

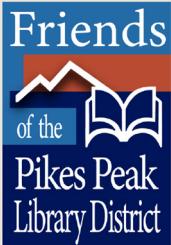
DISTRICT DISCOVERY



- p.4 ✓ Learn what it takes to become a librarian
- p.10 ✓ Celebrate 150 years of statehood
- p.12 ✓ Prepare for winter with the Winter Adult Reading Program

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

JOIN NOW



Letter from the CEO

Thank you for picking up the latest edition of District Discovery!

Pikes Peak Library District would not be able to provide so many services to our patrons without the dedication of our staff and volunteers, as well as the financial support of the PPLD Foundation.

In these pages, you will learn more about how our amazing volunteers contribute to our daily operations and the sense of satisfaction they receive from helping their community.

You will also read about the PPLD Foundation and how they support the Library's mission, including providing over \$1 million toward the purchase of Ruth Holley Library to support literacy and learning in the Pikes Peak region.

And you'll find out what librarians do. Spoiler alert: It goes far beyond helping you find a book or answer a reference question.

Patrons like you are the reason the Library District exists. We are here to connect you with the resources you need, and this magazine illustrates just some of the reasons we can make that happen.

Teona Shainidze-Krebs
Chief Executive Officer
Pikes Peak Library District





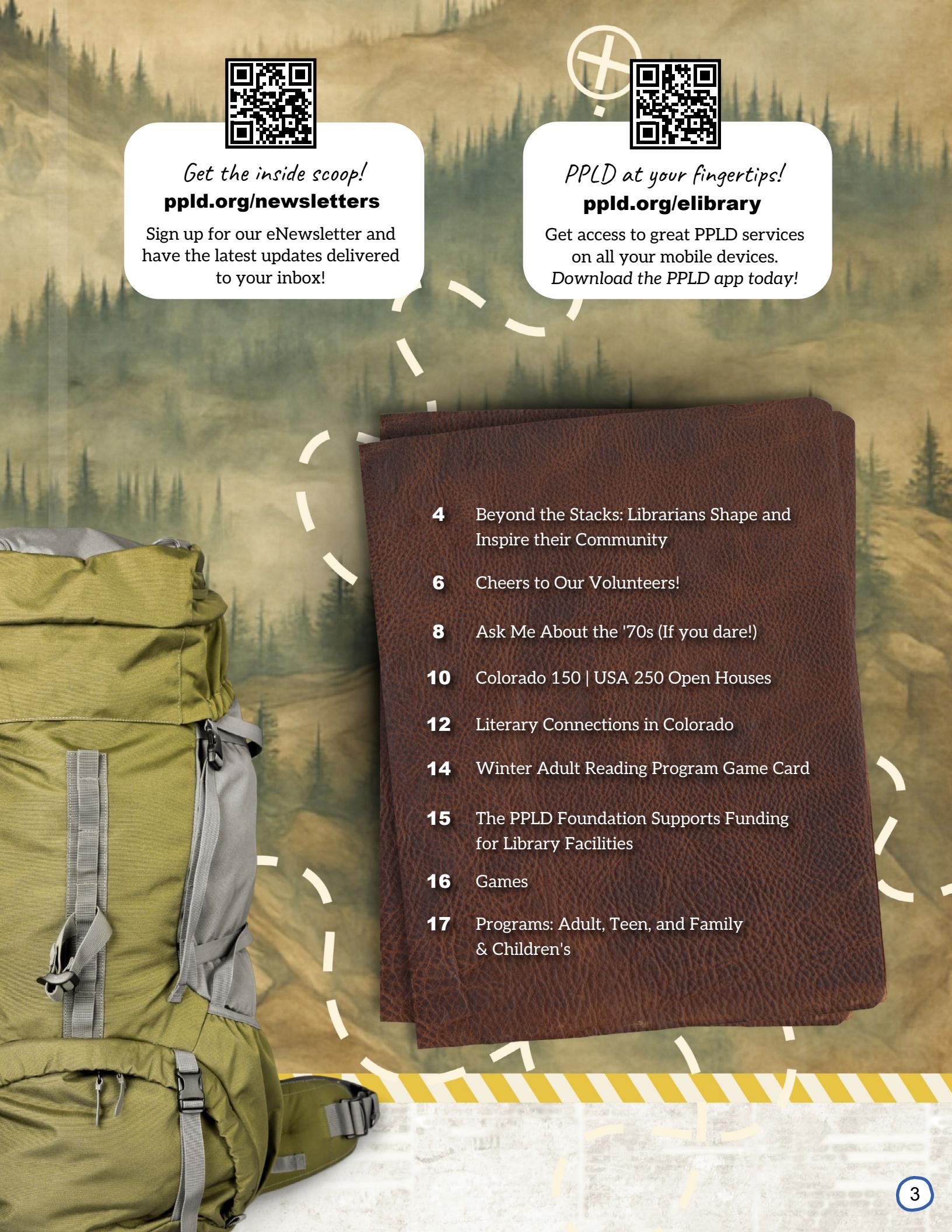
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BEYOND THE STACKS:

LIBRARIANS SHAPE AND INSPIRE THEIR COMMUNITY

By Jeanne Davant

Throughout Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), librarians work hard to serve Library patrons. Their impact on the community goes far beyond helping a Library user check out a book or answering a reference question.

It has been said that libraries are magical places and Library staff bring that magic to life.

Librarians are able to work that magic because they are highly skilled professionals who specialize in connecting people within and outside their libraries with information and resources. They must be technological experts and educators, teaching people how to navigate today's digital world. They oversee collections and direct the specialized programs that distinguish libraries today, such as makerspaces and recording studios, and reach out into the community to support other organizations.

"We do a little bit of everything," says Jennifer Luebbert, manager of Library 21c.

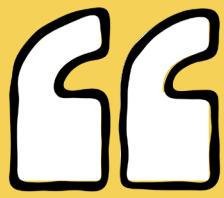
On a given day, Luebbert might lead a tour of the Library for a community organization, talk with a news reporter about what the Library has to offer, or speak at a community meeting.

"One of my favorite things to do is just walk through the Library and see all of the different ways the community is interacting with the Library," she says. That might be a business owner recording a podcast or an ad in the studio space, a patron transferring VHS tapes to a digital format in the makerspace, or a homeschooling group and their kids working in one of the Library's reservable meeting rooms.

