

LOCATIONS

Calhan Library

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

Cheyenne Mountain Library

1785 S. 8th St.
(719) 531-6333, x7001

East Library

5550 N. Union Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7014

eLibrary

ppld.org
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Fountain Library

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

High Prairie Library

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

Library 21c

1175 Chapel Hills Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7012

Manitou Springs Library

701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs
(719) 531-6333, x7004

Mobile Library Services

ppld.org/mobile-library-services
(719) 531-6333, x7702

Monument Library

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

Old Colorado City Library

2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7006

Palmer Lake Library

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

Penrose Library

20 N. Cascade Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7015

Ruth Holley Library

685 N. Murray Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7009

Sand Creek Library

1821 S. Academy Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7018

Ute Pass Library

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



HOMESCHOOL HUB | ppld.org/homeschool-hub

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to find Library events and sign up for eNewsletters. Click on the "Resources" tab for information about getting started, Colorado homeschool law, local enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, and more.

OUR AMAZING MILITARY COMMUNITY

Colorado is a popular destination for a multitude of reasons. Plenty of sunshine, outdoor activities, and scenic views bring many people to the area. With the Air Force Academy, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base, Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base, and Fort Carson Army post, the Pikes Peak region is home to numerous military personnel and their families. It's no surprise that many of our patrons and staff were deployed here and decided to stay or return.

Many Pikes Peak Library District staff have ties to our military. While visiting Library 21c, folks are treated to meticulously detailed book displays created by Former Naval Special Intelligence Office Mindi Hudson. They can also take in the view of Pikes Peak from the Atrium. Many days, cadets and instructors from the United States Air Force Academy can be seen practicing aerial exercises in the distance.

Library 21c Manager Jennifer Luebbert, a former librarian at Peterson Space Force Base and a United States Navy veteran, can see this spectacle from her office. Her military experience has strengthened teamwork and streamlined the library experience for staff and patrons alike.

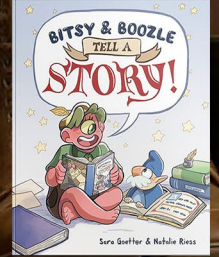
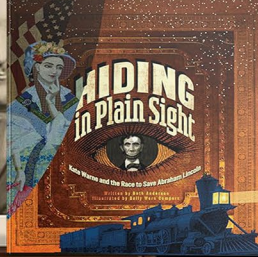
One patron, currently stationed at Fort Carson, said, "the library has always been a place where I could feel safe and, even when I wasn't. It is nice to know I will find a friendly, welcoming place and I know what to expect when I visit the library."

Many military families find homeschooling an easy and efficient way to provide continuous education and skill building for their children. Being able to find resources that are both applicable and relevant can be difficult. From the Educational Resource Center at East Library to districtwide programs and online databases, PPLD's Homeschooling resources are varied, engaging, and educational.

PPLD supports our military families by providing resources and material, multifaceted programming, and Makerspace equipment to help families feel at home when they are visiting any of our 14 locations.

Electronic resources such as eBooks, HelpNow (live tutoring and more), and research databases are also available while using the Library remotely.





THE BOOKSHELF

Hen in the Bed

by Katerina Charman;
illustrated by Guilherme Karsten

This packed-with-personality retelling of the “Ten in the Bed” nursery rhyme stars a cast of appealing animals who brush their teeth and climb into a crowded but cozy bed. A speckled chicken directs events, chanting a count down along with the refrain, “Roll over! Roll over!” One by one, each critter humorously follows directions (split pages similar to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* vividly show the action). There’s a happy ending of course, as everyone settles back in. A fun book for bedtime sharing, reinforcing counting backwards, and simple subtraction.

Ages 4 - 8; Counting; Nursery Rhymes; Animals; Humor

Stalactite & Stalagmite

by Drew Beckmeyer

It begins millions of years ago as water drops seep into a cave, picking up minerals, and initiating the formation of a stalactite hanging from above slowly dripping down to form a stalagmite on the ground. Of course, the two form a bond, chatting through the millennia and watching the comings and goings of a trilobite, triceratops, giant sloth, and even humans, as they grow ever closer. Lighthearted text and delightful artwork tell a funny tale of friendship sprinkled with scientific concepts just begging to be explored.

Ages 4 - 8; Friendship; Caves; Geology; Humor

Hiding in Plain Sight: Karen Warne and the Race to Save Abraham Lincoln

by Beth Anderson;
illustrated by Sally Wern Comport

Set in 1861, this edge-of-your-seat true story describes how Kate Warne, the first female detective in the United States, went undercover as a southern belle to uncover – and ultimately thwart – a plot to kill president-elect Lincoln as he traveled from Illinois through a divided nation to Washington D.C. for his inauguration. Sepia-toned illustrations convey the action with an old-fashioned flair, and several pages of historical notes and photos fill in the details.

