

Youth Services Staff: New to Colorado, or New to Youth Services!

Congratulations on your new position, and welcome to the Colorado library community!

This brief guide will help get you ready for your new position by outlining some useful Colorado email lists, contacts, websites, parent resources, unique programs, professional development, summer program processes, an annual statewide youth services program timeline, and grant opportunities. We hope it will be a helpful introduction.

Mailing Lists

We strongly encourage you to subscribe to the CYS-Lib and OBCO lists below, as well as any others that meet your needs and interests.

- **CYS-Lib (Colorado Youth Services Library staff)**. Please subscribe to CYS-Lib right away! This is the primary way for you to receive important information about the summer reading program, upcoming trainings, a monthly newsletter, resources, and more from the State Library. It's a great way for you to contact and ask questions of other youth services staff around the state, too.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/cys-lib_cvl-lists.org
- **CYAAL (Colorado Young Adult Advocates in Libraries)**. If you'll work with teens, this list will allow you to receive information from the State Library and other staff statewide that work with teens.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/cyaal_cvl-lists.org
- **CoProLib (Colorado's Programming Librarians)**. Designed for library staff in Colorado to exchange information on adult, teen and children's programming.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/coprolib_cvl-lists.org
- **Libnet (Library network)**. This general list is for all types of library staff and is by far busiest of all of these lists.
http://www.cvl-lists.org/mailman/listinfo/libnet_cvl-lists.org

State Library Contacts

Beth Crist (crist_b@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6908) is the Youth & Family Services Consultant at the State Library. Please contact me when you begin your new position to introduce yourself! Please consider me a resource that you can contact anytime with questions, challenges, ideas, success stories, suggestions, etc. I'd love to hear from you!

Joyce Johson (johnson_joyce@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6660), Growing Readers Together Coordinator, works with library staff statewide interested in participating in the Growing Readers Together program that brings together libraries and informal childcare providers.

Kate Brunner (brunner_k@cde.state.co.us; 720-355-2198), Regional Early Literacy Specialist - Southwest and Central Colorado, provides library staff in Southwest and Central Colorado with consultations, training, and Play, Learn and Grow workshops for childcare providers.

Melody Garcia (garcia_m@cde.state.co.us; 720-355-2217) Regional Early Literacy Specialist – North and Eastern Colorado, provides library staff in North and Eastern Colorado with consultations, training, and Play, Learn and Grow workshops for childcare providers.

Website

- Colorado State Library Youth & Family Services website:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibraryDevelopment/YouthServices/index.htm>
All about the [summer learning program](#), early literacy and teen resources, archived professional development, past newsletters, and more.

Relevant Statewide Library Associations and Groups

- [CLEL \(Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy\)](#). CLEL is a group of librarians from CO (and beyond) working to strengthen young children's literacy through library services and community advocacy. Your membership will connect you to a network of library staff committed to making a difference in their communities, who can help you make a difference in yours. And it's FREE to join, so sign up today! 
- [CAL \(Colorado Association of Libraries\)](#). The mission of CAL, an ALA chapter, is to unite to advocate for quality library services, support access to information, and foster the professional development of our members. Membership fees vary. CAL offers an annual conference, a variety of annual awards, and a number of divisions and interest groups. 
- [CLiC \(Colorado Library Consortium\)](#). CLiC, a nonprofit, is a collaborative organization that empowers library staff to better serve their communities through resource sharing (including the statewide courier system), professional development for library staff, and statewide initiatives. Check out their discounted rates on a variety of library vendors, including databases for kids! 

Parent Resources

[Parent Brochures](#). The State Library offers “Getting Ready to Read” brochures for parents that are free for your library to order in quantity, available in English and Spanish. The brochures offer simple ways for parents to incorporate early literacy activities into their daily lives.

[StoryBlocks](#), a project of CLEL and the State Library, features short videos of Colorado library staff demonstrating rhymes and songs along with a brief explanation of why the activity promotes early literacy skills. These videos are excellent resources for parents as well as library staff and volunteers.

Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendars. These beautifully illustrated perpetual calendars, available in English and Spanish, provide a fun early literacy activity each day for parents, caregivers, and ECE educators. To request free calendars, complete [this online form](#).