"I really see how they're making a difference in the lives of patrons," she says.

Luebbert graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in history from the University of North Florida but didn't want to pursue a career as a teacher. So, she enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin where she received a master's degree in library and information science.

Luebbert first joined PPLD as a public services assistant at Monument Library, and in late 2016, she took a position as teen librarian at Library 21c. After she and her Navy officer husband moved to San Diego, she worked as programs and acquisitions librarian for the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot. When they returned to Colorado Springs in 2021, she became director at the Peterson Space Force Base library before rejoining PPLD in May 2024.



LIBRARIANS BRING FORMIDABLE SKILLS TO
THEIR JOBS, BUT WHAT MAKES THE MAGIC IS
THEIR PASSION FOR WHAT THEY DO."

Jordan Romero, PPLD's young adult senior librarian, connects students and teachers with Library resources every day. She spent a recent morning at Harrison High School showing 10th graders how to use the Library's databases and their PowerPass library cards (a just-for-students library card at participating school districts). She is often called upon to delve into issues like evaluating sources and statements on social media, and the increasing use of AI.

"Schools don't have as many resources as they'd like," she says. "The Library is a great way to connect students with resources they might not be able to afford."

Romero started as a part-time shelver at Sand Creek Library and a year and a half later, became that location's children's specialist.

"I had an art degree, but I didn't really know what I wanted to do," she says. "I just fell in love with libraries and working with the community. It was the first time I ever felt a calling."

While working full-time, Romero started taking classes at the University of Arizona Online, completing her master of arts in library and information science in 2023. She began working with ninth grade through post-secondary students as a school engagement librarian in July 2025.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Librarians work in a variety of settings, most commonly in public, school, and academic libraries, and independent, tax-supported districts like PPLD. Specialized librarians are also employed by federal and state governments, museums and historical sites, hospitals, performing arts companies, and scientific research and development services. Digital librarians specialize in electronic resources, digital archives, and online access for web search portals and other information services.



The District's librarians work under basic principles that have been established to protect the rights of its patrons and to optimize service. PPLD's Rights and Responsibilities are listed below:

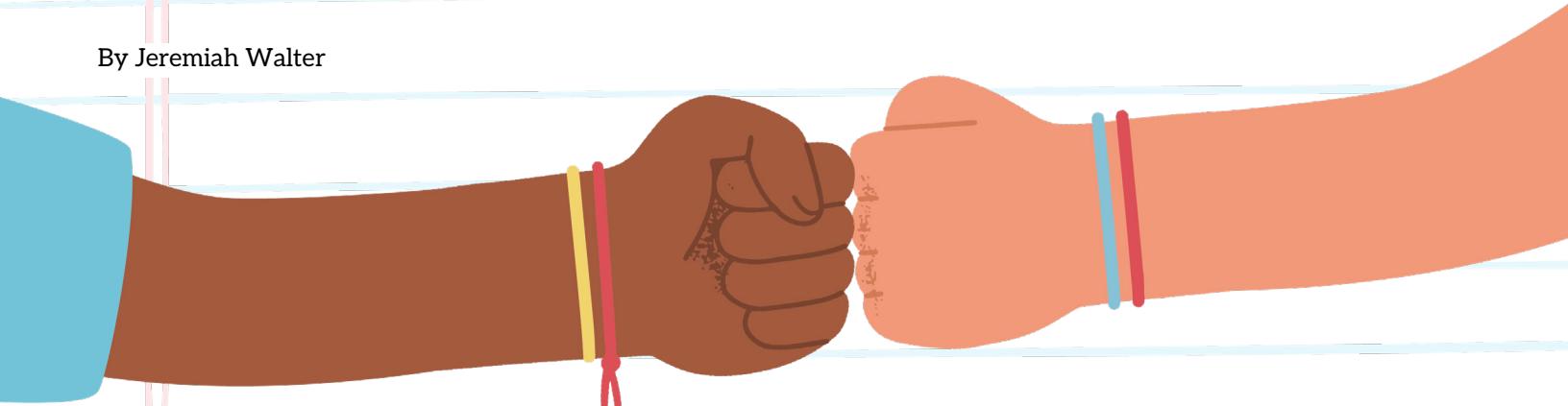
- ✓ PPLD understands its obligations under all local, state, and federal laws that govern library operations.
- ✓ PPLD seeks to provide free and equal access to basic library resources as outlined in PPLD's lending and circulation policies.
- ✓ PPLD commits to being open and accessible to the public no fewer than 20 hours per week in compliance with Colorado law.
- ✓ PPLD works to ensure patrons are not prevented by PPLD from accessing library materials or programs on the basis of race, sex, religion, or any other status protected by law.
- ✓ PPLD reserves the right to catalog materials by category, topic, age, reading level, or other standard cataloging metrics.
- ✓ PPLD agrees to adopt technology protection measures to enforce Internet safety for minors, while acknowledging guardians' rights to supervise and monitor their minors' access to materials or programs.
- ✓ PPLD aims to protect patrons' privacy and safeguard library use data in accordance with the law.
- ✓ PPLD endeavors to remain a nonpartisan, neutral entity, and its goal is to provide materials and information representing all viewpoints on current and historical matters.
- ✓ PPLD patrons are responsible for complying with PPLD policies regarding their conduct and use of library resources, as well as local, state, and federal law while on library premises.
- ✓ PPLD patrons are responsible for respecting the rights of others using library services, including the right to access and use library resources.
- ✓ PPLD retains the right to enforce PPLD policies to achieve its mission and maintain a safe environment for its patrons and staff.

"Librarians bring formidable skills to their jobs," Romero says, "but what makes the magic is their passion for what they do."

"You can learn how to manage information and how to direct people to resources," she continues. "But the one thing you can't really learn is to have a heart for people and really want to make life better for others."

Cheers to Our Volunteers!

By Jeremiah Walter



“

**In 2024, 373
volunteers donated**

**14,703
hours**

**of their time to help
Pikes Peak Library
District fulfill its
mission of cultivating
spaces for belonging,
personal growth, and
strong communities.”**

Volunteers are an essential part of any library. Their time and dedication make a huge difference not only for staff, but also for the communities they serve.

