



# OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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## Wyoming Reads Brings and Spreads the Joy of Reading to Wyoming First-Graders



*Laramie County Library System Board Member Steven Leafgreen reads a favorite book to a class of Cheyenne first-graders.*

Libraries across Wyoming hosted first grade students and their teachers for the annual Wyoming Reads celebration on May 19.

Laramie County Library in Cheyenne, Wyoming, hosted over thirty classes of excited students for a morning of reading and fun. During the event, classes were treated to the play, "Good Queen Sue," and listened to books read aloud by local community members.

There was no shortage of energy, excitement, and laughter as the children followed their teachers to their assigned locations at the library. The noise soon dwindled to near silence as the guest readers held up their selected books, turned to the first pages, and began to read stories about funny animals, brave kids, and worlds found only in the imagination.

Laramie County Library staff and board members, Wyoming Governor and First Lady Mark and Jennie Gordon, Cheyenne Mayor Patrick Collins, and many other volunteers from the Cheyenne community. A group of Wyoming State Library staff joined in the festivities as readers and helpers.

[Wyoming Reads](#) is a program of the Sue Jorgenson Foundation that promotes childhood literacy in Wyoming by providing each Wyoming first-grader with a new, hardcover book of their very own. Students choose their books from a list of options earlier in the school year and receive them at the Wyoming Reads celebration event held in their community.

## WSL News

### THE WSL BIDS A GRATEFUL FAREWELL TO MARKETING LEAD GREG MOSSHAMMER

Greg Mosshammer, the Wyoming State Library's (WSL) former Marketing Lead, recently moved back east with his family after leading the WSL's marketing team from January 2022 until early June 2026. He is a graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and earned his B.S. in Technical Graphics from Purdue's School of Technology.

Greg's favorite part of working at the WSL for the past four-and-a-half years has been the people.

"It may seem cliché but the people at the State Library are what makes it all worthwhile," said Greg. "The WSL has some of the most professional and good-natured people I've ever worked with in my 30+ year career."



*Greg Mosshammer, former WSL Marketing Lead*

Greg is most proud of strengthening several projects with new visual/design elements and launching new websites and online tools that help increase engagement and allow the library community to more easily access the information and resources they're looking for.

When asked if he had anything else to share, he was reminded of a classic quote from a favorite movie: "In case I don't see ya, good afternoon, good evening, and good night!"

The WSL thanks Greg for all of his hard work and dedication, as well as his valuable contributions to the WSL Marketing Team and the WSL staff as a whole. Greg's last day was June 5.

"It has been a true pleasure working alongside Greg," said Wyoming State Librarian Abby Beaver. "I will genuinely miss our collaboration. I wish him the best in his future endeavors."

## WYOMING STATE LIBRARY SEEKS NEW SENIOR MULTI MEDIA SPECIALIST



**Do you have what it takes to help shape the voice and visibility of the Wyoming State Library? We are looking for a new Senior Multi Media Specialist!**

This position leads the development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive communications and marketing program that supports the Wyoming library community, state agencies, and the public. Serving as the State Library's media liaison, this role is responsible for delivering clear, engaging, and consistent messaging that increases awareness of library services, programs, and resources across Wyoming.

Key responsibilities include developing and executing strategic marketing campaigns to maximize the use of library resources by state agencies and residents, promoting statewide programs and events, and measuring the effectiveness of outreach efforts. This position collaborates closely with Wyoming State Library (WSL) staff, third-party marketing agencies, and WYLD consortium member librarians to coordinate and promote campaign-level initiatives that benefit libraries statewide.

This is an exciting opportunity for a creative and strategic communications professional who is passionate about public service, storytelling, marketing, and connecting communities with valuable resources throughout Wyoming!

Please visit the [State of Wyoming's employment website](#) for full details, or contact Lindsey Galindo at 307-777-6798 or [lindsey.galindo@wyo.gov](mailto:lindsey.galindo@wyo.gov) with questions regarding this opportunity.

## Library Jobs

### [Online Learning and Outreach Librarian](#)

Central Wyoming College  
Riverton, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted April 29, 2026

Check out the [job board](#) on the WSL's website for more listings!

