Center for the Arts (tentative)
- Wednesday, November 4 Southeast-location to be determined
- Thursday, November 5 Central - Des Moines-DMACC (tentative)