

**Kids LIB Mini-Con
Schedule of Events
February 7, 2025
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**

Welcome: 9:00-9:15 a.m.

Opening Keynote: 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Behind the Scenes at Heavy Medal: Information, Insights, and Inspiration from School Library Journal's Mock Newbery Blog

Presenter: Steven Engelfried

Children face numerous difficult situations in their lives such as illness, bullying, and death that can lead to worry and anxiety. Astute librarians know that the right book used at the right time can spark conversations to help kids better understand and process life's challenges. Attendees will leave with recommendations of the best children's books that address tough topics, along with related resources to help children (and themselves) navigate them.

Steven Engelfried has been a youth librarian for nearly forty years. He served on the Newbery Committee in 2010 (Medal winner: When You Reach Me) and chaired the 2013 Committee (The One and Only Ivan). Since 2017 he has co-facilitated the Heavy Medal Newbery blog, hosted by School Library Journal. His all-time favorite Newbery book is The High King by Lloyd Alexander.

Round One Breakout Sessions: 10:25-11:25 a.m.

Groundbreaking Newbery Winners:

Presenter: Steven Engelfried

Which Medal winner opened the door for nonfiction books? Why was 2018 a history-making Newbery year? Steven Engelfried, former Newbery Chair and co-facilitator of the Heavy Medal Mock Newbery blog, leads a discussion of Newbery selections that were surprising, innovative, and had a lasting impact on the world of children's literature.

Let's Go on a Journey: Story Focused Programming for K-5th Grade

Presenter: Laura Armstrong, Volusia County Public Library

Be inspired to frame a school age program around a connecting storyline to build buy-in, creative learning, and structure into activities. Walk away with practical ideas and tips for programs with themes like deep sea exploration, survival, and choose your own adventure that can be shaped for use in your own library.

Research Done Right: A Toolbox of Free Resources for School Research Projects

Presenter: Jaclyn Crawford, Volusia County Public Library

It is essential for young patrons to have access to reliable resources for research, and as library professionals, we are dedicated to assisting them in locating and utilizing these dependable tools. This presentation will showcase a variety of free research resources and promote collaboration in discovering even more valuable tools for students.

Ready, Set, Kindergarten

Presenter: Tiffany Gilbreath and Stephanie Fraysier, Marion County Public Library System

"Ready, Set, Kindergarten!" is designed to help families adapt to the expectations of a kindergarten classroom by supporting early learning literacy skills. The program focuses on five areas of childhood development: social/emotional, language, literacy, mathematical, and physical. In this session, learn how your library can help prepare families for school readiness and future academic success.

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Lunch and Networking: 11:25 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Round Two Breakout Sessions: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Science Materials, Resources, and Programs for School Research Projects

Presenter: Heidi Colom, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Science materials, resources, and programs are in high demand by children at libraries- yet not many public librarians are science majors. Learn more about what the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library offers in the Natural Sciences at this presentation.

Geeking Out: Hosting Successful Fan Events for Young Patrons

Presenter: Colleen Tobin, Alachua County Library District

Discover how to engage young patrons by hosting creative fandom-themed events featuring activities like trivia, cosplay, and partnerships with local organizations, all while managing workloads efficiently. This session includes real program examples and interactive elements to inspire your next fan event.

Read Strong: Tailoring Reading Programs to the Needs of Boys and Guys

Presenter: Bronwyn Slack, Pinellas County Schools

This session will equip you with the resources and strategies needed to effectively design and implement an engaging reading experience for boys, who often face challenges with reading comprehension and discovering their next great book. Come learn how to take your boys and guys book clubs to the next level!

Storytelling Techniques for Dynamic Read-Alouds

Presenter: Terry LeCompte, Community Stages

Participants will be equipped with practical tools to bring all kinds of stories to life. This engaging workshop provides preparation guides to help you confidently plan and deliver captivating read-alouds. Attendees will also have the chance to try out techniques in a supportive environment, ensuring they leave ready to inspire young listeners with every turn of the page.

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Round Three Breakout Sessions: 1:40-2:40 p.m.

Robotics Programming for Beginners

Presenter: Amber Priester, Clearwater Public Library System

This session will include information on the different types of robots, styles of coding, and identify free resources that will assist you in establishing a robotics program at your library. A demonstration of both a Lego Education Spike Prime Robot and a Lego Mindstorms Robot will conclude the session.

Children's TitleTalks from Baker & Taylor

Presenter: Grace Larochelle, Baker & Taylor, Senior Manager of Children & Teens Services

Join Grace Larochelle for a TitleTalk on Fall 2025 titles coming soon that are sure to be a hit on your shelves for ages 12 and under. In this session Grace will cover new titles coming soon from board books to graphic novels, to early readers and more!

Read. Sing. Talk., Or, How to Talk to Babies So Parents Will Listen

Jerome Azbell, Marion County Public Library

Sure, babies are cute, but does programming specifically catered to them have any real results? (Of course.) This session will explore the "why" and, perhaps as important, the "how" of a baby story time that engages both the tiniest minds and the people who care for them.

Round Four Breakout Sessions: 2:50-3:50 p.m.

Off the Hook-Teaching Crochet to Kids

Presenter: Rachel Morrison, Osceola Library System

Rachel shares her journey of teaching children to crochet, including what worked, what didn't, and the creative adaptations that kept young learners engaged. Discover tips, tricks, and strategies to make crochet accessible and fun for kids of all skill levels.

I Can Sing That Story

Presenter: Maryann "Mar" Harman

Foster a love of reading with Mar as she shares specific brain-based activities, props and songs she's created to help to enhance children's comprehension and retention skills.

Beyond Library Walls: Bringing Programs to Medical Spaces

Presenter: Natasha Rose and Arthur Ugalde, Orange County Library System

Enhance your library's outreach initiatives by targeting one of our community's most underserved groups! Learn how we create and host library programming in medical centers for patients and their families.

Closing Keynote: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Building Brains with Music

Presenter: Maryann "Mar" Harman

Learn about brain development in kids and how to best prepare them to be life-long readers using music and movement activities.

Closing/Evaluations: 5:00-5:10 p.m.