## Share Your Library's Summer Reading Stories



*Hot air balloon fun in Park County*

With summer now underway, many libraries are hosting a variety of fun and enriching programs and events. The Wyoming State Library would love to share all the great things going on at your library! Send photos, information, and staff and patron quotes from your event to Christi Weinzierl, WSL Communication and Grants Specialist at [christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov](mailto:christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov).

## WYLD NETWORK HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE



*Library professionals gathered in Sheridan for the 2026 WYLD Annual Meeting.*

Wyoming library professionals gathered at Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming, for the WYLD Network Annual Meeting held on May 27 and 28, 2026. Five different tracks of programming offered relevant training and networking opportunities for around 80 participants. Many of the sessions were facilitated by the members of the Wyoming State Library WYLD Support team.

"I love the professional networking and information sharing," said Nick Marlin, WSL Library Systems Administrator. "It's inspiring to see what library staff across the state are doing to meet the unique needs of their communities."

Along with valuable and timely training, the event included the WYLD Network's annual business meeting, during which reports were given by State Librarian Abby Beaver, WYLD Office Manager Desiree Saunders, and the Cataloging Committee. Elections were held for Governing Board positions for the upcoming year for the Academic, Small, and Large Public Library representatives and one Member-at-Large representative.

"I always enjoying going to the WYLD Annual Meeting," said Angel Mann, Circulation Services Supervisor at Sheridan County Public Library System. "I find that despite the years of service I have in the circulation department, I always learn something new that is relevant to my job."

WYLD Program Manager Desiree Saunders reviewed the history of the WYLD network group, providing an insightful look at how far the WYLD Network has come through the years and the important roles each person and library system plays within the group.

"I enjoyed the review of the WYLD Office's history and their work over the years," said Elizabeth Albin. "It gave me a good perspective of how the Wyoming system is built to meet our unique needs."

Shaylee Krueger shared an overview of the last year's successful interlibrary loan process transition and sincerely thanked everyone for their participation in testing the new process.

“As a newer employee it was wonderful to meet WYLD library teams in person for the first time,” said Stephanie Gertken. “The WYLD Annual Meeting gives everyone a chance to not only check in with their colleagues around the state but share challenges and successes. It was energizing and inspiring to see so many Wyoming libraries sharing and learning together.”

## AI SUMMIT 2026 EXPLORES AI USE IN LIBRARIES



*Jessica Otto, WSL Research and Statistics Consultant, speaks to AI Summit attendees during her presentation about using AI about data storytelling.*

On May 29, library professionals from across Wyoming gathered to explore innovative, practical, and thoughtful approaches to artificial intelligence in library and archival work at the University of Wyoming (UW) Conference Center for the 2026 AI Summit hosted by UW Libraries, Wyoming State Archives & Wyoming State Library (WSL). This year’s program kicked off with a keynote presentation by historian and heritage strategist Joshua Sternfeld, and featured presentations on AI literacy, accessibility, user privacy, intellectual property, digital collections, security, and emerging uses of AI in creative and technical workflows.

"The AI Summit was a chance to get together with colleagues from multiple states," said Travis Pollok, WSL Information Services Manager. "It was so helpful learning all the positive ways AI is impacting and changing the role and view of libraries and archives."

Several of the presentations featured WSL staff, including:

- "AI and Intellectual Property in the United States," presented by Anne Kuipers, WSL State Documents Librarian
- "78 Sold-Out Cowboys Stadiums: Defeating the "Blank Page and Turning Data into Stories with AI," presented by Jessica Otto, WSL Research and Statistics Consultant
- "Making Digital Accessibility Accessible: How to Meet National Accessibility Standards on Your Website Using AI," presented by Katelyn Wittenborn, WSL Digital Initiatives Librarian

"The best thing about the AI Summit this year was having peers translate the complicated themes of AI into something that was easily digestible for my field of services," said Jessica.

# Around the State

## WHAT'S NEW IN NATRONA COUNTY-RENOVATIONS AND GRANT AWARDS

The Natrona County Library (NCL) has used funds from their Wyoming Library Community Multi-Purpose Facility Program (WLCMF) subgrant to enhance accessibility and privacy for their patrons.

