

Summer ADVENTURE

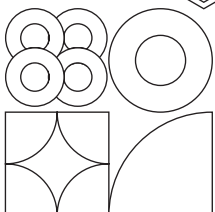
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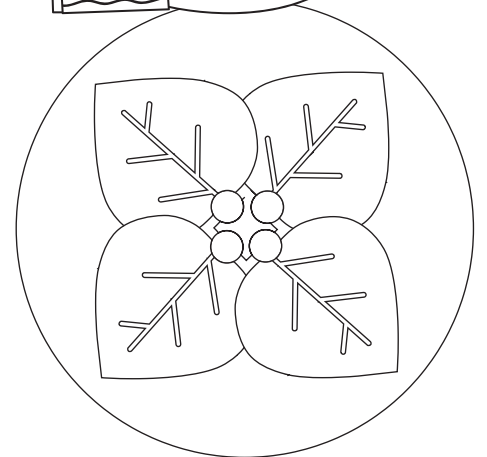
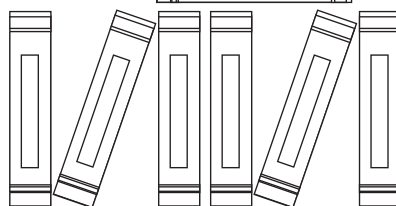
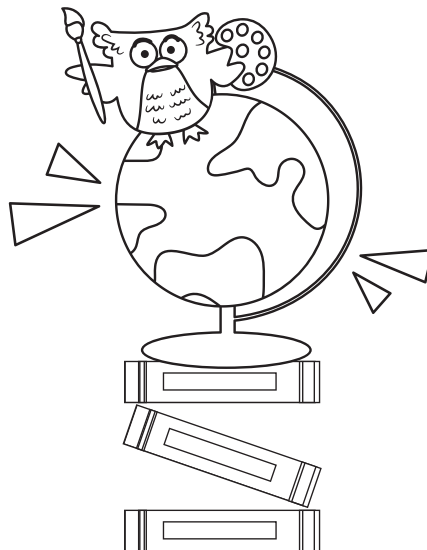
DISTRICT

DISCOVERY

Summer 2025
Volume 7, Issue 2



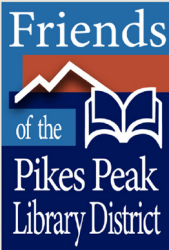
COLOR OUR WORLD



SUMMERTIME IS HERE!

Summer Adventure p.4
Mountain of Authors p.6
History Symposium p.8

Join the Friends of PPLD, Support Libraries, and Inspire Young Readers!



JOIN NOW



Letter from the **CEO**

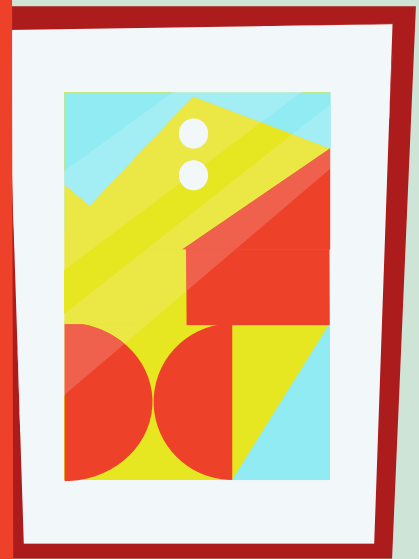
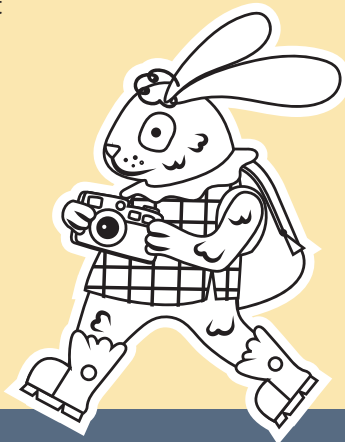
Looking for an adventure this summer? Make Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) your first stop!

Our Summer Adventure reading program for all ages runs June 2 - July 31. In addition to reading, participants can earn prizes by exploring the Pikes Peak region, including the public art that you can read about in these pages.

Inside, you will also learn about this year's Mountain of Authors event. The keynote speaker is Pete McBride, a visual storyteller whose work with *National Geographic*, *The Smithsonian Magazine*, and others has taken him on adventures in over 75 countries.

Regardless of what you do this summer, I hope that you make PPLD part of your plans!

Teona Shainidze-Krebs
CEO
Pikes Peak Library District





Share in the reading fun!

ppld.org/social-media

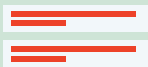
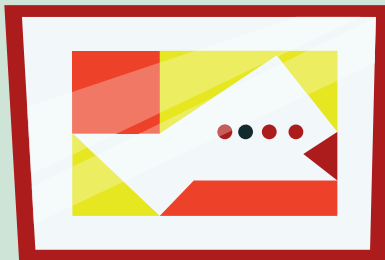
Get the latest updates, tag us in your photos, and find more fun for everyone!



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ppld.org/elibrary

Get access to great PPLD services on all of your mobile devices.
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- 4** Featured Program: A Summer Adventure: Explore the Public Art that Colors Our World
- 6** Featured Program: Experience Wonders with Colorado Visual Storyteller Pete McBride
- 8** Program Spotlight: History Beyond Words
- 10** Service Spotlight: *Wine and Cheese NOT Included
- 12** Location Spotlight: Manitou Springs Library Reopens in Historic Building
- 14** Programs: Adult, Teen, and Family & Children's
- 20** Games/Activities
- 23** Summer Adventure Game Card



A SUMMER ADVENTURE:

Explore the Public Art that Colors Our World

by Jeanne Davant



Summer is the time for outdoor adventures, and Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) is celebrating with its 2025 PPLD Summer Adventure presented by Friends of Pikes Peak Library District. The program is for all ages and filled with activities that encourage people to read, explore, and create. During this annual summer reading program, participants can complete 30 days of reading and activities for a chance to win prizes and develop life-long reading habits..

In addition to the activities posted on our website at ppld.org/summer, we invite you to explore this year's theme – Color Our World – by visiting some of the many public artworks in our region, including several located at our Libraries. Each of the installations listed below has its own story to discover.

ICE HARVEST

Tri-Lakes Views installed one of the first public art pieces in Monument on the water treatment building at Beacon Lite Road and Second Street. Titled *"Ice Harvest,"* the 30-foot-long installation pays tribute to the harvesting of ice from the area's lakes which was essential to keeping food fresh before refrigerators. Artists Tim Uphams and Lisa Cameron reverse-painted the mural on the backs of acrylic blocks that represent blocks of ice. Go for another Monument adventure to find other art pieces on pedestals around town curated by Tri-Lakes Views.

