

Best Practices Awards

Winner and Honorable Mention

Please join the Best Practices Committee in congratulating the following libraries who received a Best Practices Award or Honorable Mention for an outstanding youth services program.

2026

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:**

Preschool

- **Winner:** *Edible Reads: Nourish the Mind, Nourish the Body* – Sullivan County Library (Sarah Abernethy)

School Age

- **Winner:** *Strangest Thing in the Sea: Build a Sea Creature* – Mt. Lebanon Public Library (Scott Buchanan)

Middle and/or High School

- **Winner:** *Digital Detectives* – Upper Merion Township Library (Becky Ginther)

Design or Display

- **Winner:**

Social Emotional Learning

- **Winner:**

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

- **Winner:** *Holi Celebration* – Monroeville Public Library (Hope Benson)

Family or Intergenerational

- **Winner:** *Rivers, Coal, and Crafts* – Blossburg Memorial Library (Lis Miranda)

Partnerships and/or Outreach

- **Winner:** *Level Up Mini-Camp* – Sewickley Public Library (Caiden Feldmiller & Casey Heckman)

Shoestring Budget

- **Winner:** *Polar STEM Series* - Monroeville Public Library (Alyson Wetherhold)

Teen Co-Design

- **Winner:** *Teen Benefit Concert* – Cheltenham Township Library Systems-Elkins Park (Laila Carter, Ingrid Kary, and Lelia Johnson)
 - **Honorable Mention:** Teen Reading Lounge-Mental Health – Brandywine Community Library (Amber Hadley)

2025

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** *Music Mondays* - Allentown Public Library (Ellen Hiotis)

Preschool

- **Winner:** *Tape Town* - Public Library for Union County (Mary Harrison)

School Age

- **Winner:** *Let the Adventure Begin* - Mahanoy City Public Library (Christine Evancho)

Middle and/or High School

- **Winner:** *The Period Party* - Guthrie Memorial Library (Jennifer Croney)

Design or Display

- **Winner:** *Life After Death* - Tacony Library (Madelyn Allard)

Social Emotional Learning

- **Winner:** *Radical Relaxation Mini Camp* - Sewickley Public Library (Emily Fear)

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

- **Winner:** *Around the World Art* - William Jeanes Memorial Library (Eileen Denton)

Family or Intergenerational

- **Winner:** *Library Pen Pals* - Community Library of Allegheny Valley (Tiffany DeAntonio & Judy Errico)

Partnerships and/or Outreach

- **Winner:** *Book Program with Local Bus Authority* - James V. Brown Library (Jacquie Weaver & Nicole Rader)

Shoestring Budget

- **Winner:** *Recycled Art* - Allentown Public Library (Cherilyn Danner)

Teen Co-Design

- **Winner:** *Sunset Social Club* - Bethel Park Public Library (Megan Gaston)

2024

Infant Toddler

- **Winner:** *Sensory Crawl* - Schlow Centre Region Library, Centre County (Elaine Bayly)

Preschool

- **Winner:** *Mud Kitchen at the Library* - Public Library for Union County, Union County (Mary K. Harrison)

School Age

- **Winner:** *How Do We Work?* - Ephrata Public Library, Lancaster County (Mallory Noll)

Middle/High School

- **Winner:** *Confectionary Crime Scene: Investigating Gummy Anatomy* - Abington Community Library, Lackawanna County (Mary Graham)

Design & Display

- **Winner:** *Magic Mailbox Interactive Display* - Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity, Northampton County (Berry Steiner)

Emerging Trends in Services: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- **Winner:** Young Health Explorers: Emotions - Bosler Memorial Library, Cumberland County (Denine Nealon and Rachel Davies)

Equity, Diversity, Belonging, and Inclusion (EDB&I)

- **Winner:** Around the World in 80 Minutes - Upper Merion Township Library, Montgomery County (Becky Ginther)

Family & Intergenerational

- **Winner:** Hand in Hand - Wayne County Public Library, Wayne County (Betty Lawson)
 - **Honorable Mention:** Foraging Field Trip at the Museum - Reading Public Library, Berks County (Nancy Maurer, Stephanie Ortyl, and Julie Ketterer)
 - **Honorable Mention:** KPOP at the Library & Cupsleeve Event - Erie County Public Library, Erie County (Libby Martin and Jillian Rhen)