“Our staff are extremely thankful for all of our volunteers,” says Mariah Martin, senior library assistant at Monument Library, who coordinates volunteers at that location. “They help us with our day-to-day operations so much.”

In 2024, 373 volunteers donated 14,703 hours of their time to help Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) fulfill its mission of cultivating spaces for belonging, personal growth, and strong communities.

“Most of our volunteers come in because they love the Library,” says PPLD’s volunteer program supervisor Karen Goates. “If you can connect people to what they’re passionate about, I think it’s a better experience. Our volunteers find reward in giving back to the Library they have used. Some of them say, ‘My mom brought me here for Storytime. I love it, and I want to contribute.’”

Those contributions include helping process holds by pulling them off Library shelves or unloading bins of requested materials sent from other locations. These items are scanned and placed on hold shelves.

“It really frees up a lot of staff time to do more with patrons, host more programming, and have more time for planning,” says Martin.

Some long-time volunteers have been around to see changes in volunteer processes.

"It's gotten easier to do," says June Freyer, who has volunteered at Monument Library since 1998. "We used to write the borrower's name on the slip of paper, but that's done automatically [with printers] now."

Processes aren't the only things that have changed.

"The [volunteers] who have been here for 20 years, some of them have seen three or four managers, the staff has shifted, and yet they're still here," says Goates. "People enjoy the community that it gives them. They meet new people. They might be retired and not have a community. They come to the Library once a week and build a community around that."

"The atmosphere is very friendly and welcoming. I get a nice feeling volunteering there," agrees Freyer. "I've gotten to be good friends with people over the years."

There are benefits for younger volunteers, as well.

"Volunteering gives them a chance to learn work skills," explains Goates. "Being responsible, being on time, especially with the teen program. We actually require our teen volunteers to be in an online work skills program."

One such teen volunteer is Hannah, a senior at Discovery Canyon High School who is in her second year of volunteering at Monument Library.

"I find the idea of helping the people in my community very rewarding, but also the opportunities it provides to learn new skills," says Hannah. "Ever since I started volunteering at the Library, I have learned so much about its inner workings and it is extremely fascinating."

So fascinating, in fact, that a paid job at libraries may be in her future.

"I am considering a career in librarianship," says Hannah. "My love for the Library and librarianship has expanded due to the amazing opportunity to work with the lovely people at the Library and our community."

The importance of libraries is certainly not lost on Hannah.

"Librarians are a crucial part of the community," she says. "Knowledge is a resource that everyone has the right to access, and the Library provides this access. Without libraries, the world would be a darker and less knowledgeable place. It's a safe place for the community to gather and interact, which is necessary in this world."

With the generous contributions of its volunteers, PPLD can better provide those vital resources to the community it serves. Thank you to all who volunteer at Pikes Peak Library District and other organizations in the Pikes Peak region!

Volunteering at PPLD



Who Can Volunteer?

Applications are accepted from community members age 13 and older. (You will need your parents' or guardians' permission if you are ages 13 - 17.) We welcome volunteers with a variety of backgrounds, interests, abilities, and time commitments.



What Can I Do?

Volunteer opportunities vary depending on current needs. While most of our opportunities are long-term, short-term options are sometimes available.



Where Can I Learn More?

Current volunteer opportunities and more information can be found at ppld.org/volunteer.



Ask Me About the '70s

(if you dare!)

By Drew Cerino

A chill ran down my spine as the lion locked eyes with mine. One wrong move and she could be on me in a matter of seconds...

As I tell my son this story from my past, I can see his idea of who I am as a person expanding beyond the one-dimensional parent he usually sees. Our kids don't often see us as real people who lived different lives before they came along. Each and every one of us has a story worth telling; not because we were famous or did amazing things, but because those moments, big and small, led to who we are today.

Preserving your story is more than just a trip down memory lane. Psychologists have found that reflecting on life events can improve your mood and sharpen your memory. And when you share your story, it becomes a time capsule for future generations. It helps them better understand who you are and what your journey has been like.

If the thought of trying to recall distant memories (never mind putting together a cohesive life story) intimidates you, don't worry. There are plenty of ways to remember, organize, and write your history. Try any (or several) of the following:

Audio / Video

Chances are your cell phone has a built-in voice recorder. It's a great way to capture your thoughts as they come to you.

When you're ready, the Library District offers both video and audio studios where you can record your oral history... no writing required. Bonus: Have a family member interview you!



Written

Grab a journal and start writing or use a free service like Google Docs to gather and organize your memories. You don't need to be a polished writer – new technology makes it easier than ever to organize your thoughts into a cohesive narrative. But don't think that making a professional-looking book is out of reach. Many companies can print a beautiful hard copy of your book that will undoubtedly become a family heirloom for future generations. It could also be the start of a new family tradition!

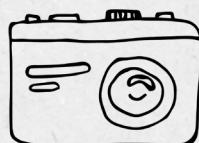
There are many online tools designed specifically to help jog your memory, including guided journals, writing apps, and interview-style prompts designed to fish those memories out of the recesses of your mind. Some of them even offer voice options that transcribe your thoughts as you speak.



Photo

Don't forget about those wonderful old photos. Modern cell phones can easily scan them for inclusion in your book. As you sort through your pictures, consider using your phone's audio recorder to capture any memories as they come to mind — you might be amazed at what resurfaces. Remember, the goal here is to share your story, so there is no wrong way to do it.

So, what are you waiting for? It all begins with jotting down the first memory... the rest will come from there!



“Preserve your memories, keep them well; what you forget you can never retell.”

- Louisa May Alcott



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SES-QUI-SEMI-QUIN-CENTENNIAL



In 1776, the United States declared its independence and became a country. In 1876, Colorado joined the 100-year-old country and became the 38th state.

These historical moments are converging in 2026 to celebrate the joint milestones of 150 years of statehood and 250 years of our nation's founding. Over the years, Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) played a strong role in serving the entire community, from the first public library in 1887, to the opening of the Carnegie Library where Penrose Library now stands in 1905, to its newest location Calhan Library, which opened in 2019.

Celebrate with the Library

PPLD is joining the national—and statewide—celebration with open houses and themed programs throughout the year. Our annual programs will each relate to this historic convergence, from our Winter Adult Reading Program with related events and activities to the Pikes Peak Regional History Symposium with its theme focused on "How the Pikes Peak Region Changed Colorado."