FIRE IN MY SOL

On the long wall in the parking lot behind Penrose Library is a spectacular mosaic called, *"This Wall Connects Us All."* It is made of ceramic tile, steel, and other materials depicting regional themes such as history, geography, sports, and, of course, libraries. More than 400 people worked to create and install this art



**COLOR
OUR WORLD**



piece under the direction of Concrete Couch. While you are there, check out the new mural in the Children's area by Amanda Stavast, and step outside to admire Illinois artist Mauricio Ramirez's award-winning *"Fire in My Sol"* mural on the south wall facing West Pikes Peak Avenue.

HOPE ALWAYS FLOATS

"Hope Always Floats," a mural by Juan Morales, adorns a building at the northeast corner of South Sierra Madre and West Cimarron streets in Colorado Springs with origami cranes and ethereal clouds representing hope and inspiration. Morales, a self-taught artist shaped by his background in graffiti and automotive prep and painting, creates works that burst with bold color and urban flair.

RAINBOW FISH

At Library 21c, the giant sculpture titled, *"Rainbow Fish"* floats above the first level and can be viewed at eye level from upstairs. Concrete Couch created this upcycled sculpture, inspired by Marcus Pfister's *Rainbow Fish* series of children's picture books, as part of its Giant Puppet project at Mountain View Elementary School.

KEITH HARING FITNESS COURT

Art and fitness merge at the Keith Haring Fitness Court in Green Mountain Falls' Pool Park, accessible from Highway 24 via the Green Mountain Falls Road exit. In murals throughout the court, Haring's catapulting figures evoke movement and inspire activity. The nonprofit Green Box brings new art installations to town each summer.



**COLOR
OUR WORLD**



Summer ADVENTURE

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT

FUN FACT

More than 18,000 people participated in Summer Adventure last year — enough people to fill Weidner Field THREE times!

ISCARIOT

Perched atop a building at 234 W. Colorado Avenue in Colorado Springs is “Iscaiot,” also known as the Octo-Maid. Fort Collins sculptor Trace O’Connor created her arresting form — part mermaid, part soaring alien — using recycled galvanized steel light poles, sprinkler piping, mechanical tubing, plate steel, and electrical conduit. She was inspired by comic books, TV nature shows, and a Smashing Pumpkins song.

FOUNTAIN HISTORIC NEWS WALL

A chronicle of Fountain’s history greets visitors entering Fountain Library. Library staff and volunteers from the local historical society spent hundreds of hours compiling the elements of the “Fountain Historic News Wall,” a collage of photos and news articles spanning 125 years, recounting significant events and highlighting local landmarks. The mural has been sharing Fountain’s history since the building’s construction in 2005.

PANORAMA PARK

In Panorama Park (4540 Fenton Rd.), two tile murals celebrate the diversity and unity of Southeast Colorado Springs. For the project, PPLD hosted tile art workshops that produced more than 7,000 individual tiles crafted by the El Paso County community. The project was facilitated by local artist Jere Rose (“Rizzo”) and Sand Creek Library, where the tiles were kiln-fired.

ADAMAN ALLEY

Colorful murals cover the walls of AdAmAn Alley in downtown Colorado Springs. The alley which runs from Tejon Street to Nevada Avenue between Pikes Peak and Colorado avenues was inspired by the AdAmAn Club, a group of mountaineers who trek to the summit of Pikes Peak to celebrate the New Year with a fireworks display. The alley also sports sculptures and light-up art elements.

HUNTERS, RED AND WHITE

Street art installations are displayed along Manitou Avenue in Manitou Springs, but the post office (307 Cañon Ave.) houses an often-overlooked masterpiece. The mural, titled “Hunters, Red and White,” depicts the lives of trappers and Native American hunters in an art style that resembles petroglyphs. Famed muralist Archie Musick painted it in 1942, commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts, a New Deal program that sought to decorate public spaces with art in the 1930s and 40s.

PPLD’s Summer Adventure program has historically kept children and teens engaged and helped prevent “summer slide” (the loss of skills and knowledge from one school year to the next often seen after the long summer break) to give students a strong head start when school resumes in the fall. The inclusion of adults provides a chance for them to participate with their families or individually in unique experiences to stay active mentally and physically. The program starts on Mon., June 2 and runs through Thu., July 31.

JUNE 2 – JULY 31
START YOUR ADVENTURE AT
ppld.org/summer



**COLOR
OUR
WORLD**



Experience Wonders

with Colorado Visual Storyteller Pete McBride

by Carla Bamesberger

For anyone who enjoys reading books by Colorado authors or is interested in or pursuing a career in writing, attending the annual Mountain of Authors at Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) is a must. A forest of tables pops up in the Venue at Library 21c where local authors from around the Pikes Peak region and surrounding areas chat with readers and sell their books. This year's program will be on Sat., May 17 from noon - 4:30 p.m.

The program also features a keynote address from a local author and a discussion about the publishing industry. This year's keynote speaker is Pete McBride, an award-winning author, photographer, and filmmaker who has done projects for *National Geographic*, *The Smithsonian Magazine*, USAID, The Nature Conservancy, and others. He has also authored popular books, including *The Colorado River: Chasing Water*.

"I like making people aware of the world around them, both the beauty and the challenges," McBride says. His projects have taken him to over 75 countries and through many dangerous environments.

"I like making people aware of the world around them, both the beauty and the challenges."



McBride started his career as a writer and photographer for a small newspaper. Shortly after, he accepted his first big magazine story with *National Geographic* covering a crew of antique aviation enthusiasts trying to recreate the first flight through Africa in a replica 1920 biplane. Years of hard work paid off and the crew surprisingly made the trip in 58 days. It wasn't without incident – they were intercepted by fighter jets, detained, and crashed twice along the way. The 1920 flight beat them by 15 days. McBride captured it all with his story and photos.

Since then, McBride has covered a wide range of stories, from silence in the world around us to community conservation in Kenya, and from the Grand Canyon to the remote cultures and wildlife of our world, and beyond.

"I've learned how amazing our planet is but also how fragile it is," McBride reflects. "I've also learned that people are people – despite our differences in religions, languages, and beliefs – we all want and need the same things – health, safety, community, and purpose. I've found over and over that the language of laughter and respect can go a long way – even if I don't speak the same language."

After a decade of traveling to remote regions of our planet studying our world through a camera lens, McBride turned his viewfinder toward home to study the Colorado watershed.

"I wanted to do a story closer to my heart and my home," McBride says. "I came back to the Rocky Mountains and started noticing water challenges all around the state." He has spent nearly two decades documenting local watersheds and rivers.

"I hope my photography and writing makes people more aware of how vital and fragile fresh water is."

Mountain of Authors is a fun event for writers and readers alike and a perfect way to discover new Colorado authors to add to your to-read pile. Also, this year's discussion panel will feature Michael Covington, a publishing agent with years of experience in the industry, who will give tips about what publishers want and what writers need.

Learn more and preview the showcase of authors at ppld.org/moa.

MOUNTAIN OF AUTHORS

SAT., MAY 17
NOON - 4:30 P.M. | LIBRARY 21c



History *Beyond* WORDS

by Jeremiah Walter

History has been well documented in written forms. Words describing previous events fill millions of books and research papers. But the story of our past can also be found in other formats, such as architecture, geography, film, audio recordings, artwork, and more.

