



February 6, 2024

POP YS Con



We are excited to announce this year's keynote lineup for POP YS Con! Join us **April 8-9** at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames.

Monday Keynotes

On Monday, hear Iowa Public Radio's *Talk of Iowa* host **Charity Nebbe** discuss her love of reading and public libraries. During lunch, middle school teacher librarian and author **Tasha Squires** will share information on public school and library collaborations - and will lead a breakout session on providing large print materials for all students.

Tuesday Keynotes

Tuesday kicks off with a graphic novel panel with *Middle School Misadventures* novelist **Jason Platt** and *CatStronauts* and *Waffles and Pancake* series author **Drew Brockington**! For lunch, learn how librarians can help parents nurture reading from birth with **Maya Payne Smart**, author of the book *Reading for Our Lives: A Literacy Action Plan from Birth to Six*.

Registration for Pop YS Con is open now. The full conference schedule will be released in March; stay tuned for more updates!

[Find Out More & Register for POP YS Con](#)



Present a Session at Pop YS Con!

Do you have a great idea you want to share with youth librarians across the state in person? Share it with us at Pop YS Con!

Here are some topics that we think might be a hit:

- Intellectual freedom

- Collection development audit
- Family programming
- Programs you've created that have taken off
- School-age programming
- Teen programming and services
- Storytime programs/book selections for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers
- Social media engagement
- Partnerships and outreach idea

All proposals must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. February 12. Questions? Contact Janeé at Janeé.Jackson-Doering@iowa.gov

[Access the POP YS Con Proposal Application](#)

Summer Library Program Updates



2024 Summer Reading Summit

It's time to put the finishing touches on your plans for Summer Library Programming with our Summer Reading Summit! Join us **Wednesday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ames Public Library**. We'll talk about how to take care of yourself during this busy season, how to connect with patrons on the issues important to them (particularly teens), and best practices for programming for all ages not only in the summer, but all year round!

We'll also feature examples of programs, crafts, and books for all ages using the iREAD theme ("Read, Renew, Repeat"). Going themeless or using another theme? There will still be a lot you can apply and contribute! You'll have ample time to network with other librarians: sharing what you're excited about for summer, and hearing others talk about programming, outreach, and more. **Registration is \$20 and includes a box lunch.**

[Find Out More & Register for the Summer Reading Summit](#)



Summer Library Canva Templates Now Available!

We created Bingo Boards, Reading Challenge Sheets, Reading Log Bookmarks, a Children's Game Board, and a **NEW** Calendar template for 2024. All can be customized for your library on Canva!

[Access the Summer Library Templates](#)

iREAD Resource Guide and Graphics

The code and instructions for downloading the resource guide and graphics were emailed to library directors on **November 6**.

If your library didn't receive the email, please contact Janeé at Jane.Jackson-Doering@iowa.gov.



All Iowa Reads



Exploring the Shortlist Webinar

Tuesday, February 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Learn all about the All Iowa Reads shortlists for Adults, Teens, & Kids. You'll hear booktalks for the shortlisted books on each list. Attendees will also hear ideas for spotlighting these titles and the All Iowa Reads finalists in your library.

[Register for Exploring the Shortlist](#)

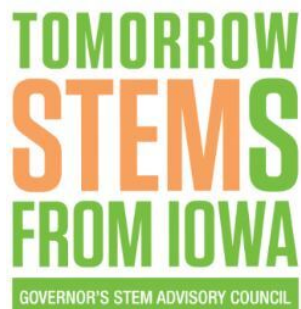
Save The Dates: AIR Summer Author Webinars

Join us this summer for hour-long webinars with this year's All Iowa Reads authors! Each author will share insights about their book and answer your questions. This is a great way to plan virtual viewing parties for kids, teens or adults during Summer Reading. **Registration will open in mid-April.**

- **Tuesday, June 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.:** *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson (Adult)
- **Wednesday, June 12, 4:00-5:00 p.m.:** *Hollow Fires* by Samira Ahmed (Teen ages 13-18)
- **Wednesday, June 12, 2:00-3:00 p.m.:** *Tumble* by Celia C. Pérez (Kids ages 8-12)

[About All Iowa Reads](#)

STEM Scale-Up Applications Due Feb. 28



Don't forget - librarians can apply for the STEM Scale-Up Program from the Governor's STEM Advisory Council! There are 14 different programs offered for different grade levels. Selected individuals will receive free, high quality STEM materials to keep at their library to aid in STEM programming.

[About the STEM Scale-Up Program](#)

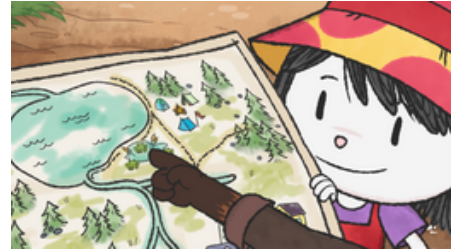
Iowa PBS KIDS Library Kit Launch

Libraries Can Request Free *Elinor Wonders Why* Kits

Iowa PBS KIDS is offering *Elinor Wonders Why* storytime and screening kits for any interested library in Iowa. Elinor, the most curious bunny rabbit in Animal Town, aims to encourage children to follow their curiosity, ask questions when they don't understand and find answers using science inquiry skills. This wonderful program introduces kids to science, nature and community.

The kit includes a variety of items, including a storytime book, digital files including printables, a link to suggested episodes of *Elinor Wonders Why*, giveaways, and more. Libraries can keep all of the materials. **All kits will arrive via mail by May 15.**

Request a kit at the link below. For questions, contact Caryline Clark, Iowa PBS engagement manager at caryline.clark@iowapbs.org or call (515) 725-9704.



[Request a Library Kit by March 29th](#)

Additional Upcoming CE Opportunities



Pop YS Live February: Prep for the Eclipse!

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Are you ready for the April 8 solar eclipse? Join Dr. Zach Stier of Ericson Public Library and Dr. Sara Nelson of the NASA Iowa Space Grant Consortium as they share program ideas, resources, and partnership opportunities for you to have a successful eclipse program at your library.

[Register for the Feb. Pop YS Live](#)

Check It Out

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Join us for our live webinar spotlighting the best new books for ages 0-18. Janeé will share book talks - including book ideas for Storytime! There's a prize giveaway, too! Check It Out shares collection development tips, trends, and more!

NOTE: There will not be a Check It Out offered in March due to the POP YS Con.

[Register for Check It Out](#)



Pop YS Live March: Deaf Children and the Library

Wednesday, Mar. 13, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Join us in March for this special edition of Pop YS Live presented by Teacher Librarian Kate Kasal of the Iowa School for the Deaf. Kate will share best practices for reading with young Deaf children, how to help Deaf children interact with books, how to make the print accessible, and other helpful advice.

She'll also share resources that support American Sign Language (ASL) reading and other ASL resources.