

STAY CLOSE! ADVENTURES CLOSE TO HOME

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STORYTIME BOOKS

Babies

Leo, Rise And Shine! (2022) by Anna McQuinn and illustrated by Ruth Hearson. A bright and bouncy story about an energizing morning routine. In English.

Hands On! (2022) by Anne Wynter and illustrated by Alea Marley. A joyful rhyming book about a baby's first steps and explorations. In English.

City Baby (2021) by Laurie Elmquist and illustrated by Ashley Barron. A journey through a big city with spare text and vivid collages. *SLJ* starred review. In English.

My Party, Mi fiesta (World of ¡Vamos!) (2022) by Raúl the Third. A book about the fun activities at an energetic party. *SLJ* starred review. Bilingual.

Ten Little Birds, Diez Pajaritos (2021) by Andrés Salguero and illustrated by Sara Palacios. The popular song by 123 Andrés is brought to life in this story about with 10 silly birds who escape a lurking kitty. *SLJ* starred review. Bilingual.

How Are You?¿Como estas? (2018) by Angela Dominguez. A charming story with simple words about two giraffes who become friends. Bilingual.

La Bamba (2021) by Susie Jaramillo. A traditional song to get babies and toddlers moving. Bilingual.

Toddlers

Hudson and Tallulah Take Sides (2021) by Anna Kang and illustrated by Christopher Weyant. A nearly wordless argument-turn-budding-friendship between a dog and a cat with adjacent yards who venture out together. In English.

Stay, Benson! (2019) by Thereza Rowe. A playful story about a dog who takes adventures around the neighborhood as soon as his owner goes to school. In English.

The Roar (Hedgehog and Friends #4) (2022) by Eoin McLaughlin and illustrated by Polly Dunbar. Tortoise gets stuck, so his day of play doesn't go as planned. Forest friends come to help. In English.

Off-Limits (2021) by Helen Yoon. A child sneaks into an "off limits" home office; hijinks ensue. A charming, well-paced story for reading aloud. In English.

Blue Bison Needs a Haircut (2022) by Scott Rothman and illustrated by Pete Oswald. When Bison's usual barbershop is closed, he struggles with wanting something he can't have. In English

TIP:

Enthusiasm is contagious! Choose books and activities that you enjoy.

TIP:

Adding an activity between stories helps everyone to refocus. Try shaking the sillies out, or lead a movement song or rhyme.

TODDLERS

The Runaway Pea (2019) by Kjartan Poskitt and illustrated by Alex Willmore. A pea embarks on a perilous adventure through the kitchen; rhythmic language makes it great for reading aloud. In English.

Me gusta (2022) by Angela Dominguez. A multicultural bilingual book that celebrates familial adventures. Bilingual.

La casa de Lily y Milo (2022) by Pauline Oud. A silly, interactive story about a bunny and a mouse who move into a new house. In Spanish.

Preschoolers

Roxie Loves Adventure (2022) by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen and illustrated by Leeza Hernandez. Roxie becomes a changed pup after she gets locked out of the house; a funny call to adventuring outside your comfort zone. In English.

Early One Morning (2021) by Mem Fox and illustrated by Christine Davenier. A breezy story about a boy who journeys through a farm to get breakfast; text includes many questions to engage storytime audiences. In English.

Boogie Boogie, Y'all (2021) by C.G. Esperanza. A vibrant book with a groovy rhythm about appreciating the details of urban life. Multiple starred reviews. In English.

How to Eat a Book (2022) by Mrs. and Mr. MacLeod. Children are eaten by their books in this lyrical and engaging storytime winner. *SLJ* starred review. In English.

Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day (2022) by Erica Kim. A little girl's excitement around the Korean snack entices readers to join in. Great for cooking themes. *SLJ* starred review.

Fly (2022) by Brittany J. Thurman and illustrated by Anna Cunha. A little girl enlists the help of her friends to learn all the skills she needs to enter a double Dutch competition in this lyrical, uplifting story. In English.

Kick Push (2022) by Frank Morrison. A little boy with a passion for skateboarding seeks to fit into his new neighborhood; a celebration of the exhilaration of being yourself. In English.

Strollercoaster (2021) by Matt Ringer and illustrated by Raúl the Third and Elaine Bay. An energetic romp through the neighborhood with a quick-thinking father who thwarts his daughter's impending tantrum. In English with Spanish words.

La casita del esperanza / The Little House of Hope (2022) by Terry Catasús Jennings and illustrated by Raúl Colón. A family finds a safe new home in the United States in this age-appropriate exploration of immigration. An uplifting read-aloud. Separate Spanish and English editions.

TIP:

Encourage call and response, or have the children repeat after you for emphasis. (Ex: Red. Red! Rojo. Rojo!)

PRESCHOOL

Un día con papá / Owen's Day with Daddy (2022) by Jerry Ruff and illustrated by Davilyn Lynch. A warm story about the adventures of a father and son; great for helping children accept new siblings. Separate Spanish and English editions.

