



Library Fest 2025: The North Carolina Edition

Our fifth annual Library Fest is almost here! This year's Library Fest will celebrate all things North Carolina. Made possible by the generous support of the [Durham Library Foundation](#), Library Fest will run from Monday, April 7 to Saturday, April 12. There will be over 40 special events happening throughout the course of the week, so be sure to check our [events calendar](#) for an opportunity near you! See below for details on our larger Library Fest events:

Tressie McMillan Cottom
Monday, April 7, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

As a UNC-Chapel Hill professor, sociologist, and public intellectual, Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom has revolutionized the way many Americans think about higher education. Her 2017 work [Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy](#), led to appearances in multiple national media outlets. Her second book, [Thick: And Other Essays](#), was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award, and shortly thereafter Dr. Cottom received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. Join Dr. Cottom at Main Library to kick off our fifth annual Library Fest!

Dr. Zelda Lockhart
Thursday, April 10, 4 - 6 p.m.
[Offsite at the Nasher Museum of Art](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Dr. Zelda Lockhart's work focuses on the power of nature to connect us across barriers and heal our generations. Her works include her novels [Trinity](#), [Fifth Born](#) and [Fifth Born II](#), and [Cold Running Creek](#) in addition to a collection of essays on writing titled [The Soul of the Full-Length Manuscript](#). For this Library Fest event, Dr. Lockhart will share the unanswered family questions that led to her genealogy research for [Trinity](#) and [Cold Running Creek](#) while leading attendees in an interactive experience.

David Menconi
Saturday, April 12, 3 - 4 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

David Menconi is an author, critic, and journalist based in Raleigh who served as the 2019 Piedmont Laureate. Join him for this special Library Fest event where he'll trace some of the currents of North Carolina's incredibly influential music history, which includes key contributions to the evolution of jazz, blues, country, bluegrass, and more.

Nita Tyndall
Saturday, April 12, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Nita Tyndall is an award-winning author of queer books for teens. Their work includes the novels [Who I Was with Her](#), [Nothing Sung and Nothing Spoken](#), and [Have You Seen This Girl](#). Tyndall recently completed a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship in Austria and now works as an author and translator in North Carolina.

Abriana Johnson
Multiple Dates and Locations
[Registration Required](#)

Join NC author Abriana Johnson for a fun and inspiring Cowgirl Camryn session all about the Spirit of the Herd - a celebration of teamwork, belonging, and community. Discover how life on the farm teaches important lessons about kindness and connection and meet Encore the miniature horse in person! Perfect for families and animal lovers, this session blends engaging conversations, hands-on fun, and a little farm magic you won't want to miss. [Registration is required](#); please [view our website](#) for location-specific details.



Library Closures in April

All Durham County Library locations will be closed on **Friday, April 18** and **Saturday, April 19** for the spring holiday. Digital resources like Ebooks, movie streaming, online classes, and more will still be available. Please see our [online resources page](#) for more details.



Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22! The first Earth Day was held 55 years ago on April 22, 1970, and due to that movement environmental pollution, sustainability, and conservation now play a larger role in our national consciousness. Here at Durham County Library, our environmental programs include the [Digging Durham Seed Library](#) supported by the [Durham Library Foundation](#), our library garden club [Durham Grown](#), and so much more! See below for a selection of nature-themed programs in April:

Native Plant Swap
Saturday, April 5, 2 - 3 p.m.
[Southwest Regional Library](#)
[No Registration Required](#)

This plant swap celebrates North Carolina's wonderful native species! Are you curious about native plants? Check out the [North Carolina Wildlife Federation](#) to learn more. Durham County Extension Master Gardeners will be in attendance to answer your gardening questions.

Family Crafternoon: Flowerpot Decorating and Seed Planting
Tuesday, April 8, 5:30 - 6 p.m.
[East Regional Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Have you got a green thumb? Come out to East Regional Library for a family craft decorating flowerpots and planting seeds. All supplies will be provided.