Powerful Partnerships & Outreach

- **Winner:** Community Clean Up - Valley Community Library, Lackawanna County (Fawn Contreras)
 - **Honorable Mention:** Prison Children's Day - Public Library for Union County, Union County (Mary K. Harrison)
 - **Honorable Mention:** Signing With Young Children - Abington Community Library, Lackawanna County (Leigh-Ann Puchalski and Nancy Burke)

Teen Co-Design

- **Winner:** Power of the Pen: Original Works From Teen Authors - Abington Township Public Library, Montgomery County (Sara Huff)

Sensational Shoestring

- **Winner:** Community Clothes Swap - Mars Area Public Library, Butler County (Kelsey Grushecky)

Humanities in Action *(In Partnership with PA Humanities)*

- **Winner:** Life Size Oregon Trail - Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity, Northampton County (Anneliese Warnke)

2023

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Ocean Adventure Trail - Paul Smith Library of Southern York County (Katie Forster)

High School

- **Winner:** Teen LARP: The Apple of Discord - Mt. Lebanon Public Library (Rachel Blier & Katie Donahoe)

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:**

STEM

- **Winner:** CSI Club for Teens - Huntingdon Valley Library (Beth Bilus)

School Age

- **Winner:** Holiday Art Market - Free Library of Springfield Township (Amy Ambler)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Around the World - Tyrone-Snyder Public Library (Kristy Wall & Jennifer Powell)

Preschool

- **Winner:**

Middle School

- **Winner:**

Family/Multi-generational

- **Winner:** Instrument Petting Zoo and Symphony Stories - Cambria County Library (Natalie Holland, Jodi Holland, Kristen Panek, and Leah Johncola)

Humanities in Action *(In Partnership with the PA Council for the Humanities)*

- **Winner:** Life Beyond High School - Warren Public Library (Amanda Bajdo and Courteny Hoover)
 - *Honorable Mention:* At Home Volunteer Projects - Abington Township Public Library (Sara Huff)

2022

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Chinese Lantern Riddle Display - Middletown Free Library (Libby McCampbell)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Book Garden - Whitehall Public Library (Denise Ignasky)

High School

- **Winner:** Teen Zine - Library System of Lancaster County and Manheim Community Library (Jill Wagner & Lindsay Bandy)

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** Baby Bookworm - Jefferson Hills Public Library (Dana Farabaugh)

STEM

- **Winner:**

School Age

- **Winner:** Rainbow Connection - Abington Township Public Library (Jessica Olzak & Shannon Collins)

Preschool

- **Winner:** Books and Ballet - Middletown Free Library (Libby McCampbell)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Inside the Pages - Mifflin Community Library (Andrea Hunter)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Middle School Short Film Festival - Upper Merion Township Library (Becky Ginther)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Lending Library Partnership - Bridgeville Public Library, Scott Township Library, and Chartiers Valley Middle School (Carrie Lowery, Kathy Dawson & Sara Benis)

Family/Multi-generational

- **Winner:** In it Together - Jenkintown Library (Teddy Schneider and Nina Meister)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Tigers in the P.A.R.K. - Fleetwood Area Public Library (Carin Mileschosky & Stacy Laucks)

Humanities in Action *(In Partnership with the PA Council for the Humanities)*

- **Winner:** Reduce, Reuse, Remake - Schlow Centre Region Library (Maria Kenney Burchill, Julia Gold, Dalton Kendrick, Julia Nelson, Nicole Packard & the art teachers at the State College Area School District)

2021

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Postcards From The Fish - Indian Valley Public Library - (Robbie Fischer)

High School

- **Winner:** The Portal Hoppers Teen Podcast - C.C. Mellor Memorial Library (Allison Sennott)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Tween & Teen Career Choices Video Series - Belmont Hills Library (Gwen Gatto)

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:**

STEM

- **Winner:**

School Age

- **Winner:** The Write Stuff Virtual Cursive Art Camp - Bellwood-Antis Public Library (Jessica Ford Cameron & Ann Bickel)
 - *Honorable Mention:* The Period Puberty Party - Norwin Public Library (Barbara McKee)

Preschool

- **Winner:** "Ruby's Birds," Community Read-Aloud - Indian Valley Public Library (Nicole Husbands)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Storytime Experience Kits - Hamburg Public Library (Rebecca Hartman)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Teen Test Kitchen - Western Allegheny Community Library (Amelia Dickson)

Family/Multi-generational

- **Winner:** International Cooking Club - Pike County Library (Rose Chiocchi & Kristina Dorrough)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Pen Pals - Kutztown Community Library (Taylor Kutz)

Humanities in Action (*In Partnership with the PA Council for the Humanities*)