These non-textual histories are the focus of Pikes Peak Library District's (PPLD) 22nd Annual Pikes Peak Regional History Symposium.

This year's symposium theme is "History Beyond the Written Word." Anyone curious about local history can enjoy the symposium's film festival on Sat., June 7 and a lineup of engaging presentations on Sat., June 14, both taking place at East Library.

"We thought that by using a fresh topic, we might get submissions from people who aren't as interested in more traditional history projects," says Regional History & Genealogy Program Coordinator John Jarrell, the Symposium's lead organizer. "And it succeeded. The majority of our presenters this year will be new."

One such presenter will be Amy Miller, visitor services manager with the McAllister House Museum.

"She found a stained-glass window," explains Jarrell, "and the window allowed her to identify a contradiction in the museum's interpretation of the McAllister family written record."

Another presentation, this one by Dr. Ronald Wynn, is called "Voices of Impact: Preserving the Legacy of the African American Youth Leadership Conference Through Oral Histories."

"They're going to record oral histories," says Jarrell. "By recording people's memories and their interpretation of the African American Youth Conference, it will help preserve this event and the impact it's had across the country." These are just two of the presentations featured in the symposium.



PIKES PEAK REGIONAL HISTORY — SYMPOSIUM —

FILM FESTIVAL

SAT., JUNE 7 | 1 - 4 P.M.

East Library Community Room

- *Masas en la Mesa: Mexican Markets and Meals That Bring Us Together* by Eilex Rodriguez
- *A Hike into History: The Ruins of Greenwood Park* by Eric Swab
- *Ancestral Homelands of the Jicarilla Apache* by Kate Perdoni
- *War on Film: A Critical Study of Jim Bates as Filmmaker* by John Jarrell
- *Winners of the 2025 History Day High School Documentary Competition*

LECTURE SERIES

SAT., JUNE 14 | 10 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

(Doors open at 9:30 a.m.)

East Library Community Room

- *Regarding Henry: McAllister Family History Revealed in a Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Memorial Window* by Amy D. Miller
- *Understanding the Historical Significance of Human Presence in the Jimmy Camp Area Through its Geography* by Coben Scott
- *Voices of Impact: Preserving the Legacy of the African American Youth Leadership Conference Through Oral Histories* by Dr. Ronald Wynn
- *Economic Equality in Human Remains Disposition and the Business of Death within Colorado Springs* by Laura Risheil
- *A Moment in Time: 1955 Photographs of Fannie Mae Duncan Shot by Lew Tilley* by Steve Antonuccio
- *Pikes Pic: A Visual Juxtaposition of the Pikes Peak Region, Past and Present* by Zane Bamesberger

The film festival will include Jarrell's analysis of the footage of Jim Bates, a filmmaker who documented World War II. The footage, which is stored in PPLD's archives and was recently digitized in 4K resolution, will be critiqued from a filmmaker's perspective, highlighting creative choices made by Bates and the limitations of shooting footage on the front line of a war.

Other short movies screened at the festival will include a filmed tour of the ruins of Greenwood Park, a look at the birth of the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, and winners of the 2025 History Day High School Documentary Competition.

Symposium content of various mediums will become part of the new *Online Journal of Pikes Peak Regional History*.

"It's truly going to be multimedia. There's going to be films. The papers themselves can have multimedia characteristics if someone wants to share the photos.

There will be oral histories as well," says Jarrell. "Our future is obviously in digitization and getting eyes on our materials online. It's just the way that things are moving. And it allows us to have such a bigger footprint—an international footprint."

Much of this work will keep our local history relevant in modern times.

"What's really interesting about history isn't just dates and names," says Jarrell. "It shows how we got to where we are today. When you're caught in the present moment, you're also caught up in the emotions of what's happening. But when you look into the past, you can see it a little more objectively."

This year's Pikes Peak Regional History Symposium provides a great opportunity for people to take a glimpse at the area's history that resides beyond words.



Register for the lecture series or film festival at tiny.ppld.org/symposium



Jim Bates, ca. 1944, near the front line of the European theater with his Bell & Howell Eyemo 35mm camera, a mass-produced motion picture camera from the 1920s known for its compact, durable design.

It's the first Thursday of the month, and I am excited, embarrassed, and feel a little guilty. Life got the better of me, and I didn't finish the book. Luckily, my group doesn't take this whole "Book Club thing" too seriously. Creating a book club can be a great way to foster a love of reading while connecting with others.... and just having fun!

TOO BUSY TO READ? HERE'S WHY IT'S WORTH IT!

Life can be hectic! Between work, family, and endless to-do lists, carving out time to read might feel impossible. But prioritizing self-care is a must, and a book club gives you accountability to pause and recharge. Setting aside 20 minutes a day to read might reward you in surprising ways (or 30 minutes if you're participating in Summer Adventure. See page 4).

NOT REALLY A "READER?" BREAK THE STEREOTYPE!

I used to view book clubs as stuffy and only for "intellectuals," but I now know they can be for everyone. Love romance novels? Great! Prefer the classics, thrillers, graphic novels, or maybe even cookbooks? Those are perfect! You can even theme your club around books that have inspired movies or stick to shorter books to accommodate busy schedules. Choose what inspires you!

And don't be afraid to pair your books with food and drink. Many book clubs mutate into a wine and cheese party filled with hearty laughs or deep conversations, and that's wonderful!



"For most people, what is so painful about reading is that you read something and you don't have anybody to share it with. In part what the book club opens up is that people can read a book and then have someone else to talk about it with. Then they see that a book can lead to the pleasure of conversation, that the solitary act of reading can actually be a part of the path to communion and community." - Bell Hooks

FIND THE RIGHT CLUB (AND BOOKS) FOR YOU!

If you're ready to dive into a book club, joining an existing group is the easiest way to get started. Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) facilitates several local Book Groups that are free to participate in. With a variety of themes and genres, these groups offer a fun way to connect with others who share your love of reading and lively discussion. *Learn more at ppld.org/book-groups.*

The internet can also be a great tool to discover book clubs focused on genres you love. You can find book suggestions and resources to help your club have meaningful discussions. Celebrities like Oprah Winfrey and Reese Witherspoon have popular online clubs. You do not have to go it alone! And if you really want sophisticated tools like polling and group chat, there are websites that can help you manage your club like a pro.

I CAN'T AFFORD ALL OF THESE BOOKS!

PPLD's curated Book Club Sets allow library cardholders to conveniently check out multiple copies of popular books, ensuring everyone gets a copy at no cost. Each bag includes a discussion guide, helping to spark meaningful conversations about the book. And don't forget you can check out eBooks and audiobooks through PPLD as well.

WAIT, THE AUTHOR MEANT WHAT?

Make your book club a fun, stress-free zone. Don't worry if someone else understands a book differently than you do. We all view the world through our own unique lens. Some may see hidden meaning and symbolism in books, while others are happy experiencing the story at face value. Many authors have admitted that the symbolism readers find in their work is often unintentional! There is no wrong way to enjoy a book, and everyone's viewpoints add richness to the discussion.

