

Friday, November 6

Morning Sessions

Day 2 • Session 1

8:30 - 9:20 a.m. CST

Passport to Local History: A Community-Led Adventure (C/T/A)

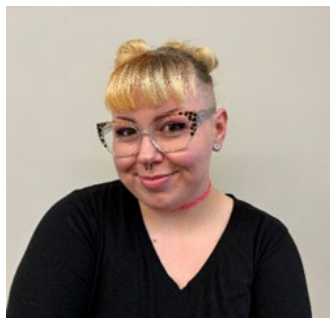
Heather Wheeler, Geli Murphy, Mason County Public Library

Location: Room 208G

An introduction to the knowledge, skills, and best practices that support exceptional library service to children, teens, and families. Participants will explore youth development, inclusive spaces, early literacy, storytimes, programming, collections, caregiver interactions, and community outreach.



Heather Wheeler is the Programming Coordinator at Mason County Public Library, where she has spent five years creating engaging community programs and events. She holds a bachelor's degree in human services and counseling and is passionate about developing meaningful library experiences connecting people of all ages. She looks forward to sharing ideas with fellow Kentucky library programmers.



Angelica (Geli) Murphy is a Programming Assistant at the Mason County Public Library, where she has worked for two years in an assortment of roles. A "Geli of all trades", her love lies in making edutaining programs for all ages and helping leave every patron better than she found them. Geli is thrilled that she gets to share her passion with so many people who also love the library.

Creepin' It Real: Fun and Freaky Programs for TeenTober (T)

Katie Underwood, Marshall County Public Library

Location: Room 208H

Celebrate TeenTober! From creepy to crafty, discover programs teens will love that fit all budget types, skill levels, and are themed to spooky season.



Katie Underwood is the Teen Librarian at Marshall County Public Library. Katie has worked in libraries for 18 years, most of that time in Youth Services. She enjoys working on teen services or filming TikToks for the library.

Building Community Connections: How Kentucky State Parks and Local Libraries Can Collaborate (B/C/A)

Carey Ruff, Kentucky Department of Parks

Location: Room 208I

Kentucky State Parks and local libraries share a common mission of public service, education, and community access. Both institutions are trusted local spaces that connect people to knowledge, place, and lifelong learning. This presentation will highlight how parks and libraries can collaborate through shared programming, reading initiatives, exhibits, educational kits, speaker series, and promotion of local history and natural resource education. It will also discuss how partnerships can support visitation, increase awareness of park resources, and help libraries offer place-based learning opportunities. The goal is to provide attendees with realistic, low-cost ideas that can be adapted to communities of different sizes.



Carey Ruff's degree in Recreation and Wildlife and Interpretation Services laid the foundation for her career in environmental education and land management. She has served as a Forest Ranger with the Kentucky Department of Forestry, Preserve Manager at Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, and now Assistant Director of the Division of Interpretation and Engagement at Kentucky Department of Parks. She finds the most rewarding part of her career connecting people with nature.

Poetry, Paintings, and Pollinators: Programming at the Intersection of Literature, Art, and the Natural World (A/T)

Ashley Hammond, Montgomery County Public Library

Location: Room 208J

The Montgomery County Public Library's 2025 Special Projects Grant sparked expanded environmental programming, including a native plant pollinator garden and new community partnerships. This presentation will explore the grant's progress, the garden's role in connecting patrons with nature, and how art and literature can deepen those connections through active and passive programming.



Ashley Howell Hammond serves as Accounting and Finance Officer for the Montgomery County Public Library. She holds a degree in Art and English Literature from Centre College and studied classical drawing and painting at the Grand Central Atelier in Manhattan. She splits her time between finance and creative projects celebrating art, literature, and nature.

Day 2 • Session 2

9:25 - 10:15 a.m. CST

Let's Play! Embrace the Power of Pretend (C/B)

Suzanne Banta, Henry County Public Library

Location: Room 208G

Pretend play is a powerful tool for child development and family engagement. At the Henry County Public Library, we embrace the power of play. From doctors' offices to farmers' markets and kitchens, the library creates opportunities for families to engage in pretend play both at programs and in our Learning Depot. Learn about how pretend play has changed the way families interact with the library and increased children's excitement for library visits while exploring ways to adapt your ideas to any space or budget, and how to find sources of funding by exploring real world examples that have worked (and not worked) for us.



