



TRANSFORMING TEEN SERVICES: A TRAIN THE TRAINER PROJECT

Article by Laura England-Biggs, Sally Snyder, and Christa Porter

The Nebraska Library Commission is a participant in the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) “Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer project.” The Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) is one of the 97 state library agency and front-line library staff participating in the project.

As part of the project, Sally Snyder from the NLC is working with Laura England-Biggs from Keene Memorial Library (Fremont) to develop and deliver continuing education (CE) to other library staff in the state, who will in turn provide programs and services for/with youth, especially underrepresented youth. The project is generously funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

“Transforming Teen Services: Computational Thinking, Connected Learning, and YOU!” will give introductions about Computational Thinking, Connected Learning, and how to plan and work more intentionally with teens.

Computational Thinking and Connected Learning are higher level concepts around what youth services librarians are already doing — introducing coding and computer-based programming (Computational Thinking) and programs centered around things teens already love to be part of (Connected Learning).

Our first introductory workshop was held on January 10 at the Millard branch of Omaha Public Library. The next is on Friday January 31 at the Walt Branch of the Lincoln City Libraries at 10:30am. Registration for this upcoming event can be found at the NLC training calendar (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=18960>)

There will be additional workshops held across all four of the Nebraska Library Systems in the coming year. Watch for future updates through the Commission’s training calendar and the various system newsletters.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- One Librarian’s Unexpected Project
- The Biggest Fundraiser
- Summer Reading Presenters
- Book Reviews!
- Scholarship Experiences

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Scholarships

TRaiLS continuing education scholarships are available to attend state, regional, and nationwide conferences and events. Any director, media specialist, staff member, or trustee at libraries in the TRaiLS service area may apply. Applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee after the deadline to apply for each specific scholarship has passed. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to the event with money awarded after attendance of the event.

Did You Know:

That January is [National Hobby Month](#)! Pick up an artsy project this month or maybe try out a new hobby.

Maybe set up a display of books of some classic hobbies. Want to know other national holidays? Check out <https://nationaltoday.com/> to find some quirky holidays to celebrate.

An application to apply can be found at <http://libraries.ne.gov/trls/calendar-2/scholarship-opportunities/>

2020 ARSL Meeting in Wichita

Next year the Association of Rural and Small Libraries will meet in Wichita, Kansas from September 30th to October 3rd, 2020.

The [Nebraska Library Commission already announced](#) it would support scholarships for \$500 per individual to attend the ARSL meeting. The TRLS Scholarship Committee has accepted 6 \$200 scholarships for librarians in our system to attend the ARSL Meeting. There are still two scholarships available, so if you'd like to attend, apply for a scholarship at: <http://bit.ly/trlsScholarshipApp>

Giveaway Items

At the office, we're parting with our professional development collection as well some titles from our book kits, so head on over to trails.libib.com/i/give-away and see if there's anything your library may need.

If there is, send Chelsea an e-mail at trls.assistant@gmail.com and she can help figure out a pickup or drop-off date.



GOLDEN SOWER NOMINEES FOR 2020—2021

The list of the Golden Sower Nominees for the 2020—2021 school year have been posted on the [Golden Sower webpage](#).

Based on the bronze statue known as the *Sower* which stands onto of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, The Golden Sower Award was first presented in 1981 and continues every school year.

The award’s sponsors, the Nebraska Library Association, hope the program will sow seeds which:

- ◆ Stimulate children’s thinking

- ◆ Introduce different types of literature
- ◆ Encourage independent reading
- ◆ Increase library skills
- ◆ Foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustrating.

Nebraska’s young readers are encouraged to visit their local public library or school library media center to find out how they can participate and vote in the Nebraska Golden Sower Award program.

FREE WEBINARS

The following [free webinar list](#) presents a subject guide of library-related webinars with program descriptions and links to registrations. Many webinars are archived, so you can view them later if you don’t catch the initial broadcast.