READY TO DIVE IN?

Whether in-person or online, there's no better time to start or join a book club than right now, and no better resource than PPLD! Happy reading!

TIPS FOR HOSTING A GREAT BOOK CLUB:

- ☑ Your book club should reflect you! Select the kinds of books you want to read but be open to new things. You might just discover a new passion.
- ☑ Consider forming half of your total group from existing friends and encourage each of them to bring someone new to introduce new perspectives to the group.
- ☑ Do your best, but it's okay if you don't finish or completely understand the book. Just show up and enjoy the conversation!
- ☑ Have fun with the gathering whether it's with food, drink, costumes, themes, etc.
- ☑ Make it a safe environment. There are no wrong ideas!
- ☑ Reserve your group's next read by visiting PPLD's Catalog and searching "Book Club Sets."
- ☑ Time your selections to coincide with upcoming movie releases and make it an outing!
- ☑ Rotate hosting duties or take advantage of the many free meeting rooms available at the Library.
- ☑ Participate in PPLD's different reading programs throughout the year, including Summer Adventure, All Pikes Peak Reads, and Winter Adult Reading Program.
- ☑ Attend PPLD's in-person author talks as a group or get together and watch one of the upcoming Virtual Author Talks.

***And remember, what happens at Book Club
STAYS AT BOOK CLUB!***



Manitou Springs Library REOPENS in Historic Building

by Jeremiah Walter

As the late-afternoon sun dipped below the tree-lined horizon above Manitou Springs on Fri., Feb. 7, 2025, several hundred people braved a brisk but powerful breeze to witness the grand reopening of Manitou Springs Library.

"Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) is excited to be coming home," PPLD CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs told the crowd gathered outside the historic Carnegie Library, which first opened in 1911.

"Make it last well into the next century. Let it serve generations," Manitou Springs Mayor John Graham declared from the lectern. "Let it stimulate our learning and our pleasure. Let it help develop our critical thinking and our citizenship. Let those who come after us sit in the shade of the trees that we have planted."

After Manitou Springs Library Manager Taryn Malila cut the ribbon, throngs poured into the renovated building to see the culmination of years of work by motivated citizens, the City of Manitou Springs, and PPLD.

Since its move back into its historic home, Manitou Springs Library has added almost 1,000 books to its collection and has plans to continue building the collection. Staff have also had the pleasure of hosting weekly events in its newly renovated event space upstairs, many of which involved the nearby elementary school. The flexibility of the space with its movable furniture has allowed the Library to host events with 30 or more students at a time. When it is not in use as an event space, the upstairs room is available for community members to use as a co-working space and reading room.



"Let it **STIMULATE** our learning and our pleasure. Let it help **DEVELOP** our critical thinking and our citizenship."

Renovations also expanded the Children's area and added a Teen space and Study Room which the Library did not previously have. With the expanded Children's area, Manitou Springs Library has expanded its Children's program offerings with a weekly Toddler Time in addition to the weekly Storytime.

"Back in 2020, I read that the Library here was going to close (due to ADA accessibility issues)," recalls Manitou Springs resident Rob Danin, who created the Preserve and Renew Our Carnegie Library Task Force.

"We had four community forums over Zoom, and with that feedback we worked with the architect on the design," says Danin. The group was also persistent in drumming up support for the project in the community.

In December 2023, Manitou Springs City Council named Fransen Pittman as general contractor for the project, which consisted of adding 2,950 square feet and addressing all accessibility issues. The building is now accessible for everyone with the addition of two ADA compliant restrooms and a lift so that patrons of all abilities can visit both the upstairs and downstairs areas.

The city raised about \$4.5 million for the remodel and expansion, garnering many donations from individuals and organizations. PPLD contributed \$1.5 million in advance rent on a 25-year lease.

As work neared completion in November 2024, PPLD moved out of the Manitou Art Center, which had been its Manitou Springs home since 2021.

Manitou Springs Library staff "packed everything up in half a day, and then [our] facilities, IT, and security [teams] came in and disassembled everything," recalls Malila.

Library materials, shelving, tech equipment, and more were moved into an expanded building that includes a larger children's area, a teen center, and even a rooftop patio.

"The patio will have a great view of our free lawn concert series, which is coming back this summer," says Malila.

Despite all of the changes, the facility maintains its historic charm.

"We're a town of history, and the Library maintains its original integrity and mission," says Danin. Since its reopening, Manitou Springs Library has averaged about 200 more checkouts per week than its weekly average in the past three years.

Among the spectators in the grand reopening crowd was 93-year-old Joanne Garrison, who first went to Manitou Springs Library as a first grader in 1937. Sitting on her walker amidst a bundled-up crowd, Garrison was excited to enter the Library 87 years after her initial visit. "It's finally ADA compliant. Hooray!"



STAR PATTERN:

TOGETHER THIS SUMMER
LET'S READ AND LEARN

CODED ADVENTURE:

GAME ANSWERS:



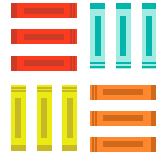
CHECK OUT A PIKES PEAK CULTURE PASS TO EXPLORE LOCAL ATTRACTIONS LIKE:



Get your ticket to adventure today!

ppld.org/culturepass






LIBRARY EXPLORERS

Library Explorers gives adults with differing physical and developmental abilities the opportunity to enjoy accessible Library programs that fit their abilities and individual needs.

PPAAA RETIREMENT SERIES

Retirement can be as stressful as it can be fun! Join PPLD and Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging (PPAAA) for this retirement series that will provide information, resources, and fellowship to explore the many ways retirement can be challenging and enjoyable.

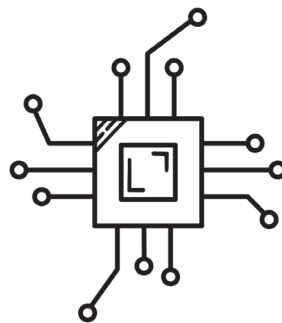


SENIOR FINANCIAL SERIES

No matter what your financial situation, finding credible information to help manage your money is important. This is especially true for seniors and retirees. Join us for the Senior Financial Series where we will take a closer look at the money matters that matter most as we age into retirement and beyond.

AI FOR ADULTS

Are you worried about the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Come learn how AI becomes, well, intelligent! In this introductory session, you will learn the basics of AI, find out how machines learn, and even use Teachable Machine by Google to create your own machine learning model.

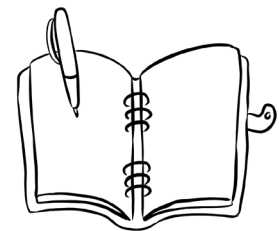


WOVEN PICTURE FRAMES

In search of a creative way to display your favorite memories? Create and decorate your own loom and then learn how to weave pictures into it for a quirky and unique way to display photos! Please bring a few photos for the project (don't worry we will make copies to use in the project) and weave those memories into a masterpiece.