Suzanne Banta, "The Book Lady," is Youth Services Librarian at Henry County Public Library, leading a team focused on positive community change and lifelong learning. With 20+ years in the field, she grew up in libraries, raised by women who loved reading, and proudly continues their legacy.

Suzanne@henrylibrary.org

Nostalgia That Wins: Game Show and Reality TV-Inspired Library Programming (T/A)

Kiwana Bridges, Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library

Location: Room 208H

This interactive presentation explores how libraries can use nostalgic game shows and competition series as the foundations for highly engaging programming for all ages.



Kiwana Bridges ("Ms. Kiwi") is Youth Librarian at Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library since Dec. 2024. She holds journalism and media management degrees from Austin Peay State. A child at heart, she loves ridiculous themed events and creative programming that gets families excited.

Every Story Matters: Creating Dementia-Friendly Libraries and Communities (B/A)

Jennifer Craig, Department for Aging and Independent Living

Location: Room 208I

Libraries can play an important role in creating welcoming, dementia-friendly spaces for people living with dementia and their caregivers. Through stories, practical examples, and discussion, participants will explore simple ways to promote dignity, connection, and belonging, along with actionable ideas, partnerships, and resources they can use in their communities.



Jennifer Craig serves as Dementia Services Coordinator with Kentucky's Department for Aging and Independent Living, leading initiatives in brain health, dementia education, caregiver support, and Kentucky's Dementia State Plan. Drawing on professional and personal caregiving experience, she champions dementia-friendly, inclusive communities.

Computer Class 101: A Guide to Booting Up Computer Classes in Your Library (A)

Dalton Bennett, Paul Sawyer Public Library

Location: Room 208J

Computer classes remain essential as patrons navigate increasing digital demands. In this session, Dalton Bennett will share how his library rebuilt its computer education program, from acquiring equipment and developing curriculum to creating a successful, sustainable program that meets community needs.



Dalton Bennett has 13+ years of library experience and a deep understanding of public library services and community engagement. He earned his Master's in Libraries, Informatics, and Technology in Education from WKU in 2022, sparking a passion for tech education innovation. He now serves as Digital Services Specialist at Paul Sawyer Public Library, leading digital services and technology literacy programs.

KTBL Library Ambassadors (A, B, C, T)

Evan Hatter, Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives

Location: Ballroom

The Kentucky Talking Book Library (KTBL) has a program called Library Ambassadors, which enables library staff to provide outreach in their local communities for people who cannot read traditional print due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. Learn more about the program and become a full-fledged KTBL Library Ambassador.



Evan Hatter is the Information Officer for the Kentucky Talking Book Library. As KTBL's outreach specialist, he seeks to expand the reach of KTBL to as many people as possible throughout the Commonwealth.

Day 2 • Session 3

10:30 - 11:20 a.m. CST

Non-Traditional Book Clubs: Making Reading Work (B/C)

Destiney Amiott, Meade County Public Library

Location: Room 208G

In the changing world of literacy, scheduling, and resistance to reading, book clubs have to adjust to meet the needs of readers. Learn how Meade County Public Library is working to make book clubs work for kids, preteens, and adults.



Destiney Amiott has been part of the Meade County Public Library for almost 3 years. As a programmer, she does a little bit of everything from community outreach to children's programming to managing the library turtle's Aquatic wonderland. An avid reader herself, Destiney helps manage 4 book clubs for the library.

TAB Talk: Building an Effective Teen Advisory Board (T)

Tonya Swan, Louisville Free Public Library; Marissa Cremeans, Louisville Free Public Library

Location: Room 208H

Teen Advisory Boards don't have to start big to make a difference. This session covers practical approaches to launching and growing a TAB, with a focus on building meaningful opportunities for teens to share ideas and have a genuine voice in library services and creating real-world leadership experiences for them to take with them. From recruiting members and keeping teens engaged, to finding ways to let them take ownership of programs and decisions, we'll share examples of what's worked in our community and discuss ways you can adapt them to fit your own.



Tonya Swan began her career as a second grade teacher with Jefferson County Public Schools. In 2013, she joined LFPL, advancing from clerk to Youth Services Library Assistant to Program Supervisor while earning her MLS. Now Supervisor of Youth Services for the Northeast Regional Library, she leads her passion project: The Northeast Teen Advisory Board.



Marissa Cremeans is Teen Library Assistant at LFPL's Northeast Regional Library. She has worked with teens across multiple library and literacy settings, including Jessamine County, Bullitt County, and Lexington Public Libraries, plus the Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning, where she served as Youth Programming Director.