This list and more information can also be found at: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/webinars.aspx>

UPCOMING BASIC SKILLS COURSE AND REGISTRATION DATES

Class Dates:	Class Title:	Registration Dates:
1/1 - 1/30	Communication*	11/25/19 - 12/20/19
2/10 - 2/21	Customer Service*	1/6 - 1/31
3/9 - 3/20	Library Governance	2/3 - 2/28
3/23 - 4/3	Library Technology	2/17 - 3/13

* Required class

Calendar of Events

[Connected Learning, Computational Thinking, and Teen Services](#)

Omaha Public Library—Millard Branch
10 January 2020
9:30am—12:30pm

[DiSPeL Meeting](#)

Randolph Public Library
16 January 2020
9:30am—11:30am

[STEM in the Library Workshop](#)

La Vista Public Library
31 January 2020
1:00pm—4:00pm

[Connected Learning, Computational Thinking, and Teen Services](#)

Lincoln City Libraries—Walt Branch
31 January 2020
10:00am—1:00pm

[TRaiLS Communications Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom Meeting
7 February 2020
12:30pm –1:30pm

[TRLS Board Meeting](#)

Online via Zoom Meeting
7 February 2020
1:30pm

[Big Talk from Small Libraries 2020](#)

Online via GoToWebinar
28 February 2020
8:45am—5:00pm

[Customer Service Workshop](#)

Metropolitan Community College—Fremont Center
9 March 2020
9:00 am—1:00pm

[Summer Reading Program Workshop](#)

Syracuse Public Library
13 March 2020
10:00am—3:15pm

One Librarian's Unexpected Project

Article by Janet Sobczyk

Madonna School for students with special needs in Omaha, NE recently had the opportunity to do something out of the ordinary during Media/Library classes. The Speech Language Pathologist (Julie Froemming), who owns a small 3-D printer, suggested a collaboration with the Media/Library and Art teachers (Janet Sobczyk and Kathleen Ward) to create an item for students to prep and decorate.

The lesson began with learning how the printer works and how it is different from a regular printer/copier. Examples of decorative items that Froemming had made with that printer were shown. Pictures of functional items that can be made by larger 3-D printers, such as prosthetics,

A free online pattern was chosen for the project that produced a small, white, Christmas tree stand to hold an ornament. The students observed the printing process, then sanded and painted the tree with glitter paint to look like snow. Snowflake ornaments were added but could be replaced with a favorite ornament instead.

The finished product turned out so well that several were sold at a school fundraiser and requests have been made to create more of them.

It was collaboration at its best!



were also discussed.



Lied Pierce Public Library's Biggest Fundraisers!

Article by Dawn Tucker

We offer a Kids' Shopping Corner during the Open House for the Holidays. Businesses and local patrons donate items to be sold. Everything is priced \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, or \$5. Nothing is priced higher, even if the value is more. We had some perfume that retails for over \$100 and only charged \$5. We help the children shop for family members and friends. The presents are even wrapped for them. After the 1st three days of shopping for just children; we open up the shopping to anyone. It will be open for 10-14 days.



LIBRARY NEWS

Prepping for Summer Reading Performers!

Below are some presenters with Summer Reading programs. Check them out if you're still looking for presenters.



FAIRYTALE FUN!
AN ACTING WORKSHOP
 AGES 6+ • MAXIMUM 25 KIDS PER CLASS • \$60 PER TEACHING HOUR

Have you ever dreamed of living in a magical forest? Or playing with elves? Explore the fantastical world of fairytales using our acting tools of body, voice and imagination! In this workshop, we will create our own fairytale characters, explore classic fairytales, and even make our own adventure! Let's have fun and create a magical world together!

.....

These workshops take place at your library!

Requirements for fairytale fun include:

- An open space to play and explore.
- The ability to make noise and have fun!

Contact Melissa Richter at (402) 502-4625 or melissar@rosetheater.org to schedule your workshop today!