El Cukey Is Scared, Too! (2021) by Donna Barba Higuera and illustrated by Juliana Perdomo. A little boy is nervous about starting school in a new place; he and his monster confront their fears together. Based on Mexican folklore. In English with Spanish words.

Día de disfraces / Dress-Up Day (2022) by Blanca Gómez. A delightful story about a little girl who wears her bunny costume to school one day late. Multiple starred reviews. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Entonces llega el verano / And Then Comes Summer (2021) by Tom Brenner and illustrated by Jaime Kim. Lyrical text and cheery illustrations in this celebratory tribute to summer adventures. *Kirkus* starred review. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Mi ciudad canta / My City Sings (2022) by Cynthia Harmony and illustrated by Teresa Martínez. After an earthquake, a little girl watches a neighborhood in Mexico come together in this sweet story about resilience. Separate Spanish and English editions; English edition has Spanish words throughout.

STORYTIME SONGS

Song/Rhyme: Book Adventure

To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

I can play outside,
I can read a book.
I can find adventure here and everywhere I look.

Song/Movement: My Backyard

To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Piggyback lyrics from CSLP.

Playing in my backyard my backyard
My backyard
Playing in my backyard
So many things to do
Watch the birds and flap my wings
Flap my wings, flap my wings
Watch the birds and flap my wings
So many things to do.

Verses:

Pick up twigs and put them back down

TIP:

Repetition is key for engagement, so choose songs and rhymes to repeat at each storytime, and sing each song at least twice. Add a new song or rhyme occasionally to keep things fresh.

STORYTIME SONGS

Dig in the dirt and plant a seed
Play a game and run all around

Song/Movement: I'm a Dump Truck

To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot." See video from Jbrary on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3PxVppj>

I'm a little dump truck full of rocks (arms wide)
Here is my engine, here is my box (arms in front, then arms in back)
When the crew is ready hear me shout (hands around mouth)
Pull the lever and dump me out (pull lever in air)
Shhhhhhhh (lean back, point both thumbs behind you)

I'm a great big dump truck full of rocks
Here is my engine, here is my box
When the crew is ready hear me shout (hands around mouth)
Pull the lever and dump me out (pull lever in air)
Shhhhhhhh (lean back, point both thumbs behind you)

Song/Rhyme: Vamos a Cantar / Sing Now with Me

Words and music by 123 Andrés from the album *Arriba Abajo*. Reprinted with permission. Listen on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3pvCWz6>

Vamos a cantar una nueva canción.
Vamos a cantar la con el corazón.
Do re mi fa sol la si do
Vamos a bajar únete a mi voz.
Do si la sol fa mi re do
Vamos a cantar una nueva canción.
Vamos a baja únete a mi voz.

Here's a brand new song, sing it now with me.
Just follow you heart and you'll find your key.
Do re mi fa so la ti do
Follow me back down this sweet melody.
Do ti la so fa mi re do
Here's a brand new song, sing it now with me.
Follow me back down this sweet melody.

A la Rueda, Rueda / To the Wheel, Wheel (Canción de Corro / Circle Game)

Nursery rhyme from Cuba. Children hold hands while singing and turning in a circle. At the end, everyone lies down. English is a direct translation that does not rhyme. Listen via *Mama Lisa's World* here: <https://bit.ly/3r9yPsZ>

A la rueda, rueda
De pan y canela.
Dame un besito
Y vete para la escuela.

STORYTIME SONGS

Si no quieres ir,
Acuéstate a dormir.

To the wheel, wheel
of bread and cinnamon.
Give me a kiss
and go to school.
If you don't want to go,
Lay down to sleep.

Song/Lapsit: Cuando Voy a Casa de Peña

Nursery rhyme and lapsit from Mexico. Listen via Mama Lisa's World here: <https://bit.ly/447jVC0>

Cuando voy a casa de Peña (move baby's legs as if walking)
Con la patita le hago la seña (raise one leg)
Cuando voy a casa de Juan (resume walking)
Con la patita le toco el zaguán* (kick one leg gently on "le toco el zaguán")

Direct English translation (for reference):
When I go to Peña's house, with my little leg I make a sign,
When I go to John's house, with my little leg I touch the hallway.

STAY AND PLAY

Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers: Hello, Neighbor

Who's sitting next to you? Who do you know in the room, and who do you not know? Encourage children to wave or say hello to each other.

Toddlers/Preschool: Puzzle Words

Laminate photos of your library or other buildings in your community, and add labels underneath in big letters. Cut the photos in half. Toddlers or preschoolers put the pieces together to form the word.

Toddlers/Preschoolers: Library Jumble

Set out multiples of various objects. Then ask everyone to find one of a specific kind of object. For example, everyone find a stuffed animal; find a toy vehicle; find a book with an animal on the cover. This is a great lesson on sharing and patience. If multiple children go after the same toy, reassure them that there are enough for everyone.

Preschoolers: Find Letters

Ask children to look around the room and tell you where they see letters (such as on wall signs). What's the letter? What words start with that letter? Go around the circle so every child has a turn. Games and songs emphasize the importance of active listening, sharing, and taking turns. It is also great for illustrating opposites or taking outside.