One recent renovation included replacing the old lift that provided access to sections of the library to all patrons, regardless of their physical limitations, with a new lift. According to NCL Director Lisa Scroggins, the replacement was a much needed update for the safety and accessibility of the library's patrons.



*The new lift makes it possible for all NCL patrons to access the mezzanine level of the building to find the resources they need.*



*The new business pods provide private spaces for patrons to attend to their business needs.*

In addition to the new lift, NCL has added a business center, including privacy pods, which are now offered in addition to their small meeting rooms that provide limited privacy. These pods are designated for business use, legal aid, workforce development, and other related needs.

"Patrons use the pods on a daily basis," said Lisa. "The pods are normally reserved for 2-hour blocks of time, but they can be used for longer periods of time when needed."

These projects were supported, in whole or in part, by the Wyoming Library Multipurpose Community Facility Program funded by federal award number CPFFN0188 awarded to the State of Wyoming by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Natrona County Library (NCL) also recently received funding from two other sources—the Pizza Hut Foundation and the Natrona County Council PTA.

On April 23, the NCL in Casper, Wyoming, celebrated receiving a Slice of Literacy Grant from the Pizza Hut Foundation with a community-wide pizza party, hosted in partnership with Grand Mere Restaurant Group. The event brought together community members of all ages to recognize the importance of literacy and shared learning.

"Slice of Literacy" will create lasting benefits for both children and adults in Natrona County," said Library Director Lisa Scroggins. The NCL will use this grant to expand literacy-based programming, develop take-home literacy kits for families, and host sessions for adults to teach them how to support young readers.



*NCL staff and patrons enjoyed their pizza!*



*(L to R) Natrona County Commissioner Peter Nicolaysen, NCL Director Lisa Scroggins, NCL Marketing and PR Manager Kasen Urhammer, and Dan Albert of Grand Mere Restaurant Group*

The library plans to direct these funds toward its Summer Reading Program, where the donation will help expand the variety of programming available to families, while also supporting themed prizes, activities, and take-home materials for participants.

Natrona County Council PTA recently donated \$10,000 to NCL to support young learners and their families, with the funding set to benefit NCL's summer reading program. Sarah Brown, Tara Goltermann, and Nikki Ruzick of the Natrona County Council PTA visited the NCL on April 20 to present a \$10,000 check. This donation is part of the Council's ongoing efforts to support young learners and their families in Natrona County.



*Sarah Brown, Tara Goltermann, and Nikki Ruzick of the Natrona County Council PTA presented the donation to Lisa Scroggins, NCL Director.*

## Upcoming Celebrations/Events

June 1-30 [Rainbow Book Month](#)

June 25-29 [ALA Conference](#)

July 4 [U.S. Semiquincentennial/ Independence Day](#)

July 10 [Wyoming Day](#)

July 29 [SLIG Summit](#)

### Library Quote

Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission.

-Toni Morrison



## Youth Services

### YSIG MINI-CONFERENCE ENERGIZES WYOMING YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIANS



*Youth services librarians from across Wyoming left YSIG mini-conference with many valuable resources ranging from data-driven insights to popcorn recipes.*

The May 2026 YSIG Mini-Conference at Natrona County Library was anything but "extinct!" From data-driven insights to popcorn recipes, the event left everyone energized for a summer of innovation.

The conference kicked off with Fossil Sweets & Friendly Feats, an upbeat evening of socializing and desserts. The highlight was the "Dino-lympics," where attendees competed in dinosaur-themed "Minute to Win It" style games. These high-energy activities weren't just for fun—they provided a template of games that librarians can easily adapt for their own summer reading programming. Find game plans to use in your library [here](#).

The main event took place at Natrona County Library, beginning at 9:00 am with the Prehistoric Plenary and Mesozoic Mixer. This business meeting and icebreaker set a collaborative tone for the day.

Joanne Pruitt presented critical SRP findings from 14 Wyoming counties. Along with her data, she shared a wealth of resources now available to all libraries across the state to help spark success in local communities.

Guest speaker Russell Hawley from the Tate Geological Museum at Casper College shared his expertise on essential books and literature related to paleontology and archaeology, giving librarians fresh ideas for their non-fiction collections.