ROSE THEATER • (402) 502-4625 • WWW.ROSETHEATER.ORG





**Three Rivers Library System
 Contract Pricing for**

**Donna Trout
 Or
 Rainbow Trout the Clown**

Summer Rates 2020

FEE: \$125 1st hour,
 \$50 each additional 1/2 hour
 (Travel fee added for outside the Omaha area)

Programs Offered:
Clowning Around with Rainbow Trout: One hour duration. Makeup demo-all ages, especially young children with fear of clowns. Followed by teaching the children a silly interactive song, then a magic show or Balloon Twisting.
Face Painting - 20-25 quick faces in an hour. Great for end of summer reading parties.
Balloon Twisting - combined with other things or done separately. Children can learn to twist and create their own balloon creations with help. Or simply have me make fun balloons.
Glitter Tattoos - Temporary glitter tattoos. Two types to choose from:
 1. Lasts 2-4 days and applied to arms/legs. They won't wash off.
 2. Applied to face, lasts one day and will wash off easily.
Balloon Extravaganza - Very popular balloon races, including the staff. Balloon rocket races can be added on the end of many of the above programs if time permits. Balloon Cross Bow and Arrow funfairs. Children leave with several balloons each.
Water Fun - Learn to make sponge water toss game and bubble snakes. Outside game and bathing suits strongly suggested. Followed by inside balloon games and Balloon Cross Bow and Arrow funfairs.

Combinations of one or more of the above programs or services are possible. Just contact me and we can talk about all the possibilities. You have an idea maybe I can help with, just give me a call and I'll see what I can do.

FOR BOOKINGS AND QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
 Donna Trout
 1017 Haverford Dr
 Papillion, NE 68046
 C 402 212-2269 H 402 339-0952
www.rainbowtroutthec clown.com

Curtis Mork, The Lego Guy
 723 Goodrich Court
 Platteville, CO 80651
 (303)-775-5973
cmlegoguy@yahoo.com



To Whom It May Concerns,

My name is Curtis Mork and kids know me as the Lego Guy. For thirteen years I have held exhibits, talks about Lego centered around the history of Lego and building challenges for the Summer Reading Programs. In 2019, I visited libraries in my home state of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. With 600 Lego sets in my collection now, I am able to give kids a sneak peek at some of the things Lego is doing now and what they have done in the past.

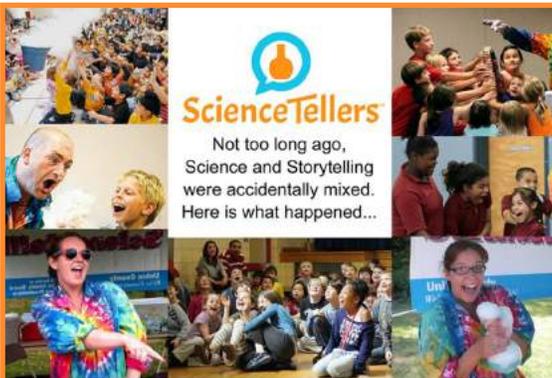
The purpose for this letter is to see if your library would enjoy a program with me. My fees are pretty simple. I offer a flat rate of \$350 per program. This covers everything from setup to teardown and lodging. If you wish to have multiple program times, the rate would be \$600. Some libraries have partnered up to have me in an area for an extended period of time including a three week trip to Wisconsin in 2019 in which I worked with over 20 libraries in the same district. However, I am always willing to travel to anyone. Please be aware, I am available during the spring and fall as well. Weather pending of course.

A full list of the workshops I can provide to you are available upon request.

If you are interested in discussing a possible program, you can call or email me at the information provided. You can also view my collection by visiting my Lego Guy Facebook page.

Building Imagination Every Day.

Curtis Mork, The Lego Guy

Science Tellers
 Not too long ago,
 Science and Storytelling
 were accidentally mixed.
 Here is what happened...

Science Tellers™
 Help us conduct experiments to bring a story to life!

PO Box 6741
 Hillsborough, NJ 08844
 908-334-2625 www.science-tellers.com info@science-tellers.com

**2020 Summer Reading Program: Imagine Your Story
 Dragons: Return of the Ice Sorceress (Dry Ice)**

In a faraway world, two brave villagers go on a daring journey to release the dragons and save the entire kingdom from the evil ice sorceress. See if our two heroes can stop the evil ice sorceress before all hope is lost! Join us on an action-packed adventure as we soar high into the air and touch the clouds on the back of a dragon! This interactive story features amazing special effects that will bring this fantasy to life! Then journey behind the scenes of the special effects as we explore the science of matter. Volunteers from the audience will help us conduct experiments with Dry Ice, fog, bubbles, flying rockets and more! Program content addresses Next Generation Science Standards PS1 & PS2.