We will also host open houses at each of our Library locations (more information on the next page). While you are there, be sure to pick up an Open House passport!

Learn more at ppld.org/co150-usa250.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSES

You are invited!

In celebration of Colorado's 150th anniversary of statehood and the 250th anniversary of the U.S., Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) is hosting open houses at all our locations, plus our bookmobiles and Regional History & Genealogy department.

Enjoy activities and games, live entertainment, refreshments, and prizes as you explore the charms of each Library and discover what PPLD has to offer. You can also pick up a Library Passport and get it stamped at each Open House. Earn a prize when you collect seven stamps, and a second prize when you collect all 16.

We'll bring the food, fun, and prizes, you bring friends and family!



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**11 ALERT
NEWS**



**PPLD.ORG/
C0150-USA250**

SAT., JAN. 24	3 - 5 p.m.	Regional History & Genealogy Department (At Penrose Library)
TUE., FEB. 24	4 - 6 p.m.	Monument Library
WED., FEB. 25	3 - 5 p.m.	Manitou Springs Library
SAT., MARCH 7	2 - 4 p.m.	Fountain Library
SAT., MARCH 28	3 - 5 p.m.	East Library
FRI., APRIL 24	3 - 5 p.m.	Palmer Lake Library
SAT., MAY 9	2 - 4 p.m.	Library 21c
FRI., JUNE 12	10 a.m. - noon	Ruth Holley Library
THU., AUG. 13	3 - 5 p.m.	Penrose Library and Mobile Library Services
SAT., SEPT. 12	10 a.m. - noon	Cheyenne Mountain Library
THU., SEPT. 24	3 - 5 p.m.	Ute Pass Library
SAT., OCT. 3	2 - 4 p.m.	Sand Creek Library
FRI., OCT. 16	3 - 5 p.m.	High Prairie Library
WED., NOV. 4	3 - 5 p.m.	Calhan Library
MON., DEC. 7	4 - 6 p.m.	Old Colorado City Library



By Amy Gillentine

This winter, travel in the footsteps of a woman who braved the harshness of the Rocky Mountains in the 1800s, visit a haunted hotel, experience Denver as seen through the eyes of James Michener, and explore Colorado just like Jack Kerouac.

Or you can read another epic horror novel partially set in the town of Boulder, experience the upheaval from the deliberate flooding of a town, or discover the tragic life of a silver baron's wife.

During the **Winter Adult Reading Program** at Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), we invite you to view Colorado through the eyes of authors who created stories – both real and imagined – set in the Centennial State. This year's program runs from Jan. 1 – Feb. 28.

HOW TO PLAY

Register online with the Beanstack app starting Jan. 1, and at any Library location starting Jan. 2. Log 30 days of reading and activities from Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 to earn this year's limited-edition mug and a certificate for a dessert from Crumbl®. Register by Thu., Jan. 15, and you will be entered to win a four-pack of Crumbl® cookies every week for a year! Read any books you choose, including these books with Colorado connections.

Travel to Estes Park and visit the Stanley Hotel, the inspiration for Stephen King's *The Shining* and *Doctor Sleep* (the haunted hotel also appears briefly in *Billy Summers*). The Stanley, as locals call it, has a storied history of ghostly visitations, and hotel tours are available. The stately inn



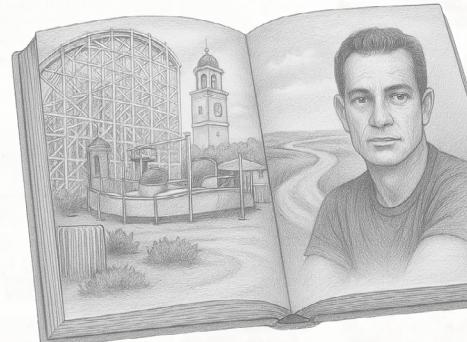
rests in the foothills of Rocky Mountain National Park, where you can also follow in the footsteps of Isabella Bird.

Bird was an outspoken woman from

England who traveled more

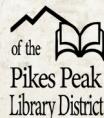
than 800 miles into the Rockies in 1873 and lived in a two-room cabin in what is now Estes Park. Her tales of life in the Rockies, sent in letters to her sister, led to her fourth and most famous book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*. There, she met Rocky Mountain Jim, a textbook outlaw with one eye and a love of both poetry and violence. The book's popularity earned Bird a place as the first woman to become a member of the Royal Geological Society in England.

James Michener's epic novel, *Centennial*, takes place in the plains of northeast Colorado. The tome covers several generations in a fictional town in Weld County – tracing lore from prehistory to the 1970s. Michener lived in Greeley for a time, and details in the book show that the town is located at the junction of the South Platte and Cache La Poudre rivers. Visitors can explore both rivers and learn more about the history that shaped the novel.

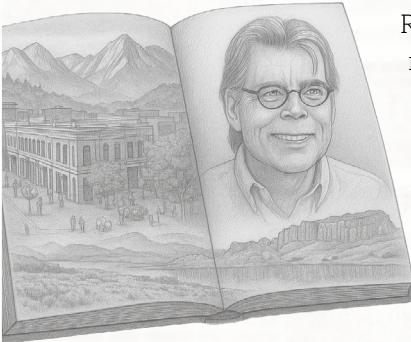


In *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac details his trip to Larimer Square in Denver, time spent watching a Colorado baseball game, and his visit to the opera *Fidelio* at the Central City Opera. After selling his first novel, he bought a house in Lakewood, where he once visited Lakeside Amusement Park. Like Kerouac, you can visit all three locations, but you will need to wait until summer for the amusement park, which is still in operation today.

Friends



crumbl.



Returning to the King multiverse, *The Stand*, an epic horror novel that spans 900 pages, is partially set in Boulder where King lived for a time. The city becomes a refuge in the fight for good against evil in the days after a pandemic wipes out more than 98 percent of the

population. Visit Boulder and imagine what it would be like without electricity, very few people and with winter setting in, while Randall Flagg, the novel's villain, plots in Las Vegas.

Go as a River is a national best seller by Shelly Read, who once resided in Colorado Springs. Readers may recognize this title from PPLD's 2024 All Pikes Peak Reads program where we chose it as our featured book. The novel is set at a time when the town of Iola was flooded to create the Blue Mesa Reservoir in Gunnison. The fictional

families must abandon their homes and jobs to make new lives elsewhere. Gunnison is home to the real-world Blue Mesa Reservoir, serving as a recreational area as well as a source of water for the city.

