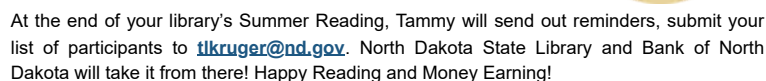


**Submitted by Tammy Kruger**

New accounts receive \$25; existing accounts receive \$10. Ten winners across the state, separated by regions, will win \$529.

YOU get to decide what the requirements are for completion of the Summer Reading program for your patrons. Ages birth through adulthood can participate. (Adults will need to set up an account for a child, birth through high school graduation.)



**Register Before May 9**

**Submitted by Kathy Cline**

EarthDay.org has created the Earth Day theme for the last twenty-one years. The 2025 theme, which is “Our Power, Our Planet”, rallies behind the global use of renewable energy and clean electricity by 2030. While this article provides libraries with links to Earth Day resources, I encourage using the [A to Z Resources](#) such as Britannica, Explora,

The State Library recently hosted a webinar presented by Kim Bartels and Amanda Hong from the Region 8 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Kim and Amanda are seeking library partners for a new “Our Healthy Schools” program. Watch Kim and Amanda’s EPA Region 8 Community Library Program presentation in the [Niche Tutorial](#).

- The program is free of charge.
- It includes an extensive list of high-quality EPA educational resources.
- Libraries can select resources based on community needs.
- Hard copy resources will be mailed to participating libraries.
- Materials can be distributed to take home or placed in the library for circulation.
- EPA guest speakers are available.
- Opportunities for indoor/outdoor air monitoring.
- Participants can implement EPA's [Air Quality Flag Program](#).



Figure 1: Community Library Program Overview

Figure 2: Library Outreach Resources

[The Old Farmer's Almanac: Celebrating Earth Day Ideas](#)  
[HISTORY.com: Earth Day 2025 - Origins, Theme, Celebration](#)

**Source:**  
*Earth Day 2025: Activities & Resources for April 22.* Earth Day. (2025, March 27).  
<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>

# National Library Outreach Day

Submitted by Monica Struck

National Library Outreach Day (formerly National Bookmobile Day) is celebrated during National Library Week. It celebrates all of the ways in which libraries are meeting patrons where they are. This can be done through bookmobiles/outreach vehicles, pop up libraries at community events, home delivery services, and more! Even though the date has already passed (April 9), I would like to highlight some of our outreach stats from 2024.

## Bookmobiles

# of bookmobiles: 11  
Miles traveled: 68,952  
Stops: 3,077  
Circulation: 152,440  
# of patrons who visited: 90,355

## Other Outreach Activities

# of outreach vehicles: 8  
# of offsite circulation kiosks: 26  
# of patrons who received home delivery: 281

Library Outreach is hard work, and I appreciate all you have done to bring your libraries into your communities. Keep up the good work!



## What's New in Niche?

### [Niche Academy: Lifelong Learning and Discovery.](#)

This newly created resource is geared toward the public

Category - [Critical Thinking Skills](#)

New Tutorial: [Critical Thinking Skills - Challenging Your Own Ideas](#)

This one discusses how challenging your ideas is an important part of critical thinking. By knowing how to think through your ideas, you gain a bigger sense of the world and more confidence in what you know.

### [Niche Academy: North Dakota Library Academy.](#)

Category - [Academic Libraries](#)

New Tutorial: [Niche Academy Webinar – Personal Librarians: Building Relationships Across Campus](#)

This addresses the situation where asking for help at university libraries can be intimidating for many students. The presentation highlights the uniquely supportive role of Personal Librarians to address this and provide undergraduates with welcoming points of connection.

New Tutorial: [Niche Academy Webinar – Mentorship and Community for Instruction Librarians](#)

This one explores the rewards and challenges of building a community of practice that meets the needs of a group of instruction librarians across a range of disciplines and experience levels.

Category – [Library Boards and Friends Groups](#)

New Tutorial: [Niche Academy Webinar – Civic Literacy Starts at Home](#)

This one focuses on civic literacy and skills for our own staff, boards, and leadership teams.

Category – [Library Directors](#)

Section: [Library Directors: Staff Relationships](#)

New Tutorial: [Supporting Staff who are Pregnant in the USA](#)

This delves into the subject of learning how to support pregnant staff, you'll avoid discrimination, retain talented staff, and create a healthy workplace culture.

All of these tutorials and many other great continuing education opportunities can be found in the Niche Academy.

Niche Academy

# State Aid For Public Libraries

Submitted by Allie Suko

Spring is in the air, and you know what that means: The State Aid application process is open! State Aid applications must be submitted through the Counting Opinions website by April 30, 2025, for your library to be considered for State Aid funds. There have been no changes to the application since last year. For a refresher on the State Aid process and how to fill out the application form, visit the North Dakota State Library YouTube channel and watch the [State Aid to Public Libraries Walk-Through 2024](#), or refer to the [State Aid LibGuide](#). If you have any questions regarding your application, or issues with the Counting Opinions website, please contact Allie Suko at [ndsl-fiscal@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-fiscal@nd.gov) or 701-328-2492.

[More Information](#)



[Beulah Public Library](#) received a \$350 donation as part of a community impact event at Kimi's restaurant that included a story time and Kimi's Library Burgers. This money will go toward a new building for the library.

[Casselton Public Library](#) received 41 entrees in the all-ages March Coloring Contest

[Lake Region Public Library](#) received a donation from the North Dakota Telephone Company from the Dollars in Motion program. This will support the continuation of the Summer Reading Program.

[Mayville Public Library](#) is hosting a Pocket Prairie event presented by the Cass County Soil Conservation District on April 22.

[Minot Public Library](#) is now checking out Roku sticks.

[Mohall Public Library](#) hosted a PaperPie Book Fair.

[Valley City Barnes County Public Library](#) received the Community Image award from the Valley City Area Chamber of Commerce.

[Williston Community Library](#) is hosting a community egg hunt on April 16. Participants will also have the opportunity to play a round of mini golf, meet the Bunny, and take photos. Community agencies will be scattered throughout the library handing out goodies.



## Poetry Books

Poetry Month is one of the observations celebrated in April. As such, I am highlighting books of poetry for this month's *Top Picks*! I attempted to showcase a variety of types of poetry; although, admittedly, my personal taste leans to more comical than serious. If you have a topic for *Tammy's Top Picks*, email me at [tlkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tlkruger@nd.gov).

1. *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* by Pádraig Ó Tuama

**Publish Date:** 2022

**Publisher:** W. W. Norton & Company

**Summary:** Readers join Irish podcaster Pádraig Ó Tuama on a journey through 50 poems about relationships, life changes, and noticing the little things. Ó Tuama presents each poem and then gives his interpretation, as well as background information about the poets. My favorites are "All My Friends Are Finding New Beliefs," "Say My Name," and "What You Missed the Day You Were Absent from Fourth Grade."

**Best For:** Adults



[Continue Reading](#)



## Digital Delight

### He Seems to be Getting Smaller Year by Year



This cartoon was drawn by John Miller Baer in 1916 and published in 1917. It was drawn after the election in North Dakota showed a big increase in the farmer vote over what it was in the primaries.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (Political Prairie Fire, ND State Library)

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[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

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Times referenced are Central Time.

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