BUBBLEPALOOZA

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

An outdoor bubble party! Children explore how bubbles form, as well as how make bubble solutions and bubble wands. For an indoor program, children can make bubble paintings; when the paintings dry, have them draw creatures who might live inside the bubbles. Add a bubble machine to ensure bubble continuity. To age up for tweens, turn this into a STEM program in which they construct giant bubble wands to see who can leverage surface tension to blow the biggest bubble (see Resources). Suggested runtime: 60 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Bubble Painting

Materials:

- White construction paper
- Washable project paint
- Plastic cups / containers
- Paper or plastic straws
- Dish soap (clear works best)
- Stirring sticks, popsicle sticks or plastic spoons
- Table cloths or newspaper (to cover work surfaces)

Instructions:

1. Create paint solution with a 3-1-1 ratio when mixing (3 parts paint, 1 part water, 1 part dish soap) You may have to adjust this depending on the concentration of the dish soap, the type of paint you use, and the type of container you choose. Keep the amount of water used on the lower side so the paint color will keep its concentration. Mix the solution well right before using.
2. Give each child a piece of white construction paper and a straw. Have them blow bubbles into the solution (as many or as few as they wish). Catch the bubbles with the white piece of paper. They can do this randomly for a more abstract painting or have them draw a picture and try to catch the bubbles in a specific spot.

Types of DIY Bubble Wands

Pipe Cleaners (Preschool and Up)

- Bend tips into any closed shape
- Optionally, provide cookie cutters to mold shapes

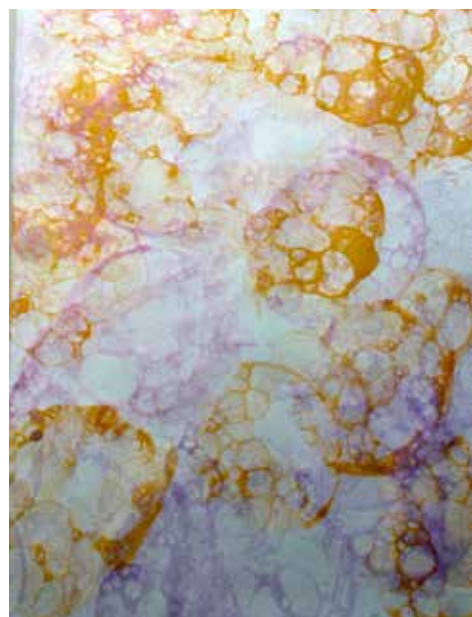


Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

ADAPTATION:

For a take-and-make program, include pipe cleaners and small bottles of bubble solution.

TIP:

Set big buckets of bubble solution on a tarp so drips don't kill the grass (and remember to dump the leftover bubble solution inside or in an outdoor drain).



Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

GAME/ACTIVITY | STEM | OUTDOORS

Plastic Funnels (Preschool and Up)

- Dip wide end in solution and blow through the narrow end

Straws (Preschool and Up)

- Dip one end to make numerous tiny bubbles
- Plastic cups (preschool and up)
- Poke hole in bottom
- Dip open end in solution and blow through the hole

Water Bottles (School Age and Up)

- Cut off the bottom end cover it with a washcloth (or sock) held in place by a rubber band
- Children dip the washcloth end and blow through the “drinking” end to make long snake bubbles

Wire (Twins and Up)

- Bend wire into a circle, with beads for decoration
- would require safety gloves for handling wire
- Giant bubble wands (twins and up)
- Two pieces of doweling with twine between them

Easy Bubble Solutions

Using glycerin:

- 1 gallon water
- 2/3 cup of dish soap
- 3 tbsp glycerin

Using sugar:

- 1/2 cup dish soap
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups water

Preparation:

- Decide on which wands to make (based on age).
- Gather materials for your chosen wands.
- Precut dowels for giant bubble wands (if using).
- Premix some bubble solution.
- Gather mixing bowls and supplies if children will mix their own.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Outdoors. Volunteers are needed to help mix the bubble solution and monitor for safety.

RESOURCES

Web

“Paint with Bubbles Three Ways” from Artful Kids: <https://bit.ly/44qoFCi>

“Bubble Science Experiments for Kids” from Little Bins, Little Hands: <https://bit.ly/3r6Ur9e>

TIP:

Have volunteers on hand to make sure children blowing into the solution, not sucking on the straw.

TIP:

Bubble solution gets better the longer it sits, so make a batch a few days in advance.

TIP:

If the bubble solution is too weak for giant bubbles, try adding cornstarch or baking powder.

TIP:

Challenge children to blow bubbles inside other bubbles by poking a straw gently through a bigger bubble and blowing another one.

