

Thursday, November 5

Day 1 • Session 1

2:10 - 3:00 p.m. CST

Big Feelings at Storytime (C)

Kelsey Drifmeyer & Emily Embry, Boone County Public Library

Location: Room 208G

Storytime can support more than literacy - it can help children understand themselves and connect with others. Explore the psychology of emotions and practical strategies for helping children identify, express, and manage their feelings. Participants will discover picture books, activities, and simple mindfulness, breathing, and body-awareness techniques to incorporate into storytime.



Kelsey Drifmeyer is a social worker who just can't stay out of the library. She currently serves as Youth Services Outreach Specialist at Boone County Public Library while also maintaining a small therapy practice focused on neurodiversity-affirming care. She's passionate about inclusive community building, child development, and disability advocacy.



Emily Embry is a YS Specialist at the Florence Branch of the Boone County Public Library. She has 10 years of experience in early childhood development, and over three decades in play, mischief, loving stories, and building weird things!

Dungeons & Dragons & T(w)eens, Oh My! (T/C/A)

Bryce Vessels, Hardin County Public Library

Location: Room 208H

This crash course on Dungeons and Dragons programming for teens is perfect for those looking to start their own library D&D game! Attendees will learn about what it takes to run the game, find out about some awesome resources, and learn to adapt it into a library setting.



Bryce Vessels is the Teen Services Specialist at the Hardin County Public Library in Elizabethtown. He is a passionate Game Master and program developer for kids in Middle and High School.

Reaching Out to the Hard to Reach (B)

LaDonna Thompson, Bullitt County Public Library; Emmanuel Maize, Spring Meadows Residential Center

Location: Room 208I

Outreach opportunities arrive in many forms. Join us to learn about the Bullitt County Public Library's outreach to young men at the Spring Meadows residential facility. This collaboration has resulted in a great community partnership, which includes providing books to the residents each month, trips from the Center to the library for outings and programming, and volunteer opportunities for the residents to work at the library. Topics discussed in this session include how to plan for visits to Spring Meadows, what activities the outreach programs may include, and how library outings and volunteer opportunities for the young men are structured.



LaDonna Thompson has served as homebound librarian at Bullitt County Public Library for over 10 years. Her work emphasizes creative programming, meaningful collaboration, and expanding services to underserved populations. She enjoys sharing practical ideas that inspire fellow library professionals to build stronger community connections.



Emmanuel G. Maize is a licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Program Director at Spring Meadows Treatment Center in Mt. Washington, Kentucky. With 30+ years of experience helping children and families, he has employed by Sunrise Children's Services for over a decade. He holds degrees from the University of Louisville and Webster University and is a certified Juvenile Sexual Offending Counselor.

Grow Well Greenup... Eat Well, Move Well, Be Well (A)

Denise Greathouse & Amanda Aleknewicus Greenup County Public Library; Leslie Boardman & Andrea Collins, Greenup County Health Department; Lora Pullin, Greenup County Extension Office; Dr. Lincoln Howard, BodyWorx

Location: Room 208J

We will explore how our library partnered with local health and community organizations to create Grow Well Greenup, a free health and wellness program offering screenings, fitness, cooking, and homesteading classes. Learn how this collaborative model has strengthened community wellness and inspired libraries in neighboring states to develop similar programs.



Denise Greathouse is Branch Manager of the Greenup County Public Library Main Branch, with 28 years of dedicated service. She began her career in 1998 as Bookmobile Librarian, steadily working her way up with a deep commitment to literacy and public service. Her lifelong passion for community, learning, and self-sufficiency shapes both her work and personal pursuits.



Amanda Aleknewicus is a Library Assistant at the Greenup County Public Library who has loved libraries her whole life. Having grown up spending time in them, she now enjoys sharing that same experience with others, especially her own daughter.



Leslie Boardman, BSN, RN, serves as Accreditation Coordinator and Clinic Nurse Coordinator for Greenup County Health Department. She is passionate about quality improvement, performance management, and strengthening public health systems. Through collaboration with community partners, she supports initiatives like Grow Well Greenup, recognizing that strong partnerships are essential to improving health outcomes and addressing local health priorities.



Andrea Collins, MS, RDN, LD, is WIC and Nutrition Coordinator for Greenup County Health Department, overseeing the Greenup WIC Program and assisting with the Grow Well Greenup community wellness initiative. As a Registered Dietitian, she is passionate about making nutrition and health information accessible to everyone, helping residents build healthy habits and taking the first steps on their health journey.