Visitors to Leadville can tour Elizabeth "Baby Doe" Tabor's cabin or visit the Tabor Opera House, built by her husband, silver baron Horace "H.A.W." Tabor. The story in *The Silver Baron's Wife* by Donna Baier Stein, starts when Baby Doe met Tabor. Despite both being married, they fell in love, divorced their spouses — quite the scandal in the 1800s — and married. The two lived a glamorous life until the nation moved to the gold standard. When Tabor died, Baby Doe was left with nothing but a small cabin and the Matchless Mine, a silver mine she was convinced would bring back her fortune.

PPLD's Winter Adult Reading Program serves to create incentives to read, reflect, and learn about the real history and the invented tales that have drawn authors to its plains, mountain tops, and cities for more than 150 years.

Learn more at
ppld.org/winter-reading



COLORADO

A sampling of other books with Colorado settings:

The Song of the Lark
by Willa Cather (fiction)

The Dog Stars
by Peter Heller (dystopian)

The Tie that Binds
by Kent Haruf (fiction)

Father and I Were Ranchers
by Ralph Moody (nonfiction, memoir)

Plainsong
by Kent Haruf (fiction)

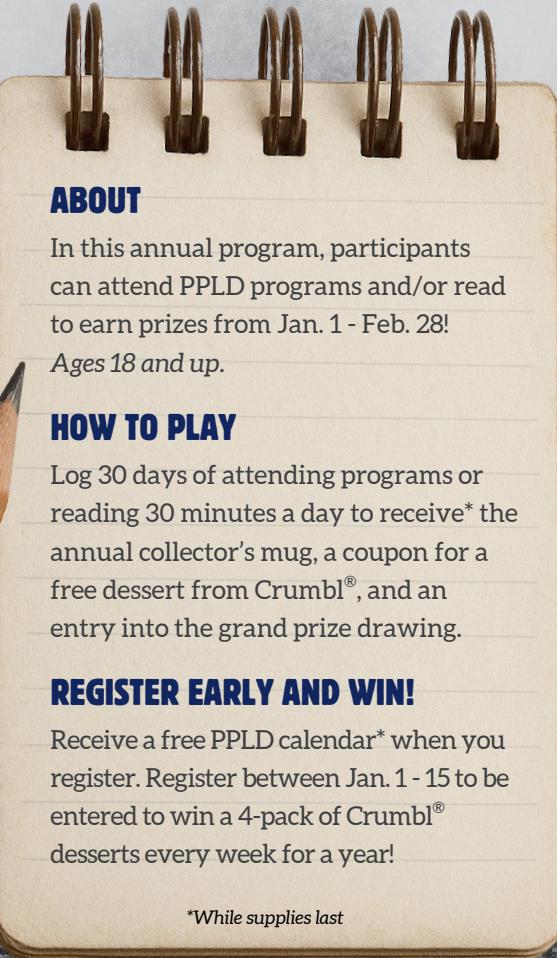
Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West
by Dorothy Wickenden (nonfiction)

The Stranger Beside Me
by Ann Rule (autobiographical true crime)

Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore
by Matthew J. Sullivan (mystery)

Bellwether
by Connie Willis (science fiction)

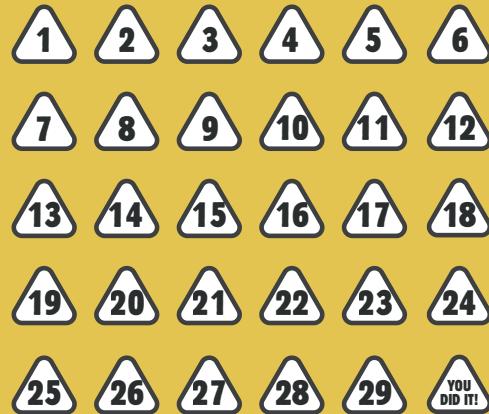




OFFICIAL GAME CARD

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Fill in a triangle below for each day that you complete 30 minutes of reading or attend a PPLD program.



READY FOR MORE?

Earn up to five additional grand prize drawing* entries for every additional five days of reading or programs.



*PPLD employees are not eligible for the grand prize.



LEARN MORE AT
PPLD.ORG/WINTER-READING

THE PPLD FOUNDATION

SUPPORTS FUNDING FOR LIBRARY FACILITIES

By Carla Bamesberger

Libraries receive much-needed funding from nonprofit organizations dedicated to the future of resources and services in their community. For Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), the PPLD Foundation is one of its key support organizations. This nonprofit raises funds for expenses at the Library District, including new equipment for Library makerspaces, database subscriptions for patron use, hands-on learning tools for kids in the Educational Resource Center at East Library, and facility upgrades.

The Foundation has supported PPLD alongside other organizations like the Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District for 22 years. It was established with a mission to raise and steward funds and resources to support the Pikes Peak Library District.

"You can't have a library without its infrastructure," says Courtney VanCleave, senior director of development and executive director of the PPLD Foundation. "The funds raised by the Foundation help keep our Libraries running smoothly."

As a distinct nonprofit organization that operates independently from the Library District, the Foundation has its own Board of Directors composed of volunteers who actively participate in fundraising efforts.

"It's rewarding engaging with donors and hearing about why they want to support the Library," says Marcie McNulty, the Foundation's individual giving coordinator. "They often have stories about how the Library has impacted them and their families. I've heard stories from donors who struggled in school and credit the Library for helping them graduate, or who found refuge at the Library during hard times in their lives."

Recently, the Foundation contributed over one million dollars toward the purchase of Ruth Holley Library to support literacy and learning in the Pikes Peak region. The purchase



highlights PPLD's ongoing commitment to the community served by Ruth Holley (the location's namesake) and allows PPLD to make needed improvements to the building.

Several times per year, the Foundation runs fundraisers such as its 2025 Pickleball fundraiser and the annual End-of-Year Giving campaign in December. They also work to build relationships with individual donors.

"I love bringing donors in to help them understand the full scope of all the amazing things PPLD does," VanCleave reflects.

Equally passionate about this aspect of the work, McNulty adds, "Sometimes I'm the one who finds out about PPLD resources when donors tell me about specific materials that helped them like PPLD's braille collection."