“Build the Best Bubble Wand” from Scientific American: <https://bit.ly/44mK1k1>

“Science of Bubbles” printable from Illinois Extension: <https://bit.ly/444iF2m>

Books

Bubble Picture Books

Big Bag Bubble (2017) by Adam Rubin and illustrated by Daniel Salmieri

Bubbles...UP! (2021) by Jacqueline Davies and illustrated by Sonia Sánchez

Too Many Bubbles (2021) by Christine Peck and Mags DeRoma

Bubbles (Narwhal and Jelly Board Book) (2021) by Ben Clanton

LIBRARY EXPLORERS: PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Explore the library! Children receive a passport that contains photos from various library locations. They must be extra observant to find the locations that correspond to each photo (or follow clues to each location). For every photo/location, they record a letter in their passport; unscrambling all the letters gives them the clue for the final location (where they turn in their passport). Give out small prizes for completed passports, and enter children into an end-of-summer drawing for larger prizes. You can also make this a theme-based in-person program. Suggested runtime: Passive.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Photos for the passport
- Clues for each photo in the passport (optional)
- Printed passport books (with blank lines at the end for unscrambling letters)
- Pencils
- Printed letters placed in photo locations
- A display area or table with blank passports & instructions
- Prizes

Consider highlighting: Computer area, catalog station, genealogy, check-out desk, director's office, travel books, children's area, teen area, library book drop, return carts, archives, DVD collection, etc.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Printables

Library Scavenger Hunt



Image source: Nancy Nall of Foley Public Library, Foley AL

TIP:

The same idea can be done with a ticket that they get stamped, punched, or stickered at each location.

ADAPTATION:

Age up or down by adjusting clue difficulty and/or locations. For tweens, use Dewey numbers to help solve the final clue.



LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT

Write down the letter you find at each of these library locations. When you have unscrambled the word, go to the circulation desk to claim your prize!

Book return slot

Public computers

Library catalog

Return cart

DVDs

Children's fiction

Reading tables

Answer:

ROLLER COASTER FUN

AGES

Children 5–8

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Build excitement for your local county fair by holding a roller coaster build! Challenge children and/or families to see who can make the tallest, most fantastical, most realistic, scariest, and/or most unexpected roller coaster that is capable of depositing a ping-pong ball in a bowl. A great way to use recycled materials and miscellaneous building supplies. Increase the engineering challenge for older children. Suggested runtime: 60 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For Straw Roller Coasters

Materials:

- Straws
- Cardboard base (1 for each group)
- Low-temp glue gun (and glue sticks)
- Ping pong balls and plastic bowls

OR

- An assortment of recyclables, craft supplies, and tape

The straw roller coaster works best for a multigenerational program in which children partner with a teen or other family member who can use the glue gun. Alternatively, get low-temp glue guns or use duct tape.

During the program:

- Divide up supplies.
- Ask groups to draw a plan before gluing down straws.
- They are essentially constructing ramps that deposit a ping pong ball into a bowl.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

A large programming space, unless you impose a size limit on the roller coasters.

TIP:

If you hold this after the county fair, hold a conversation around everyone's favorite rides, games, and/or exhibits.

TIP:

Play some virtual roller coasters for inspiration!



Image source: Shutterstock

RESOURCES

Web

“Virtual Roller Coasters” from SiParent: <https://bit.ly/46qP6K5>

“Roller Coaster Family Challenge” from StarNet: <https://bit.ly/3r9yQx3>

“Engineering Project for Kids: Build a Straw Roller Coaster” from *Frugal Fun for Boys and Girls*: <https://bit.ly/3JCe8w4>

“Straw Roller Coaster STEM Challenge” from Sarah Dees on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3JEEQ78>

Books

Ride, Roll, Run: Time for Fun! (2022) by Valerie Bolling and illustrated by Sabrena Khadija (picture book NF)

Build a Roller Coaster!: And More Engineering Challenges (2020) by Megan Borgert-Spaniol (early reader NF)

The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster! (2022) (Pigeon) by Mo Willems (early reader F)

The Biggest Roller Coaster (Fox Tails) (2020) by Tina Kügler (early reader F)

Kit and Kaboodle Ride a Roller Coaster (Highlights Puzzle Readers) (2021) by Michelle Portice and illustrated by Mitch Mortimer (early reader F)

How to Code a Roller Coaster (2019) by Josh Funk and Sara Palacios (early reader F)

How to Design the World's Best Roller Coaster (2019) by Paul Mason (middle grade NF)

LIBRARY OLYMPIC GAMES

AGES

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Run friendly competitive games to coincide with the 2024 Summer Olympics (Friday, July 26 to Sunday, August 11). In the first part of this program, tweens work together to create a torch to signal the start of the games and awards for each game. In the second part, they play competitive library games (alternatively, this portion can be passive and book-focused). The third part of the program is a ceremony to award medals/trophies to winners. This program can be run over several weeks or condensed into a single program. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Competitive library games:

- Book stack: Use donations or withdrawn items to see who can stack the books highest and fastest without toppling.
- Fast alphabet: Have a cart of books and see who can correctly put the spine labels in correct order the fastest
- Book balance: Each player balances a book on their head while walking a designated path.
- Olympic ring bean bag toss: Set up 5 hoops and award points for players who get the beanbags through the hoops
- Paper plate shot put: Players write their name on a paper plate, then see who can toss it the farthest using correct shot put form.

