



Great Reads from Great Places 2026

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

The winners of North Dakota Center for the Book Great Reads from Great Places have been announced! Drumroll please...

Youth

"July 4, 2026: The Tenacious 10 Celebrate the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence" by Paulette Bullinger and Kevin Kremer

Readers join nine teenagers and their friendly robot -- the Tenacious 10 - on a historic adventure to celebrate America's 250th birthday! This time, they are traveling to each state capital, showing talking holographs of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Over the course of three weeks, readers follow their journey, learning our nation's history along the way!



Adult

"They Caught Them Sleeping: How Dot Reinvented the Pretzel" by Jeff Kolpack

This title is a success story of American entrepreneurship! Meet Dorothy Henke, rural North Dakota native. With a combination of determination, steady work-ethic, creativity, and help from friends and family, Dorothy became known as Dot by Americans across the country! Dot's Pretzels were a smash hit and continue to be a favorite today!



Library/School Author Visits

Each author will visit four libraries (or schools). If your library is interested in hosting one of these three authors, fill out this [survey](#). The survey closes on September 16, and visits can begin as early as October.

[Learn More](#)

Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries Conference Recordings

The recordings of our Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries Virtual Conference are now available for viewing in Niche Academy! Due to agreements in place with our external speakers, these recordings will only be available for 30 days. You will need to log in to view the recordings - if you don't have an account, you can enroll for free.

[Niche Academy](#)



Shelf Additions

By Kathy Cline

Hi-Lo Books: Meeting Readers Where They Are

With reading scores trending downward in school-aged youth nationwide, hi-lo books may be more important than ever. These titles support struggling or reluctant readers, as well as ESL students, by offering content that is:

- Age-appropriate
- High interest
- Low-reading-level
- Engaging
- Aligned with the Science of Reading

This month's *Shelf Additions* provides a short list of potential hi-lo books to consider for your collection. I encourage you to explore the resource links for many more titles.

[Continue Reading](#)

Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

Spring is coming in and May brings flowers. May also brings some great professional development and networking opportunities. Check out these fantastic webinars being presented by North Dakota State Library staff.

[WordPress Q&A](#)

May 12 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Public Library Director Hangout](#)

May 13 (2:00 PM – 2:45 PM)

[The Light and Dark Side of AI: Implications for Academic Libraries](#)

May 20 (2:00 PM - 2:45 PM)

[Free Webinar Opportunities](#)



Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month

In 1949, Mental Health America (MHA) founded Mental Health Awareness Month and has since worked to promote mental health wellness nationwide. Mental Health Awareness is recognized annually in May. The 2026 theme is *More Good Days, Together*.



This theme encourages individuals to reflect on what a “good” day looks like for themselves and their communities, and how through advocacy, education, and community engagement we can work together to make good days possible for everyone.

Green is recognized as the color representing mental health awareness, with symbolic meaning tied to mental health conditions, particularly depression. In nature, green is a symbol of new life, renewal, and growth. Green ribbon campaigns express the belief that anyone experiencing mental health challenges can find recovery, healing, and personal growth. The color green serves as a visual reminder to take care of one’s mental health and to show compassion for others in our communities.

[Continue Reading](#)

New Book by Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center!

Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC) is proud to announce the launch of its new children’s book, *Body Safety with Scout*, a child-friendly resource designed to help children learn about personal safety and boundaries. The book officially debuted in Dickinson on May 6th, 2026, at the Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center. The first 50 children received a free “paw-tographed” book and met DCAC staff and Scout.



Created by DCAC staff and inspired by the organization’s beloved therapy dog Scout, *Body Safety with Scout* introduces children to three core body safety rules in a simple and empowering way. Through engaging storytelling and approachable language, Scout helps children understand appropriate boundaries. The book is the first in a planned series of Scout safety books, each focused on helping children build skills to stay safe and confident in different environments. At the end of the book, children can earn a Scout safety badge by completing the story and practicing lessons they’ve learned.

With the support of community partners and donors, DCAC will distribute copies of *Body Safety with Scout* throughout the Dickinson area. The goal is to ensure families across the community have access to tools that support child safety education. Don’t live in the Dickinson area? No problem! This book can be purchased on Amazon or directly through the Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center.

The mission of the DCAC is to provide a safe, family-friendly environment that promotes hope, health, and healing to abused children and their families. They do this through a partnership of local and state agencies such as law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors’ offices, advocates, mental health and medical professionals.

By expanding prevention education through initiatives like *Body Safety with Scout*, DCAC continues its mission of protecting children and strengthening families throughout the state.

[Learn More](#)

Beanstack by the Numbers

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Beanstack by the Numbers highlights how many minutes or books have been read for Beanstack challenges through North Dakota State Library. It also lists next month's challenge(s). Have fun reading and earning badges!