Single Show: \$360 Time: 45 minutes Ages: 4-12
 2 Libraries (same day): \$360 Size: 1-200 people
 3 Libraries (same day): \$525 Available: Starting June 2020

**Contact us today to bring
 Science Tellers to your library!**

SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCES

2019 Youth Services Retreat

Article by Sonia Vanderworth

Thank you for the scholarship to attend the 2019 Youth Services Retreat in Ashland, NE. There are so many knowledgeable people in this industry that make attending these events so exciting! There is no way to walk away from this event without learning so much and bringing back so much information to share with colleagues.

One program that we learned about that we will be implementing is adding more Spanish to our story times. We do have a large Spanish speaking population in our town of 25,000 and it would be very helpful if we reached out in that manner. This is an excellent way to encourage staff to try to speak more Spanish and

maybe bridge the cultural gap.

I learned so much from the Teen Brain presentation. This helped me in terms of understanding what the teens in our library are looking for in terms of books and media as well as why my teens at home make me pull my hair out with their drama. I would recommend this as a presentation to all parents of teens, not just teen librarians.

Again, thank you very much for the scholarship. It is very much appreciated and the information will definitely be shared throughout our library!

25th Annual Youth Services Retreat

Article by Liz Hittle

Hello! My name is Liz Hittle, and I'm here to tell you about the 25th Annual Youth Services Retreat! First of all, I wanted to say thank you to the Three Rivers Library System for awarding me a Continuing Education Scholarship for this event — I would not have been able to attend otherwise. Thank you so much!

This year's Youth Retreat was AMAZING, and the overall theme was storytelling. We got to attend a workshop run by the awesome Diane Cox, who gave us many tips and tricks for doing our own storytelling at our libraries, and let us tell our own stories at the event to get us out of our comfort zones. It was a lot of fun! And our final timeslot was entirely devoted to the wonderful Pippa White, who did 'The Story of the Orphan Grain Train'. The entire room of librarians was moved to tears by her performance, and we

jumped to our feet to give her a standing ovation at the end.

I took many, many notes and plan on using everything I learned as much as I can in my own library. I definitely want to see about having Pippa White perform at my library someday (our community would LOVE it) and adding a majority of the books that were suggested to us. And I also have learned a lot more about working with the youth in my library, but that's what the retreat is all about, isn't it? :)

All in all, it was an amazing experience that keeps getting better and better with every single year, and my only wish is that it was longer than the two days that it is. Maybe someday! I hope that you will consider attending the event, and if so, I will see you next year!

NLA Conference

Article by Katie Hollmann

THANK YOU for the scholarship!

I think there are librarians in Nebraska who have not attended a state NLA conference. I highly recommend making it a priority and don't be shy about getting help with the funding. Apply for a Continuing Education Scholarship from TRLS! It was jolly having Iowa and Nebraska combined in 2019. A couple Iowa librarians I spoke with credited our state with bringing more practical subjects to break-out sessions. I wonder? I have always counted on our conferences for relevant tips on library directing.

Besides the recurring pleasure of meeting new librarians, I had different quests this year than last. I pumped architect vendors about library lighting and started learning archival preservation

techniques. I bought a ridiculous amount of Seward Library's delectable chocolates and gasped at the fire stories from Kansas State University and UNO.

Each year I get a surprise and this year was no different. Have you heard of the Radio Talking Book Service? I signed up my local nursing home to receive the FREE service which is 24/7 programming including live readings of newspapers (Columbus, Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, North Platte, Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Kearney, Hastings, and Norfolk!)

Thank you, TRLS, for supplementing the tight budgets of rural libraries with your continuing education scholarships!

SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCES

Annual Youth Services Retreat

Article by Naomi Hemphill

The Three Rivers Library System Continuing Education Scholarship enabled me to attend my first Annual Youth Services Retreat.