Passive reading games:

- Marathon: Read a book based on a summer Olympic sport.
- Sprint: Read a short story based on a summer Olympic sporting.
- Weightlifting: Read a book more than 250 pages long.
- Relay: Read 1 hour every day for 7 days in a row.
- Team effort: You and a friend read the same book.

Materials:

- Game-specific supplies
- Times and/or stopwatches
- Prizes

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Volunteers helpful for monitoring stations.

TIP:

To extend this Olympic series, consider combining this program with Adventures in Breaking on page XX.



Image source: Stephanie Birr of Los Lunas Public Library, Los Lunas, NM

RESOURCES

Web

“Olympic Games: Resources for Public Libraries” from Britannia Education: <https://bit.ly/4456dPZ>

“Paris 2024” from International Olympic Committee: <https://bit.ly/3JC7g1R>

“Team USA” from the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee: <https://www.teamusa.org/>

Books

Early Readers

The Timekeepers: The Ancient Olympics (2023) by SJ King and illustrated by Esther Hernando

The Mind-Blowing World of Extraordinary Competitions (2023) by Anna Goldfield and illustrated by Hannah Riordan

The Origin of Sports (2023) by Tom Velcovsky and Stephanka Sekaninova, and illustrated by Matej Ilcik

Middle Grade

Boundless (2023) by Chaunté Lowe

Mr. Lemoncello’s Library series (2014–21) by Chris Grabenstein

Kudo Kids: The Mystery of the Masked Medalist (2020) by Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani

Daisy Woodworm Changes the World (2022) by Melissa Hart

Gold Metal Mysteries: Thief on the Track (2023) by Ellie Robinson and illustrated by James Lancett

Montgomery and the Case of a Golden Key (2023) by Tracy Ocomy Crowder and illustrated by Kristin Sorra

The Great Book of Olympic Games (2021) by Veruska Motta and illustrated by Luca Poli

Weird Sports (2023) by Brianna Kaiser

Young Adult

Those Summer Nights (2023) by Laura Silverman

Break the Fall (2020) by Jennifer Lacopelli

Furia (2020) by Yamile Saied Méndez

The Key to You and Me (2021) by Jaye Robin Brown

The Knockout (2020) by Sajni Patel

Inaugural Ballers: The True Story of the First US Women’s Olympic Basketball Team (2022) by Andrew Maraniss

Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice (2022) by Tommie Smith, Derrick Barnes, and Dawud Anyabwile

The Sports Book (2020) from DK

DECORATION/DISPLAY | PASSIVE | LOW COST | OUTREACH

COMMUNITY ADVENTURE GAMES

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program describes two ways to run community adventure games. Both options are good for outreach to local retirement homes, schools, community organizations and businesses, and local parks departments and swimming pools.

Option #1: Take photos of places in your community (with or without a library employee or mascot in each photo), then print and display the photos around your library. Display each photo with a number or letter for identification purposes, and provide ballots for patrons to identify the community locations. Provide ballots of two difficulty levels: One multiple choice and one that requires patrons to write in the community location.

Option #2: At several locations in your community, display signs that read “Adventure Begins...” with your favorite CSLP artwork from 2024. To turn this into a scavenger hunt, add a prize at each location, or have each location hold a piece of a puzzle, craft, or snack recipe. Once patrons find them all and complete a ballot, they are entered into the drawing for end-of-summer reading prizes.

Suggested runtime: Passive.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for option #1, community photos:

- Photos of your community
- Printer and paper
- Pins or tape to hang the photos
- Display area with instructions
- Ballots, ballot box, and pencils/pens
- Prizes

Materials for option #2, community locations:

- Printed signs that read “Adventure Begins...”
- Photos of the printed signs at their community locations.
- Ballots, ballot box, and pencils/pens
- Stamps and ink pads (optional, for stamping ballots)
- Prizes



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Create a hashtag for patrons to use on their own adventures around the community.

TIP:

For each photo, provide written descriptions that can be read out loud, as well as braille translations.

DECORATION/DISPLAY | PASSIVE | LOW COST | OUTREACH

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

“Adventure Close to Home” from Lonely Planet: <https://bit.ly/3NymXYL>

“Exploring Nature in Your Neighborhood” from CA State Parks: <https://bit.ly/3Nyn0Ur>

“Lesson Plan: Explore Your Neighborhood” from Scholastic: <https://bit.ly/3PzSufG>

Books

Picture Books

A Neighborhood Walk, a Musical Journey (2021) by Pilar Winter Hill and illustrated by Olivia Duchess

New in Town (2021) by Kevin Cornell

In the Neighborhood (2022) by Rocio Bonilla

Show the World! (2022) by Angela Dalton and illustrated by Daria Peoples

Dream Street (2021) by Tricia Elam Walker and illustrated by Ekea Holmes

Picture Books—in English and Spanish

My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World / Mi libro favorito en el mundo entero (2022) by Malcolm Mitchell and illustrated by Michael Robertson

Saturday / Sábado (2021) by Oge Mora

The World Belonged to Us / El mundo era nuestro (2022) by Jacqueline Woodson

My Papi Has a Motorcycle / Mi papi tiene una moto (2019) by Isabel Quintero and illustrated by Zeke Peña

Bisa's Carnaval / El carnaval de mi bisabuela (2021) by Joana Pastro and illustrated by Carolina Coroa

Mi Pueblo / My Town (2022) by Nicholas Solis and illustrated by Luisa Uribe. Bilingual.