- [Colorado Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar](#) (PDF)
- [Colorado Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar](#)- in Spanish (PDF)

Professional Development

- Fall YS Workshops. Each autumn, State Library staff present all-day regional workshops that cover the upcoming summer learning program as well as other useful youth service topics. Watch CYS-Lib in the late summer for the schedule; usually there are 4 offered in varying locations around the state.
- Online from the State Library. State Library staff regularly offer online professional development trainings and informal meetings on a variety of youth services topics; watch CYS-Lib for upcoming sessions. A calendar of upcoming in person and virtual events can be found at CSL’s [Libraries Learn website](#).
- [CALCON](#). Each September, CAL offers a 3-day conference for all types of library staff in the Front Range.
- CLiC. [Each spring](#), CLiC offers 2-day workshops in Grand Junction and Pueblo, and a 1-day workshop in Fort Morgan. These reasonably priced short conferences offer a range of session topics.
- [CLEL CON](#). CLEL offers an excellent annual conference and leadership institute all about early literacy and services for kids birth-6 year olds and their families in the fall in varying locations or online.
- [Colorado Teen Literature Conference](#). This annual conference, usually in April, provides a unique venue to bring both teens and educators together to learn about and celebrate young adult literature.

Kits Available to Borrow

The State Library has many kits for your library to borrow that will allow you to provide very hands-on programming quickly and cheaply. These kits span a wide range of interests and types of activities, and are great for a variety of age groups. View all of the kits here:

<https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/resource-sharing/resource-kits/>

Programs Unique to Colorado

- [Growing Readers Together](#). Growing Readers Together (GRT), now in its 5th year of operation, partners with public library systems across the state to engage with Family, Friend & Neighbor (FFN) childcare providers through an enhanced focus on early literacy. Thanks to generous support from the Buell Foundation, project staff work with public library staff to develop programs and resources for FFN providers, enhance their collection of quality children’s literature, engage in new partnerships with Early Childhood Councils and other stakeholders and update their Children’s Areas.
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- ReadingRecord. ReadingRecord is an open-source, web-based application for libraries to track Summer Reading Program participants. It can be used to track most any kind of reading program: traditional summer reading programs, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten programs, year-long programs, etc. As this is open source, any library with solid tech support can host it themselves for free. For Colorado libraries that do not have dedicated tech support, Westminster Public Library has agreed to host ReadingRecord free of charge. There is a very low cost hosting option available as well. See <https://www.readingrecord.net/dokuwiki/doku.php> for more info, or contact Eric Sisler, lbylnxgek@gmail.com.

Summer Learning Program (SLP) Processes

Colorado belongs to the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), which almost all states use. The SLP annual cycle begins each fall, when libraries that have completed their SRP report from that summer will receive the coming year’s SLP manuals (one per branch, unless you request less); these usually arrive in October, though the exact timing varies each year. Each manual includes hundreds of programming ideas, book and media lists, artwork, handouts, and more. Also in the fall, the State Library will offer regional workshops on the coming year’s SLP, along with other useful youth services training.

SLPs usually run June and July in Colorado, though there is lots of variation, and it’s up to each library system to decide its own schedule. There will be a short report from the State Library in August that your library must complete for the entire library jurisdiction (not each branch); your library must complete the report in order to receive summer materials the following year.

A little later in fall, libraries that completed their summer report from that summer will receive small “kits” from the State Library that will include basic supplies like posters, bookmarks, reading logs, and rubber stamps (exact items and quantities vary depending on what’s available that year). Generally we provide one kit per branch to libraries that want them.

As part of CSLP, the national annual Teen Video Challenge encourages teens to create short videos that promote summer reading and library use to fellow teens. The contest accepts submissions June and July. There are 5 national winners, who receive a cash prize. Watch for full guidelines on CYS-Lib each November.

Statewide Youth Services Programs Timeline

March

- Receive SLP kits
- CLiC workshops in Grand Junction and Fort Morgan

April

- CLiC workshop in Pueblo
- Colorado Teen Literature Conference

May

- Reforma Colorado Conference

June-July

- CSLP Teen Video Challenge
- Summer learning program—whew!

August

- Summer programs end! Relax and rest up!
- Please complete the State Library's summer program report (deadline: late August)

September

- CAL Annual Conference

October

- CLEL Annual Conference
- Receive CSLP manuals
- Fall youth services workshops begin

November

- Fall youth services workshops continue



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