The retreat was both informative and fun. The general theme of the retreat was Storytelling. We were given tips on using verbal stories to enhance a book experience. The sessions by Diane Cox and Karen Drevo inspired me to rejuvenate my story-times. Storytelling is a powerful tool to spark interest and imagination.

Each session of the retreat was fabulous. The speakers tackled

subjects such as copyright laws and trauma in children. They condensed these overwhelming subjects into concise and useful information.

The laid-back, casual schedule provided time to problem-solve and brainstorm with fellow librarians.

The Three Rivers Library System Continuing Education Scholarship has given me access to education about child development. I am now better quipped to service the interests and needs of my young community.

NLA Conference

Article by Joanne Mancuso

I was very excited to receive a scholarship from TRaILS so that I may attend my first NLA conference. I was anxious to bring back a bunch of ideas for my current and future programs.

I was most interested in the sessions having to do with elementary programming and early literacy. We recently started some new early literacy programming at our library; Preschool STEAM and an overhaul of our Preschool Storytime. I was happy to learn that our research and development was in line with what I learned at the conference.

After attending “Innovative Approaches for Fostering Early Language of Literacy,” I added more talking and asking questions (and waiting for a response) at Storytime. I learned that conversations between kids and parents start to stall around age five. I plan to add a small reading corner during the play portion of Storytime so that parents will sit and read aloud with their

children.

I also added more question cards to my Preschool STEAM stations to promote parents asking the kids questions and waiting for responses. Our PS STEAM program involves one story that I read aloud and then ask the kids to retell it to me. We then break out into the room where I have set up various stations (usually 6-7) that have to do with the very basics of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Each station has directions for the parents to read to their child and now more questions to ask. So far, I have heard much more conversation between parents and kids. This program is 100% parent participation.

My time at the conference was spent talking with other children’s librarians about what programs are working for them and even brainstorming how to improve what we are already doing.

2019 Young Adult Services Symposium

Article by Ashley Wemhoff

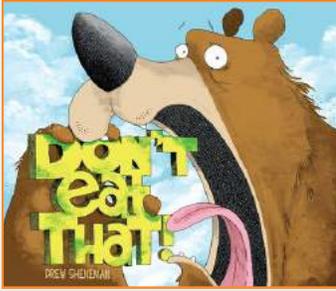
In November, I had the pleasure of attending YALSA’s national conference in Memphis, TN. I have been a teen librarian at the La Vista Public Library for less than a year, and being my first national conference, I learned a great deal from going. I owe a heartfelt thank you to TRLS for offering me a generous continuing education scholarship that helped me attend.

While I could go into great detail about all the wonderful ideas I came back with, here are just two presentations that I found particularly sensational. These each revolve around civic engagement and I hope they will inspire you as well. South Carolina Public Library’s “Read, Eat, Grow” initiative aims to improve patrons’ knowledge of nutrition. With the use of a Carlie Cart (an all-in-one portable kitchen), librarians are able to provide outreach programming. Combining cooking with nutritional skills, programs teach youth everything from how to measure ingredients to how to create a healthy menu.

The San José and LA Public Libraries also had some exciting ideas to share. Their teens planned and organized summer community projects. While each library system created their action groups differently, in both cases projects were funded by library foundation scholarships. Libraries that didn’t receive the scholarship could still help out at one of the winning branches. From painting murals to cleaning up neighborhoods, youth worked together to make a difference. They stressed that while non-profits and other organizations make great partners, it is important teens maintain control over their own projects.

Getting teens involved in libraries programs is often a challenge. Seeing how these libraries worked with their teens to provide services that not only got them active, but also made a difference, was a really eye-opening experience!

REVIEW CORNER



Don't Eat That

By Drew Sheneman

Recommended for early elementary students.

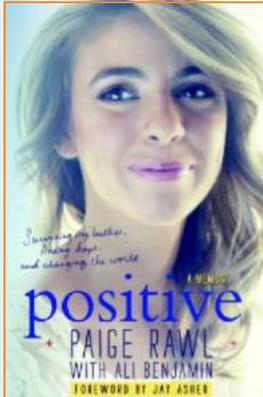
Article by Pat