Skater Cielo / Cielo la patinadora (2022) by Rachel Katsaller

Early Readers

Where We Live: Mapping Neighborhoods of Kids Around the Globe (2022) by Margriet Ruurs and illustrated by Wenjia Tang

Tacos Today: El Toro & Friends (World of ¡Vamos!) (2023) by Raúl the Third III

A Street Through Time: A 12,000 Year Journey Along the Same Street (2020) from DK and illustrated by Steve Noon

Fun at the Waterpark! / ¡A divertirse en el parque acuático! (Jeet and Fudge) (2022) by Amandeep S Kochar. Separate Spanish and English editions.

Hotdog! / Las Aventuras de Hot Dog series (2022) by Anh Do and illustrated by Dan McGuinness. Separate Spanish and English editions.

El club de las paseadoras de perros series (2021–) by Patricia Mora and illustrated by Laura García Barba. In Spanish.

SOLAR OVEN RECIPE CONTEST

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

What if you have an acute need for homemade cookies while you're on an adventure, but there's no oven nearby? Create a solar oven out of a pizza box! After construction, participants take them home and test out some recipes. S'mores? Toast? Hold a contest to see who can make the most adventurous snacks using their DIY solar oven. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes for oven construction.

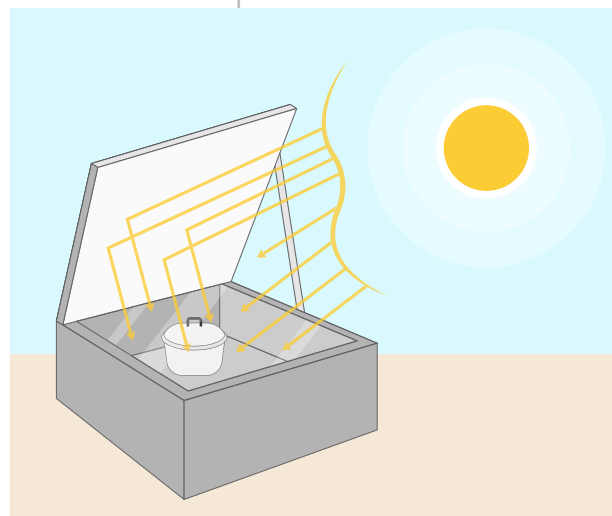


Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for each solar oven:

- Pizza box
- Scissors or utility knives
- Clear plastic, such as document sleeves or cling film
- Duct tape, masking tape, or scotch tape
- Tinfoil
- Old newspapers
- Black construction paper
- Small aluminum dish
- Skewers
- Rubber bands and small thermometer (optional)

To make:

- Trace a square on the top of the pizza box 2 inches smaller than the box on all sides
- Cut the square on 3 sides: left, right, and bottom; and lightly score the top side.
- On the back of the lid, tape clear plastic to make a window underneath the flap you just cut.
- Cover the inside of the pizza box and the underside of the flap with tin foil.
- Tape black paper to the bottom of the pizza box.
- Roll up old newspaper, cinch with rubber bands, and line all four sides of the pizza box for insulation.
- To operate, place food in an aluminum dish to bake under the plastic window.

ARTS & CRAFTS | GAME/ACTIVITY | STEM

- Close the pizza box, and prop open the flap with a skewer.
- Be sure to orient the oven towards the sun!

RESOURCES

Web

Solar s'mores from NASA *Climate Kids*: <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/smares/>
"How to Make a Solar Oven" from *Science Sparks*: <https://bit.ly/3pmzc2S>

ADVENTURE CUPCAKES

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Invite a local cake decorator to demonstrate techniques, then challenge tweens, teens, or families to a cupcake-decorating contest. They decorate premade cupcakes according to the adventure theme. You can judge the cupcakes right away or add an adventure challenge. Which cupcake travels the farthest from the library before it gets eaten? Where in your community are cupcakes getting eaten? To enter an adventure cupcake, participants must photograph their cupcake getting eaten in a new location. Display winning cupcakes and cupcake-makers on social media, in the library newsletter, or in the local paper. Suggested runtime: 60 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Cupcakes (2 per participant, according to dietary needs)
- Cake decorating equipment
- Sprinkles, food coloring, candy, etc.
- Frosting
- Plastic table coverings, condiment cups, and knives
- Printed cupcake silhouettes and pencils (for practice designs)

Preparation:

- Find a local cake decorator to demonstrate
- Print sign-up sheets
- Purchase supplies
- Purchase or bake cupcakes
- Print judging sheet & cut in half

RESOURCES

Printables

Cupcake Judging Sheet (in English and Spanish)



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Let teens decorate two cupcakes, one to eat now and one to eat later. They can enter their favorite design and eat the other one.

