

Summer Reading Adventures at the Anderson County Public Library

The Anderson County Library System took many different adventures during the summer of 2017. Here are a few of the highlights. First of all, we decided to capitalize on the use of local performers to get the most out of our Summer Reading budget. We got ideas from local news shows, newspaper articles, a “Meet and Geek” in Greenville, as well as street fairs, post cards sent by the performers, and staff recommendations if they saw someone interesting around town. Some of the local talent we used included Chuck Alberding, The Wildlife Geek, who brought his rescued animals and did an educational program on wildlife conservation; Carl Woody of Joy Set, who does a version of *Where the Wild Things Are* with monster heads made out of twisted balloons; Ronald McDonald, whose literacy shows for libraries are free; Jack Clark of Jack’s Drum Shack brought his advanced percussion students and really entertained us at the Lander Memorial Library in Williamston; Park Sterling Bank did a Financial Literacy for Kids at no cost; graphic artist J. Chris Campbell of Greenville did a “Rockets and Robots” art lesson that was almost standing room only; a local church has a “pirate ministry” that tells stories with a good moral and does magic tricks; Roper Mountain Science Center brought the Starlab Portable Planetarium to teach us about the night sky and the coming eclipse. Having local talent doing programs in the branches freed staff time to provide outreach programming to Summer Reading Camp students in the public schools.

This year we applied for and received a grant from Dollar General Literacy that allowed us more freedom and flexibility to do outreach in the public schools. Three of the five school districts in Anderson County had library staff members doing weekly programs at their camps that frontloaded rising third graders with South Carolina history, followed by a craft to help reinforce the book. While there, the library staffer promoted events at the library and handed out quarter page flyers to invite and remind the children to come. This is our eighth year working with the local BARK program (<http://www.scdogs.org/index.htm>), which allows children a chance to read out loud to therapy dogs. We start signups at the beginning of June for each child’s 15-minute reading session. By Friday, June 16, every Friday was booked through the end of July. Dogs in the library?? At no cost?? Oh yeah!!

We used elements of the CSLP theme “Build a Better World” to do some great STEM construction programs with KEVA planks. If you don’t know what these are, research them now! <http://www.kevaplanks.com/> We got ours with the LSTA grant from the State Library, then partnered with Tri-County Technical College, who led the programs with some extra construction ideas. Not only did the school age kids love these KEVA planks, the parents were joining their kids in the fun, and then the teen librarian got hold of them and the *teens were building with KEVA planks too!* These are universal in appeal and, in my opinion, are well worth the investment for your programs.

Finally, we also incorporated the theme of “Space” (Out of this World) this year because Anderson was in the path of totality during the historic solar eclipse of August 2017. Working with the nationwide trend of painting and hiding “kindness rocks”, we hosted a “rock painting party” (with Sharpies, not paint) at all nine libraries on August 21 (eclipse day). “We will provide the rocks, Sharpies, and eclipse glasses while supplies last.” The idea was to generate interest in the library to people with children who may not otherwise come by or know what we have to offer. Lots of parents are painting rocks with their children and hiding them in parks for others to find. When you hide some, you post on the Facebook page where you’re going to hide them, then other folks go to that location to try to find and hide more. I jumped into the Facebook conversations and began painting rocks, hiding them on library grounds, and posting so people would come and find them. The first three I hid were gone 20 minutes after I posted that I hid them!! We hashtagged ours #AndersonEclipseRocks, and much of the promotion was done on the Facebook pages:

Anderson Rocks <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160359874486487/>

And Anderson County SC Rocks!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1365992600115312/>

Article by Jennifer Simmons, YSS Secretary



ISSUE

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August 2017

The Multitasker

A Resource for Every SC Youth Services Supporter

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Important Dates to Remember:

SCLA Annual Conference:
October 11-13

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LIBRARIES

MAKE IT HAPPEN

SCLA CONFERENCE 2017

The 2017 South Carolina Library Association conference is fast approaching, and registration for the event is now open!

Your YSS leaders have worked hard to make sure that this year’s conference includes a multitude of programming specifically related to youth services. In addition, we will be hosting a YSS booth, business meeting, meet-up, and Guerrilla Storytime during the conference that you won’t want to miss!

We hope that you will join us at the 2017 SCLA conference and lend your voice to the important conversations that will take place there!

