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ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG READERS HIGHLIGHTED AT 2025 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

BATON ROUGE, La. – An exciting slate of activities and book programs for young readers from toddlers to teens will be among the attractions during the <u>Louisiana Book Festival</u> on Saturday, November 1. The state's flagship literary event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Baton Rouge, at the State Library of Louisiana and the surrounding Capitol Park area.

The festival's Young Readers Pavilion will feature appearances by storybook characters, award-winning authors talking about their featured books, musical performances, face painting, balloon artists, and book-related crafts.

"Each year thousands of young readers enjoy coming to the Louisiana Book Festival," said Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. "From the outset, we have worked to make the festival a memorable experience that helps young people develop a lifelong love for books. No matter what their interest, children and teens will enjoy old and new favorite titles, authors, and activities at this year's event."

Book programs will be featured in three children's tents on the front lawn of the State Library beginning at 9 a.m., where more than 20 highlighted authors will make appearances and interact with young readers.

Among the festival's featured award-winning children's authors are <u>Jen Arena</u>, <u>Glenda Armand</u>, and <u>Jesse Byrd</u>. Activities for tween and teen readers at this year's festival include a variety of games and arts and crafts, and <u>more than 25 authors of tween and teen books</u> talking about their work. Among these renowned writers will be <u>Johnnie Christmas</u>, <u>Delilah Dawson</u>, <u>Marti Dumas</u>, <u>Sarah Guillory</u>, <u>Raj Tawney</u>, and <u>Trang Thanh Tran</u>. The festival's tween and teen programs and activities begin at 9 a.m. in A.Z. Young Park adjacent to the State Library starting with a ceremony to recognize the 2024-2025 Louisiana Young Readers' and Teen Readers' Choice Awards honorees.

"It is always exciting to see so many young readers getting the chance to meet their favorite authors," said festival Executive Director Robert Wilson. "These special connections that the festival provides really make an impression on young book lovers and inspire our future Louisiana writers."

Participating authors and presenters are helping to spread the word about the Louisiana Book Festival. Musical performer <u>Rick Kelley</u> of Music with a Message for Kids will visit dozens of schools and libraries

around the state to promote the event. His interactive performances, which involve music, singing, and promotion of literacy, inspire kids to read and find joy in books and libraries.

Several of the featured children's authors will also be making appearances at Louisiana schools. Writers Delilah Dawson, Sarah Guillory, Glenda Armand, and Johnnie Christmas are participating in these outreach programs, giving young readers the chance to connect with festival authors through story times, book talks, and workshops.

Times and locations of authors' appearances at the festival on November 1 can be found on the <u>children's</u> and <u>tweens and teens</u> pages of the book festival's website. Authors will be scheduled for signings in the festival book tent operated by Cavalier House Books of Denham Springs and Lafayette.

For complete details on the 2025 Louisiana Book Festival, a schedule of events, and featured authors and titles, visit <u>LouisianaBookFestival.org</u> and follow us on the <u>LouisianaBookFestival Facebook page</u>.

The <u>Louisiana Center for the Book</u> was established in the State Library of Louisiana in 1994. Its mission is to stimulate public interest in reading, books, literacy, and libraries and to celebrate Louisiana's rich literary heritage. It is the official state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book.



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