TIP:

Require sign-ups and have participants inform you of any allergies in advance. You can buy or different kinds of cakes or cupcakes according to individuals' needs. Grocery stores will often make unfrosted cupcakes upon request.

ADAPTATION:

For take-and-make kit, provide unfrosted cupcakes, frosting in plastic sauce containers, and decorations (optional). Be sure to include contest rules and deadline.

ADAPTATION:

If you don't want to include the travel component, see Printables for a cupcake-judging scoresheet.

TIP:

Scan your collection for cupcake and baking books!

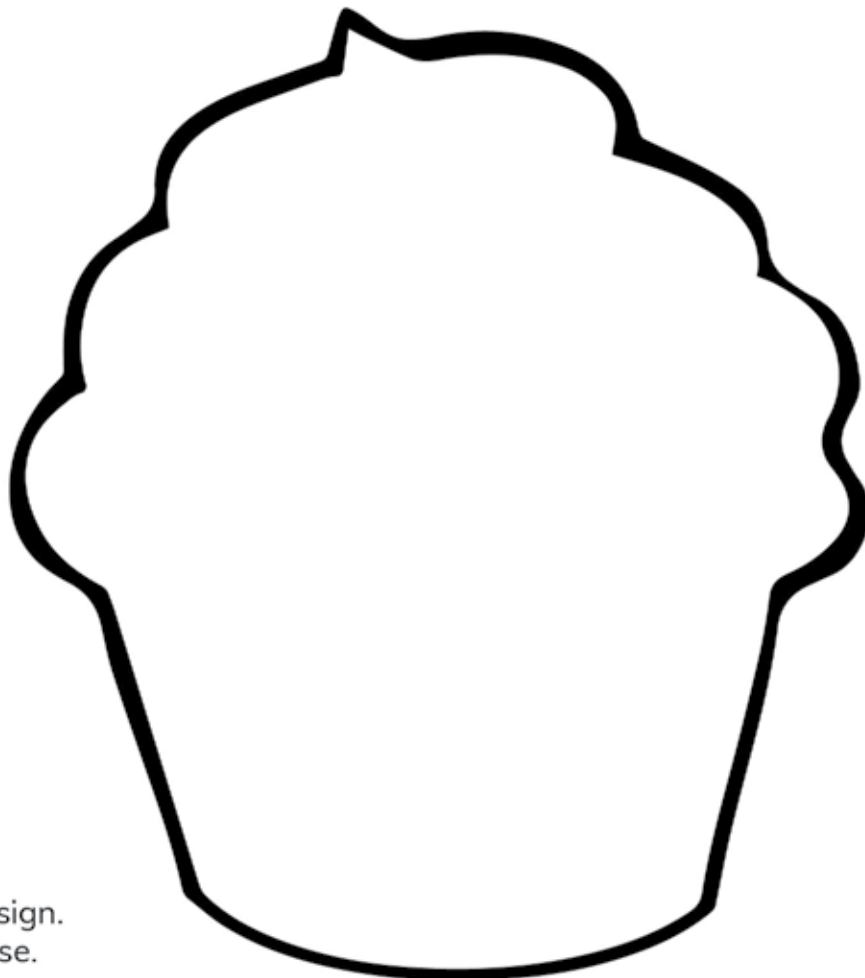
CUPCAKE JUDGING SHEET

Competitor Name _____

Rate each criteria from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest rating.

Creativity					
Use of materials					
Effort					
Follows the theme					

Total Points _____



Test your cupcake design.
This is only for your use.