MIXED MEDIA FUSION JOURNALS

Journaling is a great way to collect experiences and express your creativity. Join us as we use tools to create a unique journal. Then use mixed media and fabric fusion art techniques to turn your journal into a personal masterpiece.

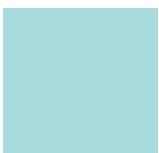


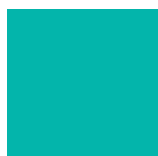

SENIOR FRAUD AND SECURITIES SERIES

Scams targeting seniors come in many forms. Financial crimes against older adults are costly, widespread, and can be devastating. They are also on the rise. Join us for the Senior Fraud and Security Series where we will discuss the most common scams targeting older adults and how to stop these tricksters in their tracks!

FELTED CRAFTS

Learn all the possibilities of felt, from wall hangings, coasters, place mats, and so much more! We provide the instructions and materials, and you bring the imagination to create a personalized felt craft.





LASER CLUB

Join us for the monthly laser engraver club meeting at the Sand Creek Library Makerspace! This informal drop-in program is designed for all skill levels. Never used the makerspace before? Our experts will share what they are working on and provide inspiration to get started. Stuck on a project? Stop by to ask questions, find troubleshooting help, and consult with others on what to do next. Share your projects, get inspired, and work together to level up your laser creations! *This program is for ages 9+.*

SKETCH WRITING WORKSHOP

Sat., July 19 | 11 a.m.
Monument Library

Are you looking to expand your comedy chops for social media content or just everyday life? Practice writing, editing, and performing short comedic sketches in this workshop presented by Peak Improv Theater. *Ages 16+.*



SEAN GASKELL: MUSIC OF THE WEST AFRICAN KORA

Mon., July 7 | 6 p.m.
East Library

Join Sean Gaskell for a special performance featuring the kora, an ancient 21-stringed harp from West Africa. This beautiful and educational presentation will include traditional songs that are the heart and soul of the kora's musical repertoire. *All ages.*



IMPROV 101 FOR ADULTS

Fri., May 9 | 3:30 p.m.
East Library

Are you looking for a way to improve your social skills, enhance your creativity, and make some new friends while having a ton of fun in a safe and supportive environment? Whether you have never tried improv before or you are a seasoned comedian, you are welcome to join us for two hours of laughing and learning together. Presented by Peak Improv Theater. *Ages 18+.* *Registration required.*

BATIK SHOPPING TOTES

Using wax and fabric dyes, create a batik style shopping tote, perfect for everyday use!

NATIVE PLANTS

Tue., May 13 | 2 p.m.
Ruth Holley Library

Join us for landscaping tips with Horticulture Specialist Allisa Zurbuchen from El Paso County CSU Extension. Learn how to find the right plants at garden nurseries and how to transplant them into your landscape.

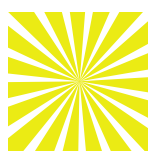
PALMER LAKE LIBRARY SUMMER LAWN CONCERT SERIES

Celebrate summer with a live three-concert series of music at the Palmer Lake Village Green and Gazebo! This is a free concert series, and everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy each one-hour performance. The Village Green and Gazebo is located next to Palmer Lake Library, 66 Lower Glenway Street.

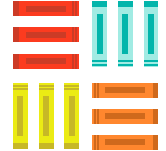
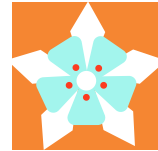
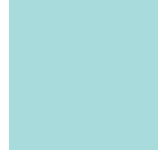
MANITOU SPRINGS LIBRARY SUMMER LAWN CONCERT SERIES

Celebrate summer with a live outdoor concert series of music at Manitou Springs Library! This is a free concert series and everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy each one-hour performance.

ADULTS



JUNE 2 – JULY 31
START YOUR ADVENTURE AT
ppld.org/summer



ALL AGES LIFE-SIZE BOARD GAME PARTY

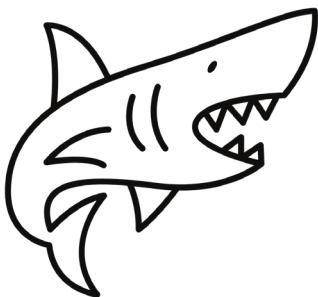
Bring the whole family and enjoy a twist on your standard game night using our popular life-size board games! Choose from Life-Size Candy Land, Life-Size Battleship, and Life-Size Clue. Team up generationally or mix it up for an intergenerational advantage and play all together.

TRIVIA: FANTASY EDITION

Are you a fantasy fanatic? Is your brain filled with trivia tidbits for epic adventures like *Percy Jackson* or *The Lord of the Rings*? Join forces or square off individually to test your knowledge of these fantasy favorites. Ages 13+.

SHARK PLUSHIES

From "Baby Shark" to Jaws, sharks are everywhere in our pop culture. Everyone has their opinion about the ocean's most misunderstood sea creature. Join us and learn about sharks while creating your own shark plushie! Learn basic sewing skills and leave with your own unique fluff-filled friend. Ages 13 - 18.



"I'M WITH THE BAND!" BRACELETS

Where do your musical loyalties fall? Show the world with a personalized bracelet that represents your favorite band or musician. We will provide the supplies so you can show off your band spirit with your own personalized bracelet! Ages 16 - 24.

MAKER CAMP

In this maker camp, you will learn the basics of all things makerspace. Over the course of a week, complete hands-on projects that teach you how to 3D print, sew, use a laser cutter, and create your own 3D designs with online CAD software. Sign up to become a master maker this summer! Ages 13 - 18.



FAERIE MAGIC AND LORE WORKSHOP

Do you have a love of faeries? Curious about their origins and how to encounter them? Whether you call them nymphs, elves, banshees, brownies, goblins, household spirits, pixies, or pookas, these enchanted entities have captivated cultures throughout history. In this workshop we will explore stories of the wee folk from all over the world, learn to understand the different types of fae, and how to interact with them. Ages 13 - 18.



FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Sat., May 3 | All Day
All locations

On Sat., May 3, Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) is teaming up with Muse Comics + Games to offer Free Comic Book Day comic issues! Free Comic Book Day is a nationwide annual event built around putting free comics into the hands of longtime comic book fans and curious new readers. Stop by any PPLD location during this one-day event to pick up a free comic book while supplies last.

COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP

Join Do Art Productions for an interactive comic book workshop where you will explore the different languages of comics and a dynamic pose drawing exercise. You may see juggling axolotls (similar to salamanders), flying giraffes, or dabbing pandas, the possibilities are endless! After seeing how easy cartooning and creative expression can be, we will create a comic together using the characters and creativity you generate!