Outside-the-Box Outreach: Bringing New Opportunities to Our Communities (B/C/A)

Katie Followell, Boyle County Public Library

Location: Room 208I

Traditional outreach services remain essential, but fresh, interest-driven programming can strengthen community connections and highlight unique local features. This session will explore successful and unsuccessful outreach ideas from BCPL, along with practical ways other libraries can incorporate creative programming into their schedules.



Katie Followell, outreach librarian at Boyle County Public Library, is passionate about bringing the energy and excitement of the library to the citizens of all ages in Boyle County. She likes to help people find the joy in reading and hopes to offer unique opportunities for people to try new things and explore new places.

Chrome, Coffee, and Creativity (A)

Claudette Rateau, LaRue County Public Library

Location: Room 208J

In this session, you'll learn how the LaRue County Public Library developed three successful programs—a Motorcycle Show, Coffee for Veterans, and an Artist of the Month exhibit. Discover how to create engaging events that can be adapted for libraries of any size. Attendees will leave with practical tips, planning strategies, and ideas they can use to launch similar programs in their own communities.



Librarian at LaRue County Public Library for five years. She's grateful for the opportunity to create programs that bring people together, encourage lifelong learning, and strengthen the community.

Day 2 • Session 4

11:25 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CST

More than Books: Children's and Youth Programs that Work! (C)

Holly Daugherty, McCreary County Public Library

Location: Room 208G

Explore practical strategies and creative ideas for engaging children, tweens, and teens through inclusive, age-appropriate library programming. Participants will gain ideas for literacy, STEM, family engagement, partnerships, marketing, and adapting programs to meet community needs.



Holly Daugherty is passionate about creating fun, meaningful experiences that bring families together through books, learning, and creativity. As a Children's Librarian, she loves helping children discover the joy of reading while making the library a welcoming place where everyone feels at home.

Cultivating Community and Overcoming Eco-Anxiety for Library Programmers (T)

Ashley Placek, Bullitt County Public Library

Location: Room 208H

Explore how libraries can help young people navigate climate anxiety by fostering resilience, hope, and connection. Participants will learn about the impact of climate-related stress and gain practical tools for supporting youth well-being, building community resilience, and creating climate-conscious programs and events.



Ashley Placek is the Children's Event Planner for Bullitt County Public Library, where she engages the public in family-oriented events ranging from weekly storytimes to art/music workshops, respectful animal encounters, science activities, and more! She is passionate about producing events that are mindful of sustainability efforts, community needs, and a changing climate.

Outreach and ESL: Meeting Learners Where They Are (B/A)

Nissa Keating, Kenton County Public Library

Location: Room 208I

At Kenton County Public Library, our Outreach ESL Program is continuously growing and evolving. Our classes at a mobile home park, in which an estimated 70-80% of the residents are Hispanic, exemplify this evolution. Learn about our atypical ESL classes, the ongoing effort to be flexible and ensure relevant programming, building trust, offering a learner-centered curriculum, and how these classes have demanded almost no additional budget or space. During a time when space is increasingly valuable and immigrant communities may be more cautious, our ESL classes at the mobile home park offer a model of a potential option for those considering beginning or expanding ESL programs.



Nissa Keating is the ESL Instructor at Kenton County Public Library. With a background in linguistics and customer service, she joined the library in 2022 to build a new ESL program from the ground up that has proven to be successful, adaptive, and extremely welcoming. She is passionate about bringing services to immigrant and refugee communities and increasing access to all.

Making Connections to Kentucky's History Through Hands-On Archaeology Programming (T/C/A)

Gwynn Henderson, Kentucky Archaeological Survey-Western Kentucky University

Location: Room 208J

You don't need to sponsor an archaeological excavation to bring archaeology to your patrons! Explore ways to incorporate Kentucky archaeology into library programming through hands-on activities, including making cordage and analyzing artifacts from a frontier fort. Participants will receive take-home instructions, resources, and contacts to help lead their own programs.



A. Gwynn Henderson is Education Director at the Kentucky Archaeological Survey (WKU). Her research focuses on ancient Native farming cultures of the middle Ohio Valley. As a public archaeologist, she makes Kentucky's archaeological heritage accessible through lessons, booklets, videos, and workshops. Author of *Kentuckians Before Boone*, used in Kentucky classrooms, she holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and has 30 years with the Survey.