The Foundation also looks at other opportunities to help people get involved and give back. In November 2025, it hosted a young philanthropist workshop for children ages 7 and older called I Can Be a Philanthropist. During the event, children and their families enjoyed an engaging Storytime about philanthropy and making a difference in their community. After, they participated in a simulation where children could speak with representatives from local nonprofits to learn about their organizations. Children could then choose organizations to "donate" paper game money to based on what they wanted to support.

"We are here," VanCleave says. "We are always excited to help people get involved and give back."

Donations are welcome all year, even when the Foundation is not running a specific fundraiser. Any amount is welcome and contributes to providing access to literacy, learning opportunities, and enrichment for people of all ages throughout the Pikes Peak region. Anyone who wants to donate can do so at ppld.org/donate.



Answers on page 19



CENTENNIAL GAMES

STATE SEARCH

Can you find the words below?

Continental Divide

Union Pacific

Gold Rush

Centennial State

Western Slope

Front Range

Palisade Peaches

Green Chili

Mining

Rocky Mountains

Fourteener

Aspens

Elk

Colorado

STATE OF TRIVIA

How well do you know our state? Test your knowledge!

State Flower?

- a. Indian Paintbrush
- b. Rocky Mountain Penstemon
- c. Blue Columbine

State Bird?

- a. Lark Bunting
- b. Magpie
- c. Black-capped Chickadee

State Fish?

- a. Northern Pike
- b. Cutthroat Trout
- c. Mountain Whitefish

State Fossil?

- a. Stegosaurus
- b. Brontosaurus
- c. Allosaurus

State Tree?

- a. Blue Spruce
- b. Aspen
- c. Ponderosa Pine

State Animal?

- a. Mule Deer
- b. Bighorn Sheep
- c. Mountain Goat

STATE SCRABBLE

How many 3+ letter words can you find in the word **SESQUISEMIQUINCENTENNIAL**?

(Meaning: the combination of Colorado's 150th and the United States' 250th anniversaries)

10 - 19 Novice

20 - 29 Intermediate

30+ Expert



O	T	D	Y	R	Z	O	I	O	T	V	Z	P	V	Z	S	Z	L	P	I	E	H	Z	O
D	Y	Z	K	P	E	F	B	D	Y	U	F	R	O	N	T	R	A	N	G	E	W	E	F
K	G	G	P	C	L	L	C	K	G	N	G	U	B	A	Q	H	B	X	B	L	E	L	L
L	R	C	A	U	K	L	O	L	R	I	Y	E	U	I	S	P	Z	U	X	O	S	K	L
G	Y	J	L	P	O	I	L	G	E	O	O	J	M	I	A	P	S	M	C	S	T	O	I
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COLORFUL COLORADO COLORING

Grab your favorite art supplies and add color!



ADULT PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/adults



Beginner Guitar & Ukulele Club

Interested in learning basic chords and playing techniques? Come play and learn over the course of four weeks at Studio916, Sand Creek Library's free recording studio. No experience necessary, ages 9 and up. Registration required.

Studio Camp: Podcasting

Want to learn how to make a podcast? We will show you the basics of setting up the recording equipment, how to do effective interviews, and more. After that, you will learn how to do editing including adjusting the audio, adding sound effects and music, and other techniques. No previous experience needed. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.



Pregnancy and New Parent Classes

Are you pregnant or a new parent with lots of questions? Join Pikes Peak Library District and Nurse-Family Partnership for a six-week series of online prenatal classes. Each week, we will explore a different topic and wrap up with a Q&A session.

Container Gardens

Don't have enough space for a garden? No worries! Allisa Zurbuchen, horticulture specialist at the El Paso County Colorado State University Extension Office, will share hints and tips on container gardening techniques that allow you to grow more with less space. Ages 18 and up. Registration recommended.



Planning Your Garden

Tue., Feb. 24 | 2 p.m.
Ruth Holley Library

Unlock your garden's full potential! Learn how to choose the right plants, maximize your space, and optimize your planting schedule for a thriving garden. Join Horticulture Specialist Allisa Zurbuchen from the El Paso County Colorado State University Extension Office and gain the knowledge you need to cultivate a successful and vibrant garden this season. Ages 18 and up. Registration recommended.



Selecting and Transplanting Native Plants

Thu., April 23 | 11 a.m.
Library 21c

Unlock the secrets to successful native plant gardening! Join Allisa Zurbuchen, horticulture specialist at the El Paso County Colorado State University Extension Office, to learn the best practices for selecting, transplanting, and caring for native plants. Ages 18 and up. Registration recommended.



Peak Legacies: Leo and Hertha Mohl

Sat., Feb. 7

Fleeing Nazi persecution in Austria, Leo and Hertha Mohl immigrated to the United States in 1940. Their remarkable journey from Vienna to the Pikes Peak region tells a story of courage, reinvention, and belonging that still resonates today. Bob Mohl, their son, will share family stories, photographs, and reflections on his parents' extraordinary lives. Learn more at ppld.org/peak-legacies.



ADULT PROGRAMS



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. Join us at East Library, Library 21c, Penrose Library, and Sand Creek Library for monthly activities.

Celtic Steps

Enjoy the performances of one of Colorado's premier Irish dance troupes for traditional Irish step and Ceili dance.

Drop-In Watercolor

Come experiment with watercolors at this fun and informal drop-in session! We will supply brushes, paint, and paper; just bring yourself! A volunteer will be on hand to help and inspire. No registration necessary and all skill levels welcome. Ages 9 and up.

Repair Café

Together with our Repair Café volunteers, you will disassemble, troubleshoot, and possibly repair your broken items. Save money, help the environment, and learn repair skills with your local community!

Makerspace Equipment Foundations

Fri, Jan. 9 | 2 p.m.

Sand Creek Library

Do you want to get into making right away, but don't know where to begin? We will show you all the equipment, as well as what you need to know to be able to use it, what kind of software you will need to learn, and what you can and cannot do on each machine. Learn about 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl die cutters, and button makers available in PPLD's makerspaces. *Ages 9 and up.*

3D Printing & Laser Cutter Video Badging

Do you want to use the 3D printers or laser cutters in the makerspaces but have not been able to attend one of our classes? You can learn how to use the machines through our online training videos. Visit ppld.org/makerspaces for details.