April 2026 Monthly Reading Challenge

Participants of *Spring into Reading* read 23,813 total minutes.



2026 Yearly Challenge

During the month of April, 444 books have been read for the *40 Books Reading Challenge*. Since January 1, 1,264 books have been logged for this activity!



May 2026 Monthly Reading Challenge

May begins our CSLP Summer Reading Challenges: *Unearth a Story!* These challenges will run from May 1 to August 31 to accommodate for the different start and end times of libraries' summer reading programming. *Unearth a Story* tracks minutes read.



There are four categories for participants:



Teens (13-17)



Children's (7-12)



Early Literacy (0-6)

What Can You Do if You Finish the Unearth a Story challenge before August 31st?

You have options!

Option 1: Continue working on the *40 Books Reading Challenge*.

Option 2: Read more than the designated number of minutes. While you will not earn extra badges, Beanstack continues to count extra minutes logged. Can anyone double their designated amounts?!

Option During the Month of July: *America 250 Reading Challenge*.

This challenge runs July 1st through July 31st. Participants read 300 minutes as they honor 250 years of stories, innovation, and history. Plus, during the month of July, minutes will count towards BOTH the Summer Reading and America 250 Challenge!

Kids have Additional Options

Early childhood: *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*

Elementary: *500 Books Before Middle School*

Middle and High School: *100 Books Before Graduation*

Statewide Reading Challenge

Sure, Beanstack offers individual challenges for readers...however, what about a collaborative one? During Summer Reading 2026, NDSL challenges North Dakota readers to work towards a goal of 100,000 minutes across the state! Can we make it?

Beanstack

An advertisement for 'NDLA News' featuring a 'New Merch Drop'. The ad shows a blue hoodie, a grey tumbler, a green mug, and a maroon hoodie. A 'SHOP NOW' button is visible. The NDLA logo is in the top right corner. On the left, there is a 'shirts' logo with a yellow arrow pointing down to the text 'SEARCH NORTH DAKOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'.

AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

AI Index Report 2026

The [Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI](#) (HAI) recently released its annual AI report. It is essentially a detailed update and report card on AI. The [2026 report homepage](#) says, the "AI Index offers one of the most comprehensive, data-driven views of artificial intelligence." The report "equips policymakers, business leaders, and the public with rigorous, objective insights into AI's technical progress, economic influence, and societal impact."

The [full report](#) is over 400 pages long. Thankfully, HAI has provided a summary of the report for those of us with a TLTR (too long to read) mentality.

[Continue Reading](#)

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

[North Dakota Histories](#)

- 50th Anniversary, Carson, North Dakota, 1910-1960
- 60th Jubilee, Flasher, North Dakota: 1902-1962
- Fredonia Golden Jubilee, 1904-1954
- Golden Jubilee, Gackle: 1904-1954
- Hazen, 1913-1988
- Kulm diamond jubilee, Kulm, North Dakota, June 26 & 27, 1967: supplement to 1957 jubilee book
- Lehr Golden Jubilee, 1898-1948
- Seventy-fifth anniversary of the dedication day of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 1905-1980, Donnybrook, North Dakota
- Strasburg alumni reunion, July 2, 3, 4, 1965, Strasburg, North Dakota
- Venturia Golden Jubilee, 1901-1951
- Wishek Diamond Jubilee, 1898-1973



[North Dakota Memories](#)

- Augedahl Confectionery in Davenport, N.D., circa 1885-1910
- Augedahl Confectionery interior, Davenport, N.D., circa 1885-1910
- Davenport, N.D., High School Band, 1940
- Emmett Salberg in a sailor uniform, 1943
- Exterior of the Myhra store, Davenport, N.D., circa 1886-1908
- Letter from Norton Salberg to Lillian Schmidt, 1918-10-14
- Northern Pacific Railway ticket, 1942
- Two men machine gun training for Army, Georgia, circa 1918



[North Dakota School for the Blind](#)

- North Dakota School for the Blind Report, 2023-2025

[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Invitation to North Dakota inaugural ceremonies, Nov. 1921

[Digital Horizons](#)

Library Tidbits

The [Bernice Ferguson Library in Michigan](#) is putting together a community cookbook with the goal of highlighting a family recipe from each household and business.

[Leach Public Library](#) received a \$500 grant from Penguin Random House and United for Libraries.

West Fargo Public Library is offering [Golden Gatherings](#), a new series of social hour events especially for seniors, on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM. These casual events will include refreshments, mingling, and connecting with librarians.