Ages 7 - 10; American History; Presidents; Female Detectives

Pocket Bear

by Katherine Applegate

Pocket, a small stuffie originally created to nestle inside a soldier’s jacket during World War I, and Zephyrina, an intrepid feline with high-level cat burglar skills, are the heart and soul of Second Hand Chances Home for the Tossed and Treasured, where a kindhearted girl named Dasha rehabilitates and rehomes forgotten toys. When Zephyrina finds a very old bear in a trash can, soon eyed by a greedy toy dealer, the characters hatch a plan to save him. Exploring the secret lives of toys (and cats) and themes of love and friendship, this charming book is a great family read-aloud.

Ages 6 - 12; Toys; History; Animals; Friendship; Bravery

Bitsy & Boozle Tell a Story!

by Sara Goetter & Natalie Riess

Storytelling runs in her family, and Bitsy, a smiling cyclops-type creature, is determined to narrate a story in the third person. Boozle, a grumpy old wizard, reluctantly agrees to be her protagonist. As his humorous adventures unfold (he must climb Story Mountain to find his happily ever after), he and Bitsy (and readers) learn how to tell an effective tale (along with the appropriate literary terms and concepts). This fun graphic novel provides both an adventure and an intro to writing that will inform and encourage young writers.

Ages 7 - 12; Creative Writing; Adventures; Graphic Novels; Humor

DID YOU KNOW? OUR LOCAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

United States Air Force Academy

Seven years after the Air Force was established as its own service of the military, Colorado Springs became home to the main training academy for Air Force cadets. Visitors can request access to the athletic department, visitor center, or planetarium. Roughly 900 cadets graduate every year and are commissioned to the Air Force or Space Force.

Peterson Space Force Base

The Colorado Springs Army Air Base started at the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport. After World War II, the base was closed, and the land was returned to Colorado Springs. After the formation of the Air Force, the base was reopened a few times but wasn’t officially reactivated until the 1950s. Peterson Field was dubbed Peterson Air Force Base in 1976 and then renamed Peterson Space Force Base in 2021. This base is home to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) which perhaps most famously tracks Santa every year.

Schriever Space Force Base

Renamed after retired General Bernard A. Schriever, this base began as Falcon Air Force Station. It changed from an Air Force Base to Space Force Base when the Space Force was designated as its own military branch in 2019. This base continues to grow!

Fort Carson

During World War II, the land that now makes up Fort Carson was purchased by Colorado Springs and donated to the War Department. At first a temporary Army post, it was dubbed Camp Carson after “Kit” Carson, an Army scout who explored the West in the 1800s. During the war, nearly 100,000 soldiers were trained at Camp Carson. After World War II, its future was unclear but during the Korean War, it officially became a fort, and more training land was purchased. Today, it is known as the Mountain Post. It’s home to about 25,000 soldiers and roughly 90,000 people overall.

ONLINE RESOURCES: MILITARY FAMILIES

Sesame Street For Military Families

sesamestreetformilitaryfamilies.org

This free, bilingual (English and Spanish) website offers families information and multimedia resources on the topics of military deployments, multiple deployments, homecomings, injuries, grief, and self-expression.

Babies on the Homefront

babiesonthehomefront.org

This site provides military and veteran parents ideas for enhancing everyday moments with their baby or toddler.

Veteran Training - VA Resources

veterantraining.va.gov/parenting/index.asp

The VA's parenting program provides resources and support for military and veteran parents, including information on child development, parenting skills, and managing the challenges of military life.

MCEC - Military Child Education Coalition

militarychild.org

MCEC supports all military-connected children by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle.



PLACES TO VISIT



United States Air Force Academy Planetarium

usafa.edu/facilities/planetarium

This Planetarium offers a diverse range of full dome and IMAX films, educational events, and live events. Homeschool specific programs are also offered.



United States Air Force Academy Visitor Center

The Barry Goldwater Visitor Center offers a glimpse into cadet life and the Academy experience (usafa.edu/facilities/visitor-center). The USAFA's new General Bradley and Zita Hosmer Visitor Center (usafa.edu/facilities/hosmer-visitor-center) is scheduled to open in May 2026 outside the North Gate of the Academy. It will feature many interactive exhibits chronicling the cadet journey and the legacy of graduates.



National Museum of World War II Aviation

worldwariaviation.org

As visitors interact with the exhibits, they'll observe the expertise and ingenuity of the pilots with stories brought to life. There are at least 20 fully restored aircraft on display.