Wild NC
Multiple Dates and Locations
[Registration Required](#)

North Carolina is home to so many fascinating wild animals! Biofacts like nests, scat, skins, tracks and skeletons can teach us so much about the wildly diverse animals of NC, found from our mountains to our eastern coastal plains. Explore and investigate both live animals and animal biofacts to help better understand and identify organisms native to NC. Please see our [events calendar](#) for the times and locations of this system-wide Library Fest program.

This program is geared towards children ages 3-5 and registration is required. As this event includes live animals, a liability waiver will need to be signed prior to entering the program.

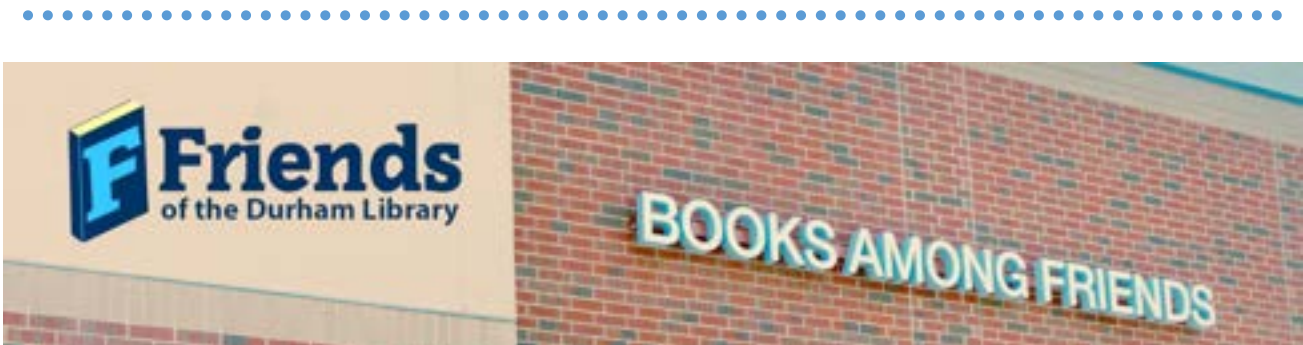
Earth Day Celebration for Kids
Tuesday, April 22, 4 - 4:45 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Not Required](#)

Join us for a celebration of Earth Day in Main Library's Children's Programming Room. We'll have stories, music, two types of crafts, and refreshments. The event is open for toddlers through elementary school-aged children.



Coming Soon: Summer Reading

The weather's getting warmer, the days are getting longer, and the daffodils are bringing joy to our lives. That can only mean one thing - summer is just around the corner! Our annual Summer Reading program isn't just for the kids who are out of school, it's for grown-ups too. Stay tuned for more updates and events as we approach the start of Summer Reading on Saturday, June 14.



Upcoming Friends of the Durham Library Events

The Friends of the Durham Library is a member-supported, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that supports Durham County Library through staff scholarships, programming grants, and more. The Friends sell gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and games donated by the community. For upcoming events, membership information, donation instructions, and more, please [visit the Friends' website](#). You can also shop for books any time at the [Friends' online storefront](#).

Online 50% off Everything Sale
Tuesday, April 1 - Tuesday, April 8
[ShopFODLNC.org](#)
[Storefront Pickup](#)

This isn't an April Fool, we promise! From April 1 - 8, every item purchased on the Friends of the Durham Library [online store](#) will be marked down by 50%. That's right, on top of the Friends' already low prices, everything is half off for the first seven days of April! Please note that all purchases may be picked up on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from the Friends' bookstore, [Books Among Friends](#), located at [3825 S. Roxboro Street](#).

Read-A-Thon After Hours Kickoff
Thursday, April 10, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

As if huge discounts aren't enough, in support of this year's Library Fest, the Friends will be handing out some free books at our [Read-A-Thon after hours kickoff event](#). Join the Friends, the Poetry Fox, Melenated Wine and Spirits, and more community partners for an evening of literary festivities. This event is open to patrons aged 21 and above.