In Other News

- Amazon Business has introduced [Books for Libraries](#), an online hub that simplifies library purchasing. It includes library-exclusive pricing discounts, fast shipping, Integrated Library System (ILS) integration, MARC records, professional book reviews, and a new release calendar.
- The [North Dakota Department of Agriculture](#) is looking for stories of North Dakota women farmers to celebrate the International Year of the Woman Farmer! They will be featured throughout 2026 to help amplify the voices of women farmers and ranchers.
- The ND Insurance Reserve Fund has partnered with the ND Association of Counties and ND League of Cities to offer members a free [educational webinar series](#), educating ND political subdivisions in digital ADA compliance before the 2027 and 2028 compliance deadlines.
- [Believe in Reading Grant](#) funds any programs supporting reading and literacy, including English as a second language programs or projects for the blind or visually impaired for a maximum amount of \$10,000. The deadline is May 15, 2026, but they will reopen later this summer.
- The Library of Congress is opening [The Source](#), a research and exhibition space for kids ages 8-15, on May 9.
- Join STAR Net on May 26 (3:30 PM and 6:30 PM) for [The Story of a Mission to the Moon with Paul Byrne](#). Learn about NASA's Artemis 2 mission and all that transpired on our first journey around the moon in over 50 years and look ahead to the future of the Artemis program in this live, interactive virtual program. Feel free to host a viewing party as a library program and invite your patrons.
- The ND Department of Commerce Office of Community Development and Rural Prosperity is hosting [Art as Economic Development](#), a Community Chats Webinar, on May 14 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM) with Jessica Christy, Executive Director of the ND Council on the Arts, to provide valuable ideas and inspiration to help integrate arts and culture into your community development efforts.
- The [2026 North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism](#) is now open, inviting North Dakotans to share the beauty, character and inspiration found across the state. The contest is open through August 31, 2026.

Kit of the Week

Giant Polydron

Children as young as two can use the oversized interlocking pieces to build child-size 3D boats, blocks, and houses. The rugged textured blocks easily clip together and include Braille. Children will have fun learning shapes, colors, and engineering principles while replicating the designs on the box or inventing their own creations.



This kit includes 20 square pieces (5 red, 5 green, 5 blue, 5 yellow), 20 triangle pieces (5 red, 5 green, 5 blue, 5 yellow), and 1 folder containing an inventory guide and a beginning construction guide.

Learn more about this kit in this week's episode of Library Kits Unboxed at <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1D3ppiwRKV/>

[Reserve This Kit](#)

Card Catalog Looking for a Home!

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

The Library of Congress has gifted North Dakota a card catalog that is looking for a library that will give it a good home, where patrons and library staff can truly enjoy this piece of literacy history. All types of libraries are encouraged to apply!



The card catalog is approximately 15.5 inches tall, 33.5 inches in length, and 17.5 inches in width. It does require a base or tabletop since it doesn't possess legs.

Are you interested in obtaining the card catalog for your library? Fill out the form below before May 14 to be in the drawing.

[Apply Today](#)

Free Screenings of Flag Day Film for ND Public Libraries

Flag Day is a new documentary about the largest Flag Day parade in the United States and the community that has kept that tradition alive for more than seventy years. Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LHJ6t8q4sY>.

Filmed with verité intimacy, *Flag Day* follows eight intertwined lives across a single town, offering a ground-level portrait of ritual, identity, connection, and what it means to be American at a deeply divided moment.

The film is available for FREE community screenings at public libraries. Host a screening of Flag Day to commemorate the holiday, America's 250th, or just to gather your community. Our hope is to offer the film as a resource and tool to vital institutions that bring people together.

Libraries that host a screening will receive a discussion guide, promotional materials and a free Flag Day poster. Register at <https://www.flagdayfilm.com/host>

Public Library Routines Project University of South Carolina

Thanks to funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the University of South Carolina is recruiting public library workers in managerial and non-managerial positions to two studies that are part of the Public Library Routines Project. This project aims to uncover problematic routines in public libraries and learn their impacts, what staff do to work around them, and how successful those workarounds are.

Study #1 is open to anyone working in a public library in a managerial role. Complete a brief screening interview, create a series of simple diagrams reflecting on your views of worker development, and participate in a 60-minute Zoom interview where you will discuss those diagrams. The total time commitment is approximately 3-4 hours, including preparation and the interview.

Study #2 is open to public library workers with identities that are in some way marginalized and/or underrepresented. Complete a brief screening interview, respond to some prompts on your own, and then bring your responses with you to an interview. The total time commitment is approximately 3-4 hours, including preparation and the interview.

Management Study

Non-Management Study

Your participation in this research study is entirely confidential. You will also receive a \$35 gift card.

The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian
ISSN: 1068-5383

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis.

www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.

Times referenced are Central Time.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

