



KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S

# **Children's FESTIVAL<sup>of</sup> READING**

PRESENTED BY COMCAST

**ELLIOTT SMITH**  
ONE BOOK AUTHOR!

**KEVIN LEWIS**

**KATE MESSNER**

**JENNIFER NIELSEN**

**AISHA SAEED**

**VIVIAN VANDE VELDE**

## ***Up, up, and away!***

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 | WORLD'S FAIR PARK | 10-3**

# Festival Map

Storybook Friends  
Sky Lounge

2

1



Restrooms

H2O to GO Water station by KUB

East TN PBS



Information

World's  
Fair  
Pond



To join the  
Parade of Books,  
line up at the  
Circle at 11:00.  
(Or cheer from  
any tent!)

Parade  
Circle

94

Science &  
Discovery

Friends of  
the Library  
Used Book Sale

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Summer Library  
Challenge

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Authors &  
Illustrators

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Arts & Crafts

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One Book  
Read City

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Imagination  
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## PARADE OF BOOKS

Meet at the Parade Circle at 11:00

Step off with Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Carter Library patron Zander Coker for a celebration of books! Everyone is invited to promenade through World's Fair Park with our featured authors, set to the festive rhythms of Bearden Middle School's drumline!



## SKY LOUNGE (#1)

Located under the pink viaduct near Info

Read, relax, and refresh in this shady lounge. It's the perfect spot to read a new book you picked up at the Friends Used Book Sale (#59), from Union Ave Books (#55), The Bottom Bookstore (#72), Nirvana Comics (#31), or the Author Village (#49-54, 60-65). Free books also available, while supplies last.

## Schedule

### #57 AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS

Most authors head next door to Tent #56 for book signings directly after their presentations!

10:15 Kevin Lewis

### 11:00 Parade of Books

11:30 Elliott Smith (One Book author)

12:15 Kate Messner

1:00 Jennifer Nielsen

1:45 Vivian Vande Velde

2:30 Aisha Saeed

### #56 BOOK SIGNINGS

No book? No problem! Find the autograph pages in this program, or just stop by and say hello!

Kevin Lewis 10:45, 12:15

Kate Messner 10:15, 12:45

Jennifer Nielsen 11:45, 1:30

Vivian Vande Velde 11:30, 2:15

Aisha Saeed 12:15, 1:30

### #75 ONE BOOK

Knox County students, what an amazing opportunity to meet this year's One Book Read City author of *Baseball Blowup*!

Elliott Smith

10:00–11:00, 12:30–2:15



## Schedule

### #67 MUSIC

10:00 Kidstuff Live on WDVX

### 11:00 Parade of Books

11:45 Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

12:30 Hominy Mamas

1:15 Jodie Manross

2:00 Miss Lynn

### #4 SCIENCE & DISCOVERY

from ORNL Federal Credit Union

10:15 Pop-A-Palooza

### 11:00 Parade of Books

11:15 Sizzling Science Show

12:15 Going Batty

1:15 Insect Zoo

2:15 Birds of Prey

### #16 STORYTELLING

10:15 Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

### 11:00 Parade of Books

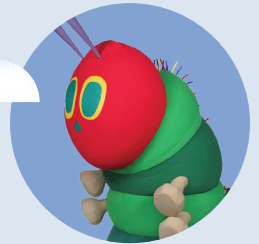
11:30 Bat Storytime

12:15 Faye Wooden

1:00 Tennessee Civil Air Patrol

1:45 Knoxville Children's Theatre

2:30 Puppy Storytime



### STORYBOOK FRIENDS (#2)

Appearing all day under the pink viaduct

Snap a selfie with your favorite storybook stars! Meet Elephant and Piggie, the Mouse who loves cookies, and the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Beloved characters come to life for smiles, hugs, and magical memories. Plus, Zadie from *Work It Out Wombats!* will be in East TN PBS tent #3.



## Meet your presenters

Your curiosity will take flight as you learn about things with wings in out-of-this world presentations!



### Bat Storytime

Bat rehabilitator Susie Kaplar shares the stories of *Stellaluna* and *Girls Scouting Bats*, joined by Girl Scout Troop #29296. [Bat Education and Rehabilitation of Grainger County](#)  
**TENT #16, 11:30**



### Birds of Prey

Meet majestic birds of prey up close! Explore raptors' roles in nature, their adaptations, and conservation through engaging stories and demonstrations. [American Eagle Foundation](#)  
**TENT #4, 2:15**



### Faye Wooden

A native Appalachian of Cherokee descent, Ms. Wooden draws on her crazy life as a banker, bear trapper, and herbalist to tell hypnotic stories. [fayewooden.com](#)  
**TENT #16, 12:15**



### Going Batty

Discover the world of bats through rescue stories and live bat encounters. Learn about bat biology, habitats, and how rehabilitation helps these vital nocturnal creatures thrive. [Bat Education and Rehabilitation](#)  
**TENT #4, 12:15**

## Meet your presenters

Your imagination will soar listening to the stories and music of these stellar performers.