Chelsie Troutman led a behind-the-scenes tour of the Natrona County Library, featuring the Creation Station. Attendees were treated to a live demonstration of the Glowforge and Cricut machines, showcasing how modern maker-tech can bring prehistoric themes to life.

Brittney Helm, youth services specialist at the Albany County Public Library, shared valuable strategies in her session, "Prehistoric Programming on Pennies." Librarians looking for cost-effective ways to bring dynamic youth programming to their branch can find her full slideshow [here](#).

Librarians split into breakout sessions to focus on their specific age groups. These sessions allowed for deep-dive discussions on tailoring programs for young children and teens.

To wrap up the day with a "spark" of flavor, Angel Capone Evans of the Natrona County Library demonstrated the "Kitchen-a-la-Cart" teen program, sharing three different creative recipes for popcorn that are perfect for budget-friendly teen events.

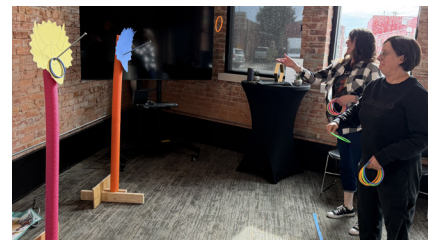
The event left everyone energized for their summer reading programs and a year of renewed excitement for youth literacy.



*Learning new popcorn recipes was informative, fun, and delicious.*



*Breakout sessions gave participants a chance to connect with others working with similar age groups.*



*Two attendees play a Triceratops Ring Toss game.*



*Chelsie Troutman gave a tour of Natrona County Library's Creation Station.*

People News



**Linann McDonald**, Lead Cataloger at the Natrona County Library recently completed the Leadership Casper program. Read the full blog post [here](#).



**Conrrado Salvidar**, Natrona County Library Tech Services Manager, was recently featured as a "Mover and Shaker" in Library Journal. Read the article [here](#).

# School Libraries

## SCHOOL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT-STEFANIE HUNT

This month, we are excited to feature an educator whose career has come "full circle," from shelving Nintendo games as an intern to leading high school students through the digital and academic landscape of the 21st century.



*Stefanie with Ella & Ireland, a few of her former "littles" from Linford Elementary*

Stefanie Hunt is the school librarian and yearbook advisor at Laramie High School, which is part of Albany County School District #1.

### The Path to the Library

Stefanie’s love of libraries began with a search for part-time work at the Laramie County Library. She started as an audiovisual page (shelving Nintendo games!) and moved through almost every department—circulation, genealogy, cataloging, and children’s services. After a brief stint as a classroom teacher, she realized her true calling remained in the library. She earned her MLS with a K-12 Media Endorsement and served in various settings—from K-8 schools in Colorado and Wyoming to virtual school environments—before finding her current home at Laramie High School.

### A Fun Fact: Always Evolving

Stefanie wears many hats! In addition to being the school’s yearbook advisor, she is currently working on completing some of the Wyoming Computer Science micro-credentials. While she didn't initially expect computer science to be part of her library journey, she believes it is vital to evolve alongside the changing landscape of modern education.

## Insights from the Library

### The "Why" Behind the Work

Currently, Stefanie is enjoying a powerful "full circle" moment. Her favorite part of being at the high school is reconnecting with students she taught years ago in elementary school. Seeing the long-term impact of those relationships and watching her former "littles" grow into young adults is the ultimate reward.

### What Parents & Students Should Know: The "Third Space"

"The library is an active, evolving Third Space designed to support both personal and academic growth," said Stefanie.

Stefanie wishes more people understood that books are just one part of the connection. In her library:

- **Equity is Priority:** She ensures every student has equitable access to the digital resources they need to participate in their learning.
- **Collaboration is Key:** She offers hands-on help with capstone and research projects and collaborates frequently with the public library.
- **It's a Social Hub:** At lunchtime, the library is a bustling community space where students are welcome to bring their lunch and simply connect.