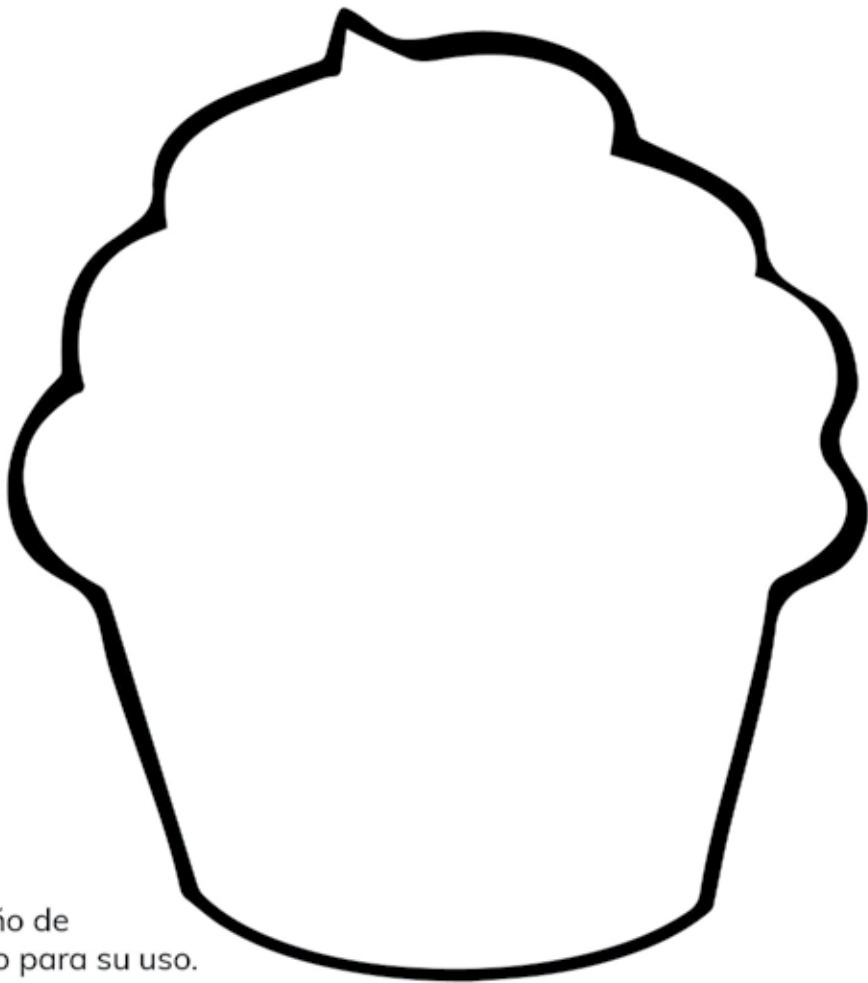
HOJA DE EVALUACIÓN DE CUPCAKES

Nombre del competidor _____

Califica cada criterio del 1 al 5, siendo 5 el más alto.

Creatividad					
Uso de materiales					
Esfuerzo					
Sigue el tema					

Puntos
totales
otorgados _____



Pon a prueba tu diseño de cupcakes. Esto es solo para su uso.

GAME/ACTIVITY | OUTDOORS | OUTSIDE PRESENTER

GEOCACHING SCAVENGER HUNT

AGES

Teens 13–18

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Geocaching is a popular activity in which participants use GPS coordinates on their mobile devices to find specific spots outdoors where hidden containers, called caches or geocaches, are located. For an in-library program, invite a local geocacher to present to families about cache-finding etiquette and how to find one, then send them out to find a designated cache. For teens, a presenter could share ideas and give tips for how to create private geocaching hunts for each other. Be sure to ask participants to post about the geocaches they find or create on the library's social media! Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes for an information session.

Apps:

- Geocaching (find more than 3 million caches worldwide)
- Adventure Lab (community-generated geocaching scavenger hunts)

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Weatherproof containers (one for each hiding place)
- Phone with a map app (or GPS unit)
- Paper visitor logs (one for each container)
- Pencils or pens (one for each container)
- Small items for prizes (optional)

Preparation:

- If hiding a cache, make sure you have permission to use a location. Consider partnering with a local park and labeling containers as library property.
- This program works best when the cache sites are spread across a wide area.
- Mark the GPS coordinates for the hiding places by pressing and holding the screen of your map app at your location. Save the points to your map app or write down the coordinates.
- Create clues to lead participants to the first container and from one container to the next. The clues include visual descriptions of where to look for the container at the next location. Adjust clue difficulty as needed.
- Fill containers with clues, GPS coordinates, visitor logs, pens/pencils,



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Geocaching is an excellent road trip activity! In the Geocaching app, run a Pocket Query to identify caches along the route.

ADAPTATION:

Make this a passive display in which you describe how to reach a specific cache, then hold a virtual or in-person event in which participants gather to talk about the experience.

ADAPTATION:

Partner with a local park to hold a “cache in, trash out” event in which geocachers pick up trash while hunting for caches.

ADAPTATION:

Caches can also be drive-ups (called “cache and dash”). Be sure to include accessible caches for multigen programs in which you hope to include seniors

GAME/ACTIVITY | OUTDOORS | OUTSIDE PRESENTER

and prizes or stickers.

- Hide containers in the predetermined locations.

RESOURCES

Web

“How to Make a Private Geocache” from *The Hobby Kraze*:

<https://bit.ly/3r6V3M4>

“Geocaching” from Wikipedia: <https://bit.ly/46Gse9N>

Books

Middle Grade Fiction

Alone (2022) by Megan E. Freeman

Adventure Is Now (2022) by Jess Redman

The Year the Maps Changed (2022) by Danielle Binks

The Exact Location of Home (2018) by Kate Messner

Little Monarchs (2022) by Jonathan Case

and/or people with mobility limitations. Consider partnering with local parks department for offsite locations.

TIP:

Choose containers that are waterproof but also easy to open and reseal.

NOTE:

The coordinates will not be perfectly precise, but they will be close enough for participants to use visual clues to find the hiding places.

TIP:

Give participants game cards for collecting stickers from each container; completed game cards win a prize.

TIP:

How to Puzzle Cache, 2nd edition (2019) by Cully Long is a good reference book for adults