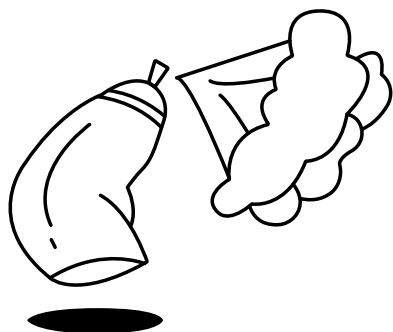


BAD ART NIGHT

Being bad has never felt so good! If you love art but don't consider yourself an artist (or even if you do), join us for Bad Art Night where we will do our best to make something imperfect, peculiar, or downright hideous. In this freestyle craft event, create your disaster-piece using a random assortment of craft supplies – paint, collage, or sculpt, as long as it's really bad! Ages 9+.

GALAXY SPRAY PAINTING

Create an out-of-this-world art project using stencils and spray paint. Be sure to wear clothing that you are okay with getting messy. Ages 13+.

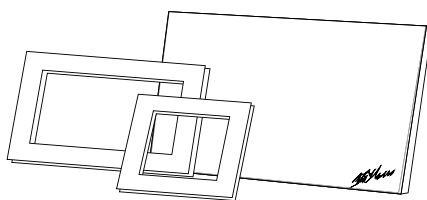


FANTASY MAP MAKING AND FIGURINE PAINTING

Are you a fan of Dungeons & Dragons? Join us as we create our own fantasy maps and paint playable Dungeons & Dragons figurines! Each participant will leave with their own unique map and figurine. Ages 13 - 18.

ESCAPE ROOM: THE COLOR SCHEME

Can you solve the clues with your team and break into the box in this escape room-like challenge? Band together and solve the clues to find your way out of The Color Scheme! Ages 13 - 18.



INTRO TO COLOR THEORY

Wed., July 23 | 3 - 5 p.m.
Ruth Holley Library

Join Dawn from Brush Crazy to learn the basics of color theory. Dawn will take you through the process, and by the end of the two-hour class, you will have your own small masterpiece. All materials included. Ages 13 - 18. Registration required.

TEEN GLOW EXTRAVAGANZA

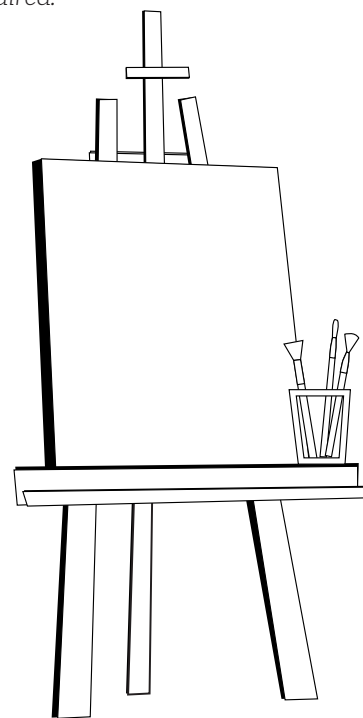
Sat., June 28 | 2 - 5 p.m.
East Library

Calling all teens! Join us for our Teen Glow Extravaganza, the glow-in-the-dark party for teens! Demonstrate your dance skills, rock out to music, engage in glow crafts and games, and enjoy refreshments in a glowing wonderland lit by black lights. We encourage you to wear white or neon to really glow! Ages 13 - 18. No registration required.

IMPROVE 101

Sat., July 19 | 2 p.m.
Penrose Library

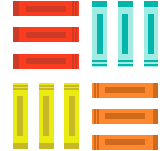
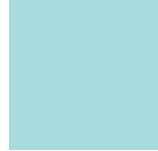
Are you looking for a way to improve your social skills, enhance your creativity, and make some new friends while having a ton of fun in a safe and supportive environment? Whether you have never tried improv before or you are a seasoned comedian, you are welcome to join us for two hours of laughing and learning together. Presented by Peak Improv Theater. Ages 13 - 18. Registration required.



TEENS



JUNE 2 - JULY 31
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EARLY LITERACY: MUSIC AND MOVEMENT FAMILY DANCE PARTY

Shake out those wiggles and have some fun! This 30-minute program consists of music and movement activities and a story. *Ages 2 - 5, with a favorite adult. Siblings are welcome too!*

EARLY LITERACY: PARACHUTE PLAY

Let's play, move, and sing with parachutes! This 30-minute session for kids ages 3 - 7 combines movement, rhythm, and games to build social skills and coordination—all while having fun!



EARLY LITERACY: BLOCK PARTY

Build, create, and play! Join us for a fun block-building session that sparks creativity and early math skills. Perfect for young builders to explore, stack, and design with blocks of all shapes and sizes. *Ages 0 - 5.*

IDEA LAB: SHIMMERY STATEMENT GLASSES

Create a pair of shimmery glasses or sunglasses and visit our selfie station for photos. *Ages 5 - 12.*

IDEA LAB: FAITH RINGGOLD DINNER QUILT

Taking inspiration from Faith Ringgold's Story Quilts, create a Dinner Quilt based on your family and your family dinner. *Ages 5 - 12.*

IDEA LAB: BRIDGE SCIENCE

Explore the science behind bridge building and engineer your own bridge. Accept the challenge to build a bridge that can support as much weight as possible while spanning a 16" container. *Ages 5 - 12.*

IDEA LAB: VIBRATION STATION

Explore the science of sound vibration with exciting activities and experiments. This program may get just a bit noisy! *Ages 5 - 12.*

TWEEN: DRAGON TRAINING AT THE LIBRARY

Calling all Vikings and Dragon Trainers! Join us at the Library for crafts and activities to help you learn everything you need to know to train a dragon. *Ages 9 - 12.*

TEEN AND TWEEN: MINI TERRARIUMS

Design your own terrarium, complete with your favorite Animal Crossing characters! Choose from a variety of fun stickers to decorate your terrarium. *Ages 9 - 18.*

TWEEN: BLOCK BUILDING FLOWER ART

Are you a fan of Minecraft? Do you feel like your space could use some new decorations? Stop by the Library and create a wooden block flower! Choose from a variety of designs to build and paint your own decoration. *Ages 9 - 12.*

HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM SWAP

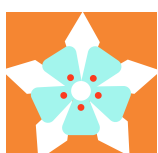
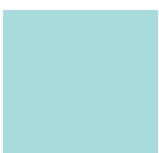
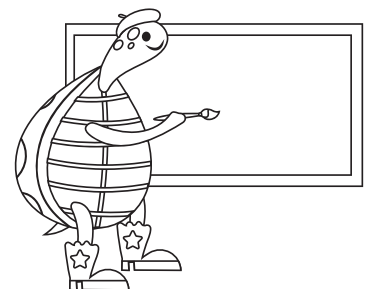
Fri., June 20 | 11 a.m. - noon
East Library Community Room

Looking for new curriculum and/or educational materials? Have a curriculum you don't need? Homeschoolers can bring curriculum, educational materials, books, and more to give to other homeschoolers at this once-a-year event. No selling. All sharing. Everything is free! You do not have to bring an item to participate. *Registration is only needed if you plan on bringing items to give away so we can have a table ready for you. Those bringing materials should plan on arriving at 10:15 a.m. Questions? Email Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org.*

HOMESCHOOL GAME DAY

Fri., Aug. 22 | 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
East Library (George Fellows Park)

Homeschool families are invited to an outdoor game day! Activities include four square, hula hoops, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, kickball, and more. Come prepared to play! *All ages are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled. Contact Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org with any questions.*





SUMMER FUN: SCIENCE HEROES

Join Science Heroes in their mission to turn science into an adventure! Through hands-on experiments and fun, interactive stories, we get kids excited about the science that's all around us as they celebrate the scientists who color our world with art! Ages 0 - 12.