- **Winner:** Shakespeare in Isolation - Tredyffrin Public Library (Laura Doan)

2020

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Delaware County Teen Art Contest - Delaware County Libraries - (Theresa Dykes)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Food For Thought - Reading Public Library (Nancy Maurer/Julie Ketterer)

High School

- **Winner:** Mock Trials - Robinson Township Library (Gabrielle Bolland)

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:**

STEM

- **Winner:** summerSTEAM - Reading Public Library (Jennifer Bressler)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Kids Cooking the Books - Dubois Public Library (Rebecca McTavish/Rebecca Aharrah)

School Age

- **Winner:** Sewing Club - Wyoming Free Library (John Roberts)

Preschool

- **Winner:** Creative Expressions - James V. Brown Library (Nina White)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Teens & Tweens with Autism Meet Up Club - Tyrone-Snyder Public Library (Jennifer Powell)

Family/Multi-generational

- **Winner:** Fitness, Fun & Photo Walk - Grove Family Library (Karen Sourbier/Joan Peiffer)

Humanities in Action (*In Partnership with the PA Council for the Humanities*)

- **Winner:** Mats for Those in Need - Taylor Community Library (Loretta Heffernan)

2019

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Vote Today! - Erie County Public Library - Blasco Memorial Library (Libby Martin)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Springtime in Paris - Reading Public Library (Jeanette Argento/Nancy Maurer)

High School

- **Winner:** Pride Dance - Martin Library (Jennifer Johnson)

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** Early Literacy Outreach to Allegheny Health Network's Women's Behavioral Health - Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville (Bonny Yeager)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Read, Baby Read - Free Library of Philadelphia (Christine Caputo)
 - *Honorable Mention:* 1,2 Wheel! - Hershey Public Library (Rita Hunt Smith)

STEM

- **Winner:** Imagination Station - Wernersville Public Library (Leigh-Anne Yacovelli/Tara Gouldey)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Mad Scientists - Robinson Township Library (Leslie Paulovich)

School Age

- **Winner:** Escape Book Club - Kaltreider-Benfer Library (Gina Meini)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Junior Librarians - Community Library of Castle Shannon (Heather Weleski)

Preschool

- **Winner:** Kindergarten Kick-Start - Centre County Library and Historical Museum (Laura Sarge)

- *Honorable Mention:* Play-to Learn and Explore to Learn - Upper St. Clair Township Library (Debra Conn)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Fashion Rocks Camp - Radnor Memorial Library (Andrea Elson)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Kitchen Science - James V. Brown Library (Kendra Billman and Megan Flynn)

Family/Multi-generational

- **Winner:** Beyond Our Walls: Read Me a Story - York County Libraries (Lisa Schmittle)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Chick-It-Out Hatching Program - Parkland Community Library (Debbie Jack)

Humanities in Action *(In Partnership with the PA Council for the Humanities)*

- **Winner:** Youth Empowerment Summit - York County Libraries (Jennifer Johnson)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Great Stories Club: Native American Experiences - Radnor Memorial Library (Andrea Elson)

2018

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Discovery Den - Tyrone Snyder Public Library (Lana Conrad & Jennifer Powell)
 - *Honorable Mention:* All the Feels - Moon Township Public Library (Heather Panella)

High School

- **Winner:** Passion Driven Research - Hershey High School Library (Allison Mackley)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Teen Volunteer Managers - Western Allegheny Community Library (Carrie Lowery)

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** Teddy Bear Time or Taming the 2's - Indian Valley Public Library (Lindy Janson)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Wobbler Story Time - James V. Brown Library (Nina White)

STEM

- **Winner:** Garden Sprouts - Reading Public Library (Julie Ketterer & Jennifer Bressler)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Full STEM Ahead - Altoona Public Library (Sara Ebersole)

School Age

- **Winner:** Zoo Keepers - Robinson Township Library (Leslie Paulovich)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Elementary Maker Lab-Zines - Western Allegheny Community Library (Rachel Moore)

Preschool

- **Winner:** ABC Read With Me - Nancy K. Holmes Library (Amber Cholish)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Storybook Ball - Altoona Area Public Library (Typhanie Russo)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Middle School Teen Summer Musical Theater - Baldwin Boro Public Library (Dolores Colarosa)
 - *Honorable Mention:* World Cultures: Japan Homeschool Program - Reading Public Library (Rosalyn Afan & Jennifer Bressler)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Schlow to School Delivery Program - Schlow Centre Region Library (Lisa Rivas Collens, Colleen Fisher, Dotty Delafield, Katherine Billet, Virginia Squire, Paula Bannon & Maria Burchill)

