

NLS Summer Reading Program

The third NLS Summer Reading Program will run Monday, June 16, through Friday, August 15, 2025. Stay tuned for new information populating this page in the days to come, such as links to a few summer reading programs hosted by your network library. Also check out the special summer reading Collections Connections May 2025 e-newsletter, focusing on many notable works from this year's program for readers of all ages.



Summer Reading Program Kickoff

Monday, June 16, 1 to 2 p.m. eastern time

Register for the Kickoff event with Mac Barnett now!

Join author Mac Barnett (Library of Congress National Ambassador for Young People's Literature) for this live Summer Reading Program kickoff event with a reading of his book "Extra Yarn (DB127239)," available from NLS in audio. This year's theme is "Color Our World"—and in addition to this amazing storyteller, we will have more information on how you can join us all summer long. So get ready to dive into summer reading and color our world with books! And learn more about Mac Barnett now. And if you would like to hear more about Barnett's collaboration with his illustrators and his deep attention to image description, you can check out the recent interview he gave for the Collections Connections Audio Supplement DB128940.



Master Gardener Roger Erpelding

Monday, June 23, 4 to 5 p.m. eastern time

Register for the Gardening event with Roger Erpelding now!

Summer is a great time to get your garden growing. Master Gardener Roger Erpelding is here to help you do just that! Roger is a patron of the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and will provide tips and tricks for sighted and blind gardeners alike. Learn more about Roger Erpelding here. This session will have time for questions. Available now to check out is Roger's suggested reading list:

"Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities: A Guide to Methods, Tools, and Plants (DB52241)" by Janeen Adil

"All New Square Foot Gardening: Grow More in Less Space! (DB69864)" by Mel Bartholomew

"The Backyard Beekeeper: An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden (BR21396)" by Kim Flottum

"A Backyard Vegetable Garden for Kids (DB68370)" by Amie J. Leavitt

"Beginners Guide to Growing Great Vegetables (BR24303)" by Lorene Edwards Forkner

Also available now is Roger's recorded presentations about gardening, "Gardening: In the Beginning" and "How Your Garden Grows," both full of information on how to color your world with plants!

0:00 / 28:56



Download Transcript of Gardening - in the Beginning...

0:00 / 15:12



Download Transcript of As Your Garden Grows

Storyteller Donna Washington

Thursday, June 26, 4 to 5 p.m. eastern time

Register for the Storytelling event with Donna Washington now!

This one's for the kids—or kids at heart. Donna Washington will lead an inclusive storytelling hour for children, engaging with participants in a fun and accessible way. Kids will find fun and inspiration in this hour of creativity and be encouraged to color their world with summer reading. Learn more about Donna Washington now.

Master Chef Christine Ha

Monday, July 14, 7 to 8 p.m. eastern time

Register for the Master Chef event with Christine Ha now!

When Christine Ha won the third season of MasterChef, she was the first blind contestant on the show! Join us for a night of conversation about cooking, reading, and everything in between. Christine will tell us her story and maybe even share a recipe or two. Check out her books "Recipes from My Home Kitchen: Asian and American Comfort Food from the Winner of MasterChef Season 3 (DB76676)" in audio and "Recipes from My Home (BR20085)" in braille. Learn more about Christine Ha [here](#).



Musician Jono Manson

Thursday, July 24, 7 to 8 p.m. eastern time

Register for the Music event with Jono Manson now!

Color your world with music! Jono Manson has been playing his brand of music for decades, collaborating and touring with some of the biggest names in the business. Join us for a lighthearted interview that captures some of Jono's stories and memories, as well as what he's got planned for his next project. Learn more about Jono Manson [here](#).

Summer Reading programming you can enjoy any time!

Denise Bean, Youth Services Librarian for the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, presents a variety of clay and wire sculpture techniques. She demonstrates heart designs featuring braille messages, working with air-dry clay, and craft wire sculptures with beads and buttons. She also shares helpful tips for organizing materials and using tools effectively to sculpt with ease. Plus, five key benefits of clay art that make enriching experience for all ages. Check out the video below!

0:00 / 31:51

[Download transcript of Clay Sculpting](#)

Take a virtual tour of the Library of Congress

Here's one highlight from the 2024 Summer Reading Program that you can still enjoy: a virtual tour of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress!



The Thomas Jefferson Building is the oldest and grandest of the three buildings that make up the Library of Congress campus on Capitol Hill. You can discover artwork and architecture that connect to knowledge and creativity, past and present, through our audio tour of this magnificent building.

Anyone can enjoy the tour through the player below. If you're an NLS patron with BARD, you can download this Audio Described Tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress (DB121189), or you can request a digital cartridge from your local NLS library. (All references to navigation refer only to the talking book and do not apply to the audio as played through the player below.)

0:00 / 47:40

Audio described tour of the Thomas Jefferson building at the Library of Congress

Summer programming at our network libraries!

Some NLS network libraries are hosting summer reading programs and events for children and children of all ages. For example, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, in collaboration with its Friends group and the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, has developed an accessible, on-demand Seed Bomb workshop [🔗](#). This fun, hands-on program teaches you how to create seed bombs using recycled paper and wildflower seeds, bringing beauty and pollinators to your world while celebrating creativity and biodiversity. Download a transcript of the Seed Bomb workshop in BRF.

To learn if your network library has live or online events for you this summer, contact your network library.