Lora Pullin, born and raised in rural Wayne, WV, is a Marshall University graduate with a BA in Family and Consumer Sciences focused on food and nutrition. She began her Cooperative Extension career in 2013 in Greenup County as County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences. She aims to strengthen family relationships, encourage healthy lifestyles, and identify resources to extend income.



Dr. Lincoln Howard is a Doctor of Chiropractic and Director of Community Outreach at BodyWorx Physical Therapy & Chiropractic in Russell, KY. A Greenup County native, he earned his BS in Exercise Science and DC from Campbellsville University. Passionate about community health, he provides health education, fall-prevention, and exercise initiatives throughout Greenup County. Through Grow Well Greenup, he aims to encourage healthier lifestyles locally.

Day 1 • Session 2

3:15 - 4:05 p.m. CST

Friendship 101 (C)

Katii Tanaro, Hope Harbor, Inc.

Location: Room 208G

Friendship 101 helps students in grades 3–6 build healthy, respectful relationships by recognizing healthy and unhealthy behaviors, understanding consent and boundaries, and learning to communicate assertively. Through activities and guided discussions, students develop skills to navigate social situations with empathy, confidence, and respect, while learning how to support friends and seek help from trusted adults.



Katii Tanaro is Community Educator for Hope Harbor: Sexual Trauma Recovery Center, partnering with schools to provide evidence-based prevention education. She's passionate about empowering youth with knowledge to build healthy relationships and prevent violence. Katii co-hosts Hope Harbor's *Still Not Asking for It* podcast, making conversations about prevention and healing accessible.

Destination Library: Beyond the Field Trip (T/C)

Sara Dittman, Marshall County Public Library; Suzanne Banta, Henry County Public Library; Jeanna Elaine Cornett, Bell County Public Library

Location: Room 208H

Make school field trips more than a whirlwind walkthrough -- Sara, Suzanne, and Jeanna discuss how they've made library visits fun and informative for teens, tweens, and more. We'll be sharing information about setting up the visits, partnerships to make visits possible, ideas for simple, scalable programs during visits, and ways to use field trips to encourage kids of all ages to keep coming back after the bus pulls away!



Sara Dittman is Children's Librarian at Marshall County Public Library's Benton branch, a role she's held for 11 years. With a background in social work, she focuses on early childhood development and community collaboration, serving on the Murray Head Start Policy Council and chairing the Graves/Marshall Community Early Childhood Council.



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.



Jeanna Elaine Cornett is the only librarian she knows who has never read a Harry Potter book OR a James Patterson book. You'll find her in the non-fiction stacks in either of the beautiful Bell County Public Library District buildings.

Leveraging Community Partnerships for Meaningful Library Programming (B)

Kiwana Bridges & Mari-Alice Jasper, Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library

Location: Room 208I

This session will explore how partnerships can be discovered in unexpected places and lead to innovative programming. Learn how to utilize partnerships beyond traditional collaborations. Examples shown will demonstrate how libraries can expand their marketing reach, reduce costs, and increase community engagement.



Kiwana Bridges, known as Ms. Kiwi, is Youth Librarian at Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library, turning big ideas into big fun since December 2024. A child at heart, she's passionate about ridiculous themed events, chaotic brainstorming, and creative programming.



Mari-Alice Jasper is Communication and Outreach Director at Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library, extending programs to patrons beyond the brick and mortar—little blue wagon in tow. If you like book clubs, iced coffee and sweet little treats, she wants to be your library friend!

Curating a Book Club and Hosting a Book-Themed Program (A)

Paula McGraw, Fleming County Public Library; Haleigh Wells, Bullitt County Public Library

Location: Room 208J

Are you interested in starting a book club, but feel intimidated about finding enough copies of a title for your group to read or unsure on how to organize the gatherings? Do you want to offer book-themed programming, complete with a virtual author visit, but you need guidance on how to plan and implement programs like this? Join Haleigh and Paula as they provide specific examples from their respective libraries on how to organize and sustain a successful book club and prepare and lead an engaging program centered around a specific title.



Paula McGraw works at the Fleming County Public Library in Flemingsburg, KY, where she serves as Cataloger/Technical Services Librarian and Book Club Coordinator for the library's adult and teen book clubs. She also manages library room bookings, taught technology classes for several years, and has occasionally led special programs for summer reading and adults.



Haleigh Wells is an Adult Event Planner for the Bullitt County Public Library. Haleigh grew up in Bullitt County, and she has loved getting to nurture her community's love of reading and library resources for the past three years. Haleigh loves romance and horror novels, cats, coffee, and art.