Family/Multi-generational

- **Winner:** Franken Toys - Mt. Lebanon Public Library (Dana Jones)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Reflections of Me - Monroeville Public Library (Hope Benson, Carla White, Nicole Henline)

2017

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** Western Allegheny Community Library - Building Blocks (Amanda Kirby)
 - *Honorable Mention:* James V. Brown Memorial Library – Jammie Jam (Nina White)

Preschool/Pre-K

- **Winner:** Kaltreider-Benfer Library -Sensory Friendly Literacy Class (Gina Meinl)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Public Library for Union County – Preschool Tinkerlab (Amanda Noblit)

School Age

- **Winner:** Robinson Township Library – Passport Pals (Leslie Paulovich)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Radnor Memorial Library – Passport Pals (Carrie Sturgill)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Radnor Memorial Library – Escape the Library (Andrea Elson)

High School

- **Winner:** Huntington County Library – Nerf Hunger Games (Tracy Carey)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Radnor Memorial Library – Radnor Acts of Kindness: Prom Dress Drive (Andrea Elson)

STEM

- **Winner:** Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Library – Open Minds, A STEAM Competition in the Makerspace (Sara Frey)
 - *Honorable Mention:* James V. Brown Memorial Library – Tinkertown for Tots (Nina White)

Family

- **Winner:** Wyomissing Public Library – Community Garden (Colleen Stamm)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Millvale Library – Small Fry Friday (Nora Peters)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Quarryville Library – Artist Cards (Randalynn Kennedy)

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Western Allegheny Community Library – Teen Recommendation Cards (Amanda Kirby)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Public Library for Union County – Children’s Voting Booth (Amanda Noblit)

2016

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** James V. Brown Memorial Library – Pint-Sized Pollocks (Nina White)
 - *Honorable Mention:* James V. Brown Memorial Library – Sensory Play Storytime (Nina White)

Preschool/Pre-K

- **Winner:** Priestly Forsythe Memorial Library - Nature Nuts (Kimberly King)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Lansdowne Public Library – Story Tube (Rachee Fagg)

School Age

- **Winner:** Lansdowne Public Library – Star Wars Jedi Academy (Rachee Fagg)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Joseph T. Simpson Public Library – Kindergarten Pennies Count (Sue Erdman)

Middle School

- **Winner:** Reading Public Library – First Annual Middle School Comic Con ([Ashly Roman](#))

High School

- **Winner:** Centre County Library – Multi-Generational Video Project (Jennifer Cinelli)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Free Library of Philadelphia – Flyers Come Alive (Abbe Klebenoff)

STEM

- **Winner:** Delaware County Libraries – TechniGals Summer STE(A)M Camp (Mary Glendening)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Glenside Free Library – STEM for Little Friends (Allison Frick)

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Moon Township Library – Birthday Bunch (Megan Goode)
 - *Honorable Mention:* Community Library of Castle Shannon – Fact of the Week (Heather Weleski)

2015

Infant/Toddler

- **Winner:** Radnor Memorial Library – Little Hands Love
 - *Honorable Mention:* James V. Brown Memorial Library – Infant & Baby Massage

Preschool/Pre-K

- **Winner:** South Fayette Township Library – Math Mites
 - *Honorable Mention:* James V. Brown Memorial Library – Preschool Science Lab
 - *Honorable Mention:* Northland Public Library –Take Home Storytime Bundles
 - *Honorable Mention:* Pottstown Regional Public Library –Meditation Monday

School Age

- **Winner:** Bethel Park Public Library – Little Librarians
 - *Honorable Mention:* Bethel Park Public Library –Shine Your Way Club
 - *Honorable Mention:* Community Library of Allegheny County – Bite Into Books

Middle School

- **Winner:** Radnor Memorial Library – ArtFusion

High School

- **Winner:** Plymouth Whitemarsh High School – ELL Library Program
 - *Honorable Mention:* Baldwin Borough Library – Brushes Before Bedtime

Multigenerational

- **Winner:** Centre County Library – Jazz Storytime in the Garden
 - *Honorable Mention:* Hershey High School – Learning Commons Council

STEM

- **Winner:** Reading Public Library – Grossology
 - *Honorable Mention:* Northland Public Library –Take Home Science in a Box

Display & Design

- **Winner:** Reading Public Library – Barbie Girls Box