### Hominy Mamas

Using stories and songs, the Hominy Mamas (Kathleen McGregor Williams and Ruth Simmons) weave together interactive performances of traditional folk songs played on guitar, banjo, washboard, and kazoo! **TENT #67, 12:30**



### Insect Zoo

Whether they buzz, hiss, click, or hum, bugs make music! Discover the amazing lives of insects and find out which cultures enjoy chocolate-covered crickets for dessert! [UT Department of Entomology](#)  
**TENT #4, 1:15**



### Jodie Manross

Knoxville singer-songwriter Jodie Manross will perform beloved original tunes and favorite children's songs in her signature acoustic-based, Americana style. [@jodiemanross](#)  
**TENT #67, 1:15**



### Kidstuff Live

Today's show will be a live broadcast from the Festival. Expect singalongs, percussion, and movement! Host Sarah Pirkle is an award-winning musician. [wdvx.com](#)  
**TENT #67, 10:00**



### Knoxville Children's Theatre

Young actors will delight audiences with scenes from *Sword in the Stone* featuring Merlin the Magician and the soon-to-be-king Arthur. [knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com](#)  
**TENT #16, 1:45**



### Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Join Knoxville Symphony musicians for Musical Storytime! Young audiences enjoy imaginative stories paired with live music in a fun, interactive program. [knoxvillesymphony.com](#)  
**TENT #67, 11:45**



### Miss Lynn Scruffy Sing-Along

Kids (and your grownups!) come as you are and sing, dance, and laugh along with Miss Lynn as she shares songs old and new! [@misslynnsings](#)  
**TENT #67, 2:00**



### Pop-a-Palooza

Bubble bonanza and fizzy fun! Engage in interactive activities with Hands On! Discovery Center that demonstrate the principles of chemistry and physics through playful, bubbly experiments. [visithandson.org](#)  
**TENT #4, 10:15**



### Puppy Storytime

Storytime with adorable, adoptable puppy pals from an organization committed to joining companion animals and people who love them. [Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley](#)  
**TENT #16, 2:30**



### Sizzling Science

Experience a sizzling science show packed with exciting experiments, surprising reactions, and lots of "oohs" and "aahs!" Learn scientific concepts through dazzling demonstrations and hands-on fun. **TENT #4, 11:15**



### Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

Sit a spell for an uplifting presentation of toe-tapping music spiced with humor, history, and tall tales. Sparky and Rhonda weave their music into captivating stories that the history books don't always tell. [sparkyandrhonda.com](#)  
**TENT #16, 10:15**



### Tennessee Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol supports our community through air, space, and cyber education. Hear the story of the "Candy Bomber," a tale of flying and children. [tnwv.cap.gov](#)  
**TENT #16, 1:00**



## Authors & Illustrators

### AUTOGRAPH PAGE

Authors & Illustrators, Tent #57 | Book Signings, Tent #56

#### Kevin Lewis @kevwlbkny

Kevin Lewis is the mastermind behind beloved children's books like *My Truck is Stuck!*, *Chugga-Chugga Choo-Choo*, and *The Runaway Pumpkin!* A kid-lit powerhouse, Kevin has worked with legends like Dav Pilkey (*Captain Underpants*) and Tony DiTerlizzi (*The Spiderwick Chronicles*) and helped bring *Vampirina Ballerina* to life. As a literary agent, Kevin champions diverse voices and writer-illustrators. He lives in a 200-year-old farmhouse in Newburgh, NY, with his husband, Phil, and their dog, Kat. When he's not crafting literary magic, he's likely gardening, biking, or enjoying his back porch office!

**Presentation, Tent #57: 10:15**

**BOOK SIGNING, TENT #56: 10:45, 12:15**



#### Kate Messner @katemessner

Kate Messner is a mesmerizing storyteller, award-winning author, former English teacher, and frequent flyer on the bestseller lists! Her titles include award-winning picture books like *Over and Under the Snow*, *The Next Scientist*, and *The Scariest Kitten in the World*, as well as novels for older readers like *Breakout* and *The Trouble with Heroes*. Kate also writes the popular *History Smashers* graphic nonfiction series and the *Ranger in Time* historical adventures. Kate lives on Lake Champlain and is a proud Adirondack 46er.