Sewing for Seniors: Level 1

If you are sewing for the first time or for the first time in a while, come learn the basics on the sewing machines in PPLD's makerspaces. Gain new skills, get refreshers on existing skills, or test out new machines. We can also help you learn how to use a computerized machine. Create a simple project using Library sewing machines. *No previous experience required. All supplies will be provided.*



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/adults

3D Printer Badging and Modeling for Seniors:

Level 1

Start your 3D printing and designing journey with PPLD! We will create and print custom projects using Printables, a free, online 3D design resource. *No previous 3D printer experience required.*

3D Printer Badging and Modeling for Seniors:

Level 2

Dig deeper into 3D design with PPLD! Continue your journey with the Prusa 3D printers available in the PPLD makerspaces and grow your design knowledge. We will create and print custom projects using Printables, a free online 3D design software.

Prerequisites: Must have taken the 3D Printer Badging and Modeling for Seniors: Level 1 class.



Sorry! I'm Booked!

Sat., Feb. 7 | 6 - 8:30 p.m.

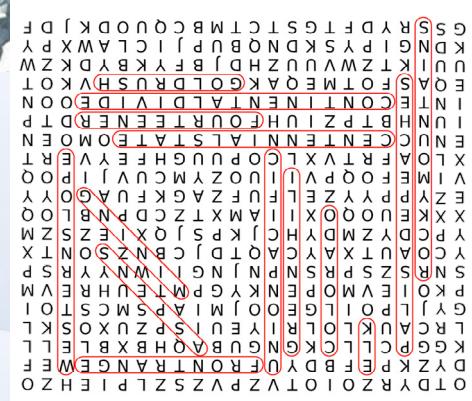
East Library

Calling all bookworms, book lovers, and bibliophiles: Join us for an evening to celebrate the joy of books and reading! Events include literary trivia, a book swap, an adult Storytime, bookish crafts, and book talks featuring the hottest new titles coming out in 2026. Show your literary love with a festive t-shirt or come dressed as your favorite literary character. You will also be able to sign up for the Winter Adult Reading Program and collect prizes.

Be sure to tell everyone, "Sorry, I'm Booked!"

For the book swap, bring your clean, gently used adult fiction and nonfiction books and swap them for new-to-you titles! Please only bring adult titles published within the last five years. No textbooks, manuals, or magazines.

Ages 18 and up. Offered as a part of the Winter Adult Reading Program.



STATE SEARCH

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TRIVIA

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Learn more at
ppld.org/winter-reading



Winter Adult Reading Program

Jan. 1 - Feb. 28

We invite you to explore and celebrate 150 years of Colorado statehood with the 2026 Winter Adult Reading Program! Log 30 days of reading and activities from Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 to earn prizes! Activities include reading for 30 minutes or more a day or attending a Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) program. This year's activities and programs are designed to help commemorate Colorado's 150th anniversary. Celebrate reading through local author and historian talks, Colorado-themed craft projects, making some very Colorado recipes. Bibliophiles and bookworms alike are invited to find a new-to-you read at one of the Book Swap programs.

To register, sign up with Beanstack beginning Thu., Jan. 1 or stop by the Library to register in person (curbside services available). After you register, stop by your nearest Library location to receive a commemorative Winter Adult Reading Program 2026 calendar featuring historic photos of El Paso County libraries (while supplies last).



Register between Jan. 1 - 15 to be entered to win a four-pack of Crumbl® desserts every week for a year!

TEEN PROGRAMS



Studio Camp: Short Film

March 23 - March 27
10 a.m. | Library 21c

Want to learn the ins and outs of producing a short film? Over the course of a week, work as a group to make a 3 to 5 minute film from start to finish. You'll learn everything from scripting and storyboarding to filming in a studio, and finally post-production editing. Afterwards, we'll screen the film for your family and friends. No experience needed. Ages 13 - 18. Registration required.

Your Clothes

Customized

Want to add some character to your clothes? Put some pizzazz in your accessories? Bring your own shirts, pants, shoes, hats, headbands, etc., and make them uniquely yours. We'll provide rhinestones, fabric paint, embroidery patches, and fabric scraps for you to create something truly customized. Please bring your own items; the Library will not provide clothes and accessories. Ages 13 - 18. Registration required.



Teen Makerspace Programs

The makerspaces at East and Sand Creek libraries, as well as Library 21c offer a variety of classes on using the 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing machines, and more. You'll learn how to create designs and then how to run the machines. Registration required. Ages 13 - 18.



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/teens



18th Annual Teen Art Contest

Colorado is turning 150! Help celebrate by creating a work of art inspired by your interpretation of this year's theme: Wild Colorado. Is it the majestic mountains and picturesque streams? The wildlife that enters your backyard? Extreme sports? Eccentric figures from the past or present? Gold rush towns that turned into ghost towns? Enter your piece for a chance to win a prize! Learn more at ppld.org/teenartcontest

Online applications

Due by Tue., Feb. 10

Award Ceremony

Tue., March 17 at 6 p.m. | East Library



Teen Craft Group

Bring a craft to work on while socializing with other crafters your age! Craft groups are open to everyone ages 13 - 18 and are a great opportunity to learn about new crafts, have a good conversation, and get to know more about the Library. No registration or crafting experience required.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at ppld.org/kids



Spring Break Performers

Check out our special Spring Break Performers March 23 - 27 at various PPLD locations. There will be dancing, animals, and a whole lot of fun! *Learn more at ppld.org/springbreak.*

Homeschool Science: The Magic of Science All Around Us

Thu., Jan. 15 | 1 p.m.
East Library

Join Stacey Lazzelle from the United States Air Force Academy's Department of Research to explore some of the fascinating science concepts that affect our everyday lives. Ages 6 and up. No registration required.



Homeschool Science Fair

Fri., Feb. 20 | 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Library 21c

Homeschool students are invited to demonstrate a science project for other families. There are no rules or guidelines for this non-competitive event, and planning is left up to individual families. Grades K - 12. Registration required to present.

Homeschool Art Show Call for art!

Homeschoolers can submit one artwork (drawing, painting, sculpture, needlework, etc.) for this non-juried exhibit. For Grades K - 12. Drop off your entry at the East Library Children's Area from March 23 - April 2. No registration required. Artwork will be displayed from April 4 - May 6. Questions? Contact jfleishhacker@ppld.org.