Fort Carson 4th Infantry Division Museum

history.army.mil/Army-Museum-Enterprise/Find-an-Army-Museum/4th-Infantry-Division-Museum

Located on Fort Carson, this museum is dedicated to the history of the 4th Infantry Division from 1917 to the present.



Peterson Air & Space Museum

petemuseum.org

Colorado's oldest aviation museum shares the engaging aviation and space history of Colorado Springs and Peterson Space Force Base.

PPLD RESOURCES

Online resources can be accessed at ppld.org/databases and require a valid library card and PIN number. Search for each by title.

Gale in Context: Elementary

This database gradually lets elementary school children gain comfort with research by delivering age-appropriate, reliable, curriculum-related content covering a broad range of subjects.

History in Context (U.S.)

Covers themes, events, individuals, and periods in U.S. history from pre-Colonial times to the present.

History in Context (World)

Reaches back nearly 5,000 years to chronicle the rise and fall of cultures and societies across all continents and eras. Includes rare primary sources and reliable references.

Military & Veterans LibGuide

research.ppld.org/military-veterans/home

This guide offers local information and general resources for Colorado-based military, veterans, and their families. Links are included to community resources, numerous military history websites, and much more!

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-EASY

- A Paper Hug* by Stephanie Skolmoski
Finally Home by Cortney Cino
Purple Up! We Salute Our Friends by Sarah Scheerger
When Your Daddy's a Soldier by Gretchen Brandenburg McLellan
My Military Mom by Claudia Harrington

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-NONFICTION

- H Is For Honor: A Military Family Alphabet* by Devin Scillian
Military Families by H.W. Poole
Talking About Deployment: A Sesame Street Resource by Charlotte Reed
Parents Here and There: A Kid's Guide to Deployment by Marie-Therese Miller

BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-BIOGRAPHY

- Heroism Begins with Her* by Winifred Conkline



A graphic for a Homeschool Resource Fair. It features the text "HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR" in large, bold letters. To the right, it says "FRI., APRIL 10 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. LIBRARY 21c". The graphic is decorated with various school-related icons like a pencil, scissors, a ruler, a globe, a lightbulb, a clock, a book, a microscope, and a globe.

KIDS ACTIVITY: SAY THANK YOU!

Taking the time to pen a handwritten letter is a great way to say thank you to those who serve our nation. Letters from children, as well as drawings, are always most appreciated.

Here are some tips for getting started from Operation Gratitude (operationgratitude.com/volunteer/anywhere/letters):

Express Gratitude: Acknowledge their selfless service, dedication, and sacrifice.

Keep It Timeless: Avoid dating your letters, as it may take several months to be delivered.

Make It Personal: Share a bit about yourself—your family, hobbies, pets, work, school, or travels.

For kids under 18: Use first names only, and skip adding addresses for safety. If you include drawings, let us know your age, but avoid using glitter.



Send to:
Operation Gratitude
19748 Dearborn Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311

BOOKS FOR TEENS: FICTION

- The Right Fight* by Chris Lynch
Hazard by Frances O'Roark Dowell
Dirt Bikes, Drones, and Other Ways to Fly by Conrad Wesselhoef
The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson
Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick
Sunrise over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers
Personal Effects by E. M. Kokie
Trajectory by Cambria Gordon
Four-four-two by Dean Hughes

BOOKS FOR TEENS: NONFICTION

- Exploring Careers in the Military* by Leanne Currie-McGhee
25 Women Who Protected Their Country by Emma Carlson Berne
The Dark Game: True Spy Stories by Paul B. Janeczko
The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II by Candace Fleming
The Tuskegee Airmen by Christine Zuchora-Walske
Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive adapted by Laura Hillenbrand
Devotion: An epic Story of Heroism and Friendship by Adam Makos
Men of the 65th: The Borinqueneers of the Korean War by Talia Aikens-Nuñez

TEENS ACTIVITY: EXPLORE MILITARY VOICES

StoryCorps started with a mission: "to help us believe in each other by illuminating the humanity and possibility in us all – one story at a time." Since its founding in 2003, this nonprofit organization has recorded nearly 700,000 stories from people all over the United States. The collection in the U.S. Library of Congress is the single biggest collection of human voices ever gathered. The Military Voices Initiative provides a platform for veterans, service members, and military families to share their stories.

Find out more and explore at storycorps.org/discover/military-voices.

If you have a service member in your life, consider asking to hear their story. Don't know where to start? Story Corps provides a list of great questions to you talking!



Do you have feedback or ideas for a Homeschool Connections issue? Please email Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org.