**Presentation, Tent #57: 12:15**

**BOOK SIGNING, TENT #56: 10:15, 12:45**



## Authors & Illustrators

### AUTOGRAPH PAGE

Authors & Illustrators, Tent #57 | Book Signings, Tent #56

#### Jennifer Nielsen @nielsenwriter

New York Times Bestselling author Jennifer Nielsen is the author of *The Ascendance* series, the *Traitor's Game* series, the historical novels *Iceberg*, *A Night Divided*, *Words on Fire*, *Lines of Courage*, and many other titles. Jennifer has won multiple awards including the Sydney Taylor Notable Book Award and multiple Whitney Awards. Also, she once won a garden rototiller, though that's probably not relevant here. She loves chocolate, old books, and lazy days in the mountains. Jennifer is an avid hiker, baker, and "fun fact" collector who lives in northern Utah.

**Presentation, Tent #57: 1:00**

**BOOK SIGNING, TENT #56: 11:45, 1:30**



#### Aisha Saeed @aishacs

Aisha Saeed is an award-winning and New York Times Bestselling author. Her books, including the middle grade novel *Amal Unbound*, the young adult novel *Yes No Maybe So*, and the anthology *Once Upon An Eid* received multiple starred reviews. Her picture book, *Bilal Cooks Daal*, received an APALA honor. Aisha is a founding member of the nonprofit We Need Diverse Books™. She fosters cats, is great at air hockey, and speaks three languages! Though Aisha's idea of the perfect place to live is anywhere alongside the ocean, she currently resides in Atlanta, GA with her family.

**Presentation, Tent #57: 2:30**

**BOOK SIGNING, TENT #56: 12:15, 1:30**



## Authors & Illustrators

### AUTOGRAPH PAGE

Authors & Illustrators, Tent #57 | Book Signings, Tent #56

#### Elliott Smith ✖ @elliottsmith

Elliott Smith has a passion for bringing history, sports, and real-life stories to young readers. He has written over 80 books for kids, including titles in the popular series *Jake Maddox*, *Black Trailblazers in Sports*, *Bo at the Buzz*, and *Sports Illustrated Kids*. Residing outside Washington, D.C. with his family, when he's not writing, Elliott loves to watch sports, go to the movies and add to his collection of Pittsburgh Steelers memorabilia!

**Presentation, Tent #57: 11:30**

**BOOK SIGNING, TENT #75: 10:00–11:00, 12:30–2:15**



#### Vivian Vande Velde 📖 @VivianVandeVeldeBooks

Award-winning author Vivian Vande Velde has been writing since she was a teenager and has published dozens of books for children, teens, and young adults spanning fantasy, science fiction, and spooky tales. Often featuring clever protagonists, eerie twists, and a touch of mischief, some of her most popular books include *Heir Apparent*, *Never Trust a Dead Man*, and the *Twitch the Squirrel* series. When she's not writing, Vande Velde enjoys reading, playing video games, and delighting in the occasional dose of mayhem—at least on the page! She lives and writes in Rochester, NY.

**Presentation, Tent #57: 1:45**

**BOOK SIGNING, TENT #56: 11:30, 2:15**



## Summer Library Challenge

### READ & INVESTIGATE TO EARN PRIZES

Grab your gameboard and a pinwheel while supplies last! Tent #58

#### 'SKY ABOVE US' CHALLENGE

Summer reading is why we're here today! Help us kick off the summer reading challenge in a BIG way by picking up your gameboard at Tent #58. **Attending the Festival today is your first step toward a prize!** Complete other fun missions—racing paper airplanes, reading under the stars, or recording the weather—then return to the library every level for a stellar prize.



**FREE PINWHEEL WHEN YOU VISIT Tent #58**



#### COMPLETING MISSIONS IS A BREEZE!

Attending any library program counts as one activity in the summer reading challenge.

#### ATTEND STELLAR SUMMER PROGRAMS

This summer, we tap into kids' natural curiosity with special programs exploring the sun, sky, magic, music, animal friends, and more! Pick up your [event calendar](#) at the Info Tent for the complete schedule. A special thank you to [Friends of the Library](#) for supporting summer programming!



#### PARTICIPATE IN THE 'SKY ABOVE US' ART SHOW

Show off your drawings, paintings, and collages and earn five activities (a whole level!) in the summer challenge. **Register June 21–July 5** at your participating library: Lawson McGhee, Bearden, Carter, Cedar Bluff, Farragut, Halls, Howard Pinkston, Karns, Norwood, or Powell.





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**COMCAST**

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



TVA/KUB COMMUNITY CARE FUND, WALMART STORES #1320 & #3959, SAM'S CLUB #6572, MEMBERS OF KNOXVILLE CITY COUNCIL