Homeschool Resource Fair

Fri., April 10
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Library 21c

Our annual Homeschool Resource Fair features a wide variety of local exhibitors offering educational and extracurricular opportunities for homeschooling families. There will also be fun hands-on activities for kids!

Homeschool Science: Heredity: Create a Bug

Fri., March 20 | 1 p.m.
East Library

Join the educators from STARBASE Peterson for this fun, interactive program to investigate genetic heredity. You will build and take home a unique bug model based on genetics and chance. Ages 10 - 14. Registration required.

Homeschool Science: History Detectives

Fri., April 24 | 1 p.m.
East Library

Join a team of Mission Agents from the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum for a series of hands-on activity stations. History Detectives in training will work with invisible ink, decoders, magnifying glasses, and puzzles to analyze artifacts, documents, and photographs from the Museum's collection. Grades 2 - 5. Registration required.



Homeschool History Fair

Fri., May 1 | 1 p.m.
East Library

Are you an aspiring history buff? Choose a historical topic, person, site, important discovery, technological advancement, or movement, then research it and present it at the event. Grades K - 12. Registration required to present.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Find dates, times, and locations at
ppld.org/kids



Homeschool Game Day

Fri., March 13 | 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Library 21c

Homeschool families are invited to an indoor game day! Activities will vary. Come prepared to play! All ages are welcome!

Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: Hoodoos On a Starry Night

Discover the beauty and science behind bewitching hoodoos, mysterious rock formations found on every continent! Recreate nature's "fairy chimneys" beneath the energetic swirling of a Van Gogh starry night sky. Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.

Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: Dog Portraits, Modigliani Style

Create an eye-catching dog portrait using watercolor, chalk pastels, and colored pencils, inspired by the elongated portrait style of Amedeo Modigliani and Leonardo da Vinci's mysterious Mona Lisa eyes. Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.



Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: Faux Glass Art Sculpture

Inspired by glass artist Dale Chihuly, artists will create vibrant faux glass art that really pops! Students will design an individual sculpture then contribute to a collaborative installation for the Homeschool Art Show. Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.



Homeschool Make-a-Masterpiece: Japanese Sumi-e Painting

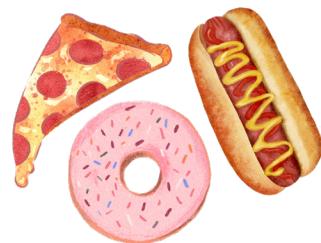
Sketch with us to capture the iconic architecture of a traditional Japanese pagoda, then add vibrant red elements and sumi-e techniques to create a moody and striking masterpiece. Ages 8 - 13. Registration required.

Tween: Crack the Code!

Unlock the mystery of secret messages! In this program, learn how codes and ciphers have been used throughout history and create your own secret messages. You will make Morse code bracelets, crack Caesar ciphers, and more in this hands-on learning experience. Ages 9 - 12.

Tween Makerspace Programs

The makerspaces at East and Sand Creek libraries, as well as Library 21c, offer a variety of classes on using 3D printers, button makers, sewing machines, and the Silhouette vinyl cutter. Tweens will learn how to create designs and then how to run the machines. Ages 9 - 12. Registration and parent or guardian required to attend.



Tween: Snack Magnets

Sculpt something deliciously adorable and create your own mini food-themed magnets using colorful clay. From tiny pizzas to mini donuts, you will shape and decorate your creations before turning them into magnets to take home and display. Ages 9 - 12.





Tween: Escape Room: Prevail Through the Oregon Trail

The journey west along the Oregon Trail is an arduous one. This morning, a member of your wagon team was bitten by a snake! The antidote is locked in a box. Can you get it before it's too late? Find the clues, solve puzzles, and help your team prevail! Ages 9 - 12.

Tween: LED Fuse Beads

Make your art shine using LED circuits! Design your own Perler bead creation and learn how to make it light up using real LEDs and simple circuits. Ages 9 - 12.

Tween Library Squad

Gain new skills, share your ideas, and make new friends - all while having fun! We want to learn from the experts (you!) what programs and events tweens want to see at the Library. Ages 9 - 12.

Spring Maker Day

Come to the makerspace to create fun spring crafts and explore what these creative spaces have to offer! Experiment with watercolors, fabric, paint, and other projects to give as a gift or keep for yourself. All ages are welcome, and all materials will be provided.



LENA Start

Join our 8-week program for parents of children 0 - 32 months. Each week, you will discover how everyday conversations build your child's brain, learn practical tools you can use right away, and use LENA technology to track and celebrate your progress. Register by Mon., Jan. 12 at ppld.org/kids/LENAsstart.

Idea Lab: Air Dry Clay Mosaics

Unleash your creativity to make a one-of-a-kind mosaic using air dry clay and seeds. Ages 5 - 12.

Idea Lab: Kaleidoscopes

Explore the Science of Light & Sound with a DIY Kaleidoscope. Test out different reflections created by your designs. Ages 5 - 12.



Idea Lab: Eric Carle Collages

Create a collage inspired by some of our favorite Eric Carle books. Which one might inspire you? Ages 5 - 12.

Idea Lab: Engineering Challenge

Use our simple materials and see what you can build. We will provide the Playdough, pipe cleaners, and craft sticks. You provide the creativity. Ages 5 - 12.

Idea Lab: Go Forth & Fort

Start with a book and then work collaboratively to build your best reading fort! Of course, you will be testing it out. Ages 5 - 12.

Idea Lab: Cowboy Culture

In honor of Colorado's 150th birthday, learn a bit about Cowboy Culture and our Western heritage. You may find yourself mining, panning for gold, or creating your own brand. Ages 5 - 12. The cookies used in this program contain known allergens.



Jean Ciavonne Poetry Contest

The annual Jean Ciavonne Poetry Contest engages 4th and 5th graders with poetry and writing. Learn more at ppld.org/poetrycontest.

Submissions

Due by Sat., Feb. 27

Awards Ceremony

Sat., April 25 at 10:30 a.m.
Penrose Library



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

Monument Library
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument, CO 80132
(719) 531-6333, x7005

Old Colorado City Library
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave., Colo. Spgs., CO 80904
(719) 531-6333, x7006

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

Penrose Library
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

District Discovery
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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.



(719) 531-6333 | ppld.org