Who: SCLA members and nonmembers alike

What: SCLA annual conference

Where: Columbia Marriott, 1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

When: October 11-13, 2017



Program Spotlight

#PotionCommotion

Escape rooms are drawing crowds at libraries across the nation, and Berkeley County Library System is no exception. This summer, teens have been enjoying a Harry Potter themed escape room experience, #PotionCommotion. Hogwarts is buzzing as everyone prepares for the biggest quidditch game of the season. But an hour before the game, Harry and Hermione make a terrible discovery - Ron made a terrible potion miscalculation and has turned invisible! Help Harry and Hermione find the potion to turn Ron back before time runs out.

BriAnne Baxley, Berkeley County Library System's Youth Services Librarian, says teens really responded to the escape room, and having anything Harry Potter themed is an added bonus. What better way to build a better world than by encouraging youth to work together to solve problems. Great job, BriAnne!



Spotlight on Youth Services at the SCLA Conference

Just for YSS members, a preview of the youth services programs that will be presented at the annual SCLA conference in October.

Adventures in Preschool STEAM

Books, flannels and songs, plus STEAM activity stations where parents and children work together. Devon Andrews from Charleston County Public Library will talk about what has made her preschool storytime revamp a success.

SC Plants the Seed

SC Plants the Seed is a partnership between SCSL, public libraries, SCDHEC, SCDSS, and End Child Hunger SC to bring local SC farmers to public libraries, encourages SNAP recipients to make produce purchases with Healthy Bucks, gives families recipe books, and offers free books to children.

Serving Rural, Suburban and Urban Teens

Hear library staff from three different public library settings talk about the challenges and successes they have faced. Library staff from Spartanburg County Public Library, Chapin Memorial Library, and Berkeley County Public Library will talk about the different perspectives required to serve their populations.

Richland Library's Reading Studio: Serving Struggling Readers in Our Community

Join Laura Rogers and Emily Johansson from Richland Library Children's Room to learn how to select appropriate books and materials for all types of readers and develop programming to serve emerging readers and their families. Experience dyslexia through a learning simulation and explore strategies to help young readers to improve their reading skills.

Third General Session & Luncheon

The session will feature Pam Sandlian Smith, Anythink Libraries Director. Anythink Libraries is located in Adams County, Colorado and in 2006, they underwent some radical changes. Plan to stay for this speaker!

YSS Members—Big News!!!!

YSS Mini-Conference

Do you love Youth Services? Would you enjoy a whole day dedicated to networking, new ideas, and fun informational sessions just like the Fall Conference? We hear you! The YSS Committee is planning a one day Mini-Conference for February 23rd, 2018. Cost will be \$15 for YSS members, \$25 for non-members. Add it to your calendar now!

Every Child Ready to Read Training

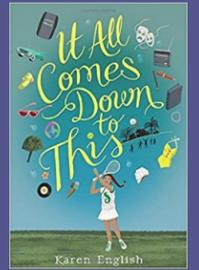
The South Carolina State Library is pleased to announce Every Child Ready to Read training is back! This December on three different days, enjoy author and trainer Saroj Ghoting as she teaches the skills needed to engage parents and children with Early Literacy. More details to come, contact Rebecca Antill for information.

TALKING
SINGING
READING
WRITING PLAYING

Ways to Stay in Touch:

- www.scla.org
- "South Carolina Libraries Youth Services Exchange" on Facebook
- "Youth Services Section of South Carolina Library Association" on Facebook
- Request to join the Young Adult email listserv, hosted by the State Library: <http://listserv.statelibrary.sc.gov/scripts/wa.exe?A0=YA-SERVICES>
- Request to join the Children's email listserv, hosted by the State Library: <http://listserv.statelibrary.sc.gov/scripts/wa.exe?A0=CHILDLIB-L>

Recommended Reading for Youth Services Librarians



It All Comes Down to This
by Karen English
May 2017

Twelve-year-old Sophie wants a memorable summer of writing, hanging out with her best friend and getting a role in a local play before she starts 9th grade. However, her world is quickly changing – she is one of a handful of black kids in a white neighborhood, her parents' marriage is falling apart, and her older sister, Lily, is moving away for college. This coming of age story, set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam and the 1965 Watts riots, shows how one girl adapts to the big and scary changes associated with leaving childhood behind for adolescence.

It All Comes Down to This is a well-paced and touching story to recommend to kids and families interested in books with diverse characters, race relations or historical fiction. However, some coarse language makes *It All Comes Down to This* a better fit for late elementary and middle school age children.

Read Alikes: *Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton; *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1965* by Christopher Paul Curtis

—Bridget Ward, Charleston County Public Library