SUMMER FUN: KIDS BILINGUAL COLORFUL YOGA

Join us for kid-friendly yoga, where we will explore mindfulness, breathing, stories, and songs in English and Spanish all while moving. Ages 0 - 12.



SUMMER FUN: PUPPET TALES - THE BUZZING BUTTERFLY

Benny Butterfly wants to be important to our Colorado ecosystem, like bees. He attempts to go to extravagant and hysterical lengths to try and fit in with the bees, but ultimately, he can't be exactly like a bee. Can Magic Dave and friends help Benny understand that just being himself is the best way to go? Based on the book: *Make Way for Butterfly* by Ross Baruch. Ages 0 - 12.

SUMMER FUN: WISHING STAR FARM

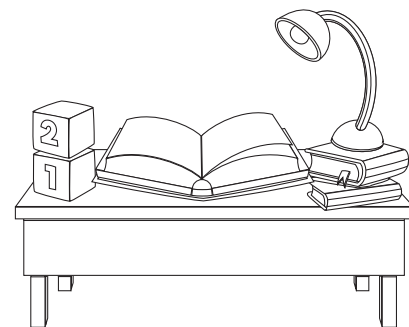
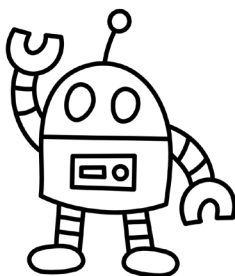
Come to the Library to meet some friendly animals from Wishing Star Farm. These programs are held outdoors. Ages 0 - 12.

SUMMER FUN: PETER RABBIT PRESENTED BY THEATRE ACROSS BORDERS

Little bunnies can still get into big trouble! Join Peter Rabbit on his adventure through McGregor's Garden. This interactive experience gives young kids permission to touch, wander, and chant along. A perfect introduction to Beatrix Potter's timeless characters that will inspire families to read together. Hope to see you there! Ages 0 - 12.

SUMMER FUN: BOTS! SECRET LIFE OF ROBOTS

Explore the world of robots that help improve lives daily, often going unnoticed. Join Mr. JD and his AI buddy, Cosmo, in an interactive educational show about the secret life of robots. Students will learn how robotic technologies that power our world can help people and improve our lives. Ages 0 - 12.



SUMMER FUN: KATHERINE DINES

Join Katherine Dines and her Hunk-Ta-Bunk-Ta® Music on a summer reading adventure. Experience traditional and original songs from her 13 award-winning albums, sign language, LOTS of movement, and zany props from around the globe. Ages 0 - 12.

SUMMER ADVENTURE CELEBRATIONS

Fri., July 11 | 10 a.m. - noon
Aga Park, Fountain

Fri., July 18 | 10 a.m. - noon

George Fellows Park, Colorado Springs

Thu., July 31 | 6 - 7 p.m.

Limbach Park, Monument

Join us for the ultimate bash as we celebrate 2025 PPLD Summer Adventure presented by Friends of Pikes Peak Library District! There is no cost to attend. *Learn more at* ppld.org/summer.

KIDS



JUNE 2 - JULY 31
START YOUR ADVENTURE AT
ppld.org/summer

COLOR-FUL COLOR-ADO

Ask a friend to provide words for the blank parts of speech without revealing the context of the story. Replace the blanks in the story with the chosen words. Read the completed story out loud for everyone to enjoy the hilarious results.

Color in the region isn't just in the _____
adjective

_____ sunsets that set Pikes Peak ablaze with fiery
color

reds and _____—it's everywhere! It's in the
plural noun

golden aspen _____ that _____ in
plural noun *verb*

the fall, the _____ blues of the mountain
adjective

shadows, and the _____ of wildflowers that
verb ending in "ing"

carpet the _____ in spring. Even the skies
noun

seem to join the show, flashing brilliant _____
plural noun

during summer sunsets or painting perfect _____
plural noun

on _____ winter nights. No matter the
adjective

season, this region is a living, breathing _____
noun

of color!



GAMES

IN COLOR

CODED ADVENTURE

Solve the math equations below to determine the value of each letter. Use the values to place the corresponding letters below to reveal a special message!

$$A = 2 + 8 - 6 \quad A = \underline{\quad}$$

$$D = 20 - 7 \quad D = \underline{\quad}$$

$$E = 7 \times 1 \quad E = \underline{\quad}$$

$$G = 10 - 7 \quad G = \underline{\quad}$$

$$H = 2 \times 4 \quad H = \underline{\quad}$$

$$I = 6 + 6 \quad I = \underline{\quad}$$

$$L = 3 + 7 \quad L = \underline{\quad}$$

$$M = 9 \times 2 \quad M = \underline{\quad}$$

$$N = 99 \div 9 \quad N = \underline{\quad}$$

$$O = 30 - 21 \quad O = \underline{\quad}$$

$$R = 4 \times 5 \quad R = \underline{\quad}$$

$$S = 25 \div 5 \quad S = \underline{\quad}$$

$$T = 13 + 2 - 1 \quad T = \underline{\quad}$$

$$U = 16 \div 8 \quad U = \underline{\quad}$$



10 7 14 5 20 7 4 13

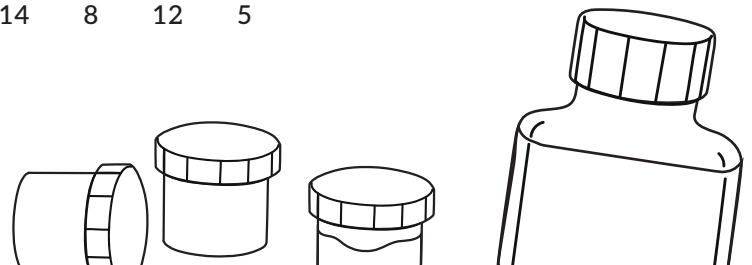
4 11 13

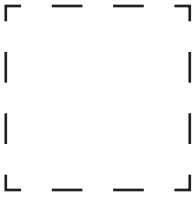
10 7 4 20 11

14 9 3 7 14 8 7 20

14 8 12 5

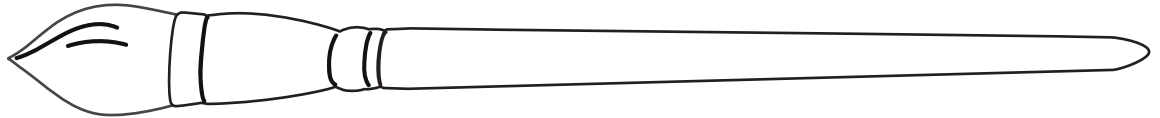
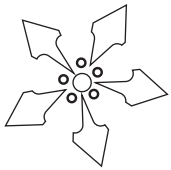
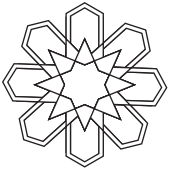
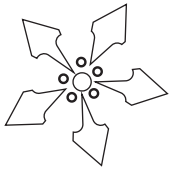
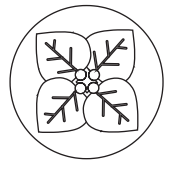
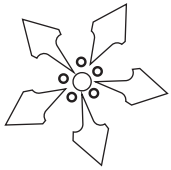
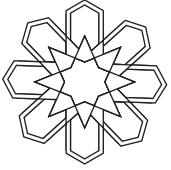
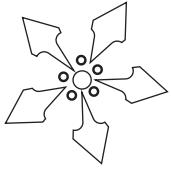
5 2 18 18 7 20