### Success in the Stacks: Monthly Magic

The most successful programs are the ones where they collaborate with community partners. Stefanie keeps the library vibrant with monthly themed projects and community-focused events:

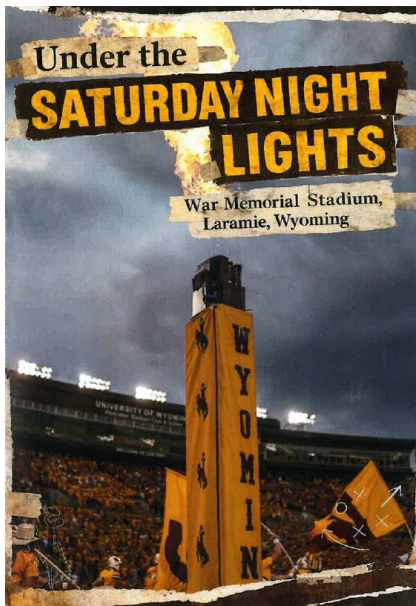
**Blind Date with a Book:** For February's "Book Crush," she wrapped books in paper and labeled them with only the first line of the story. Students picked their "date" based solely on the narrative's hook!

**Haunted Wyoming:** A massive success featuring a scavenger hunt map that even included free tours of the Wyoming Territorial Prison

**Current Highlights:** Monthly themed projects and displays, and ongoing reading appreciation programs

Stefanie is a firm believer that the library offers endless opportunities for professional adventure. She recently attended a Library of Congress professional development workshop where she learned advanced strategies for teaching students how to analyze and engage with primary sources.

"My position offers me the opportunity to constantly seek out new and fun ways to grow as an educator," said Stefanie.



Page from *Under the Saturday Night Lights: War Memorial Stadium* by Emily Litzinger, shared with permission

## Check This Out

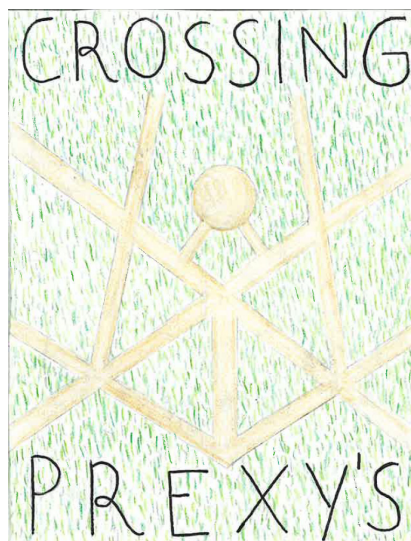
### HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE WYOMING ZINE EXCHANGE

The Wyoming Zine Exchange (WYZE) is a new statewide program being developed through a collaboration between the University of Wyoming (UW) Libraries, the UW Department of English, and the UW Honors College. Centered around hyper-local, everyday Wyoming experiences, the project explores how zine-making can support creativity, storytelling, and community connection across Wyoming libraries, schools, and other community organizations.

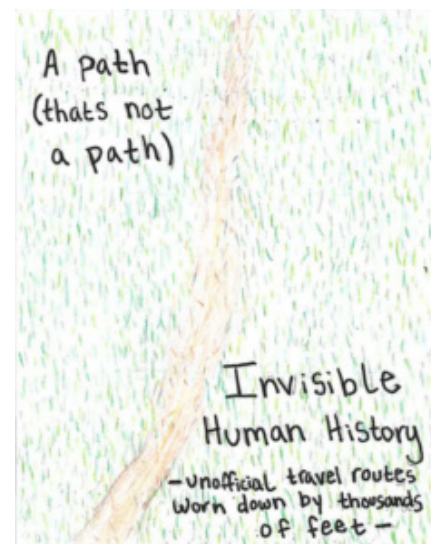
Created with the hope of building a collaborative, statewide project that libraries and communities across Wyoming can shape together, WYZE is currently in a development and information-gathering phase. Organizers are seeking feedback from librarians, educators, and community partners through a short [interest survey](#). The project is still taking shape, so there is still meaningful opportunity for participants to influence the structure, programming, and support materials developed for the project's first year. Read the full blog post [here](#).



Page from *"VABulous"* by Kaiya Hurlless, shared with permission.



Pages from *"Crossing Prexy's"* by Tabitha Long, shared with permission



## 2027 CYBER-IN-A-BOX SCHOOL VIDEO CHALLENGE

Teachers and school librarians, it's time to register for the 2027 Cyber-in-a-Box School Video Challenge! Next year's challenge topic is "Exploring Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Privacy."



*The Cheyenne 4H Robotics Club has participated in several challenges.*

Last year's School Video Challenge student videos were amazing! You can find a link to more information and a video from last year's competition on the Wyoming State Library's website. Students learned staging, producing, directing, animation, acting, script writing, research techniques, and, of course, about a security topic.

Teachers (or parent sponsors) receive \$50-100 for supplies (or pizza). Teams of up to 5 receive mystery giveaways for the Cyber-in-a-Box School Video Challenge.

Here are some important dates to remember:

- Registration-Now through November 1, 2026
- Video deadline-March 1, 2027
- Judging completed-March 30, 2027
- Virtual Premiere-April 15, 2027 at 2:00 p.m. (MDT)

This helpful Q & A video for adult sponsors can help you guide students through this fun and educational challenge. Please contact the CyberWyoming Alliance at [info@cyberwyoming.org](mailto:info@cyberwyoming.org) with questions. You can also find more information and the registration form on the CyberWyoming Alliance website.

Read the full blog post [here](#).

## News in Brief

[Quick Wins to Boost Engagement with Passive Programming](#)-Passive programming invites opinions, creativity, and humor while creating community.

[NISO Publishes Collaborative Collections Lifecycle Infrastructure Project \(CCLIP\)](#)- Networks of libraries have recently explored wider adoption of cooperative collections management, a process by which networks of institutions work collaboratively to acquire, manage, circulate, and preserve collections across the network.

[Setting Realistic Expectations for Summer Programming \(and Yourself\)](#)-When we set realistic expectations for our programs—and for ourselves—we create space for what summer really is—unpredictable, sometimes messy, often joyful, and always worth showing up for.

[2026 Library Systems Briefing](#)-This briefing excerpts the 2026 Library Systems Report, which documents ongoing investments of libraries in strategic technology products in 2025. .

# Grant and Award Opportunities

## [USDA Rural Development - Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants](#)

**Deadline: June 30, 2026**

This program is available to eligible entities (including libraries providing services to rural communities) that provide education or health care through telecommunications, including nonprofit organizations and groups of eligible entities working together.

## [National Endowment for the Arts](#)

**Deadline: July 9, 2026**

This grant provides direct support to libraries serving rural and historically marginalized communities that have experienced a loss or threat to public funding.

## [Walmart Spark Good Local Grants](#)

**Deadline: July 15, 2026**

The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the United States by fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs.

## [Doris Ann Norris We Love Libraries Prize](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

This \$500 grant is funded by the Sisters in Crime writing network.

## [The Freedom to Learn Foundation Grant](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

This grant provides direct support to libraries serving rural and historically marginalized communities that have experienced a loss or threat to public funding.

## [National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

The National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program (NLG-L) supports projects that develop, enhance, or disseminate replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public.

## [The Community Heart & Soul Grant Program](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 (\$10,000 match required) in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns.

### **Believe in Reading – Grants for Literacy Program**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Grants are made to organizations with 501(c)(3) status or its equivalent for educational institutions, including public libraries.

### **Rural Technology Education & Assistive Technology (AT) Grants**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Grants are typically \$500 - \$2,500 for staff and student-led projects in public schools and libraries designed to help spark student interest in technology-based careers.

### **Wish You Well Foundation**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the United States by fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs.

### **Scholastic Possible Fund**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Scholastic Possible Fund was established to provide a single repository of quality children's books to be donated to charity partners that share the Company's mission.

### **Art Resources Transfer's Library Program**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

This program provides free books on contemporary art to public institutions nationwide, including public libraries, public schools, prisons, and reading centers that self-define as under-served.

### **The Pilcrow Foundations Children's Book Project Program Grant**

#### **DEADLINE: Rolling**

The Pilcrow Foundation provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant through its Children's Book Project and contribute \$200-\$400 through a local sponsors for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

### **Black Hills Corporation Community Giving**

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

Areas of focus are arts and culture, civic and community development, education, environment, human services, and youth development. Giving limited to Black Hills Energy service areas.

### **BNSF Railway Foundation Grants**

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

These grants are given to organizations and programs that support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in the communities in which BNSF Railway Company operates.