MIX N' MAKE-A-MURAL

Color in each square. Once all six are colored, carefully cut them out following the lines provided and see if you can align the cells in the correct sequence to connect the mural. *TIP: The sequence of the mural (3x2) stays the same but the individual tiles may need to be switched or rotated.*



COLORFUL NAMES

Can you think of an example of each of the following that has a color in it?

A Book Title: _____

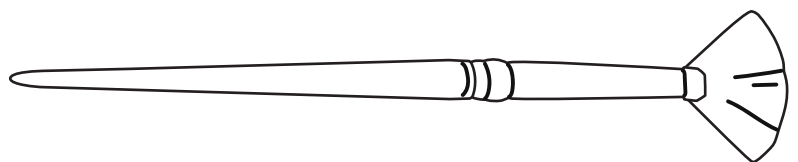
A Movie Title: _____

A Song Title: _____

Someone's Name: _____

An Animal: _____

Fruit or Vegetable: _____



STAR PATTERN

Starting from the bottom, use the pattern to figure out which symbol comes next, then draw it in the box provided!



Community Connections

What would be YOUR go-to crayon color?
Scan the QR and cast your vote!

Answers on p. 13

Calhan Library

600 Bank St., Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 531-6333, x7013

Cheyenne Mountain Library

1785 S. 8th St. #100, Colo. Spgs., CO 80905
(719) 531-6333, x7001

East Library

5550 N. Union Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80918
(719) 531-6333, x7014

Fountain Library

230 S. Main St., Fountain, CO 80817
(719) 531-6333, x7002

High Prairie Library

7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton, CO 80831
(719) 531-6333, x7003

Library 21c

1175 Chapel Hills Dr., Colo. Spgs., CO 80920
(719) 531-6333, x7012

Manitou Springs Library

701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Spgs., CO 80829
(719) 531-6333, x7004

Mobile Library Services

(719) 531-6333, x7702

**District Discovery**

Summer 2025 | Volume 7 | Issue 2

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66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake, CO 80133
(719) 531-6333, x7007

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20 N. Cascade Ave., Colo. Spgs., CO 80903
(719) 531-6333, x7015

Ruth Holley Library

685 N. Murray Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80915
(719) 531-6333, x7009

Sand Creek Library

1821 S. Academy Blvd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80916
(719) 531-6333, x7018

Ute Pass Library

8010 Severy Rd., Cascade, CO 80809
(719) 531-6333, x7011

Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) provides everyone with access to resources and opportunities so people can thrive and connect. The Library cultivates spaces for belonging, personal growth, and strong communities via 14 facilities, mobile library services, and a large online hub of resources. It is an internationally recognized system of public libraries serving a population of nearly 700,000 across 2,070 square miles in El Paso County, Colo. [Learn more at ppld.org](http://ppld.org).



(719) 531-6333 | ppld.org



COLOR OUR WORLD

OFFICIAL GAME CARD

PPLO.ORG/SUMMER



ACTIVITY TIME REQUIREMENTS



5 - 10 MIN.
Ages 0 - 3



10 - 20 MIN.
Ages 4 - 7



20 - 30 MIN.
Ages 8 - 12



30+ MIN.
Ages 13+

ACTIVITY CHART

Count one activity per day.



READ

Read or listen to a book in any form.
Reading to someone else counts!



EXPLORE

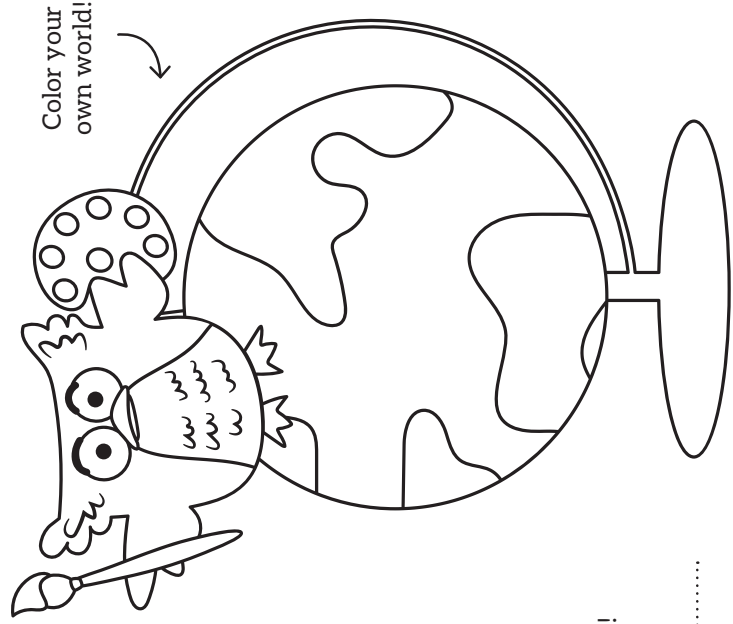
Move, play, hike, find someplace new, or
explore a new book, genre, or hobby!



CREATE

Write, craft, draw, build, or make
something - your imagination is the limit!

NAME:



HOW TO PLAY:

Register on Beanstack at ppld.org, on the app, or in person at a Library location!



Download the Beanstack app!

Complete 30 days of activities (either Read, Explore, or Create) from Mon., June 2 - Thu., July 31.

Track your progress by crossing off a spot on the tracker or logging a day in Beanstack for each day you complete an activity.

Complete the program after 30 days of activities and challenge yourself to complete the bonus round! Keep reading to earn additional entries into the grand prize drawing. Receive one extra entry (up to four) for each additional five days of activities you complete.



Cross off a spot for each day you complete an activity.



Looking for a challenge? Pick up an activity card at one of our Library locations or online at ppld.org/summer to enhance your adventure!



Start here!

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	EXTRA ENTRY	
Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28	Day 29	Day 30	Day 31	Day 32	Day 33	Day 34	Day 35	Day 36	Day 37	Day 38	Day 39	EXTRA ENTRY

YOU DID IT!

Pick up your prize by
Thu., July 31*
*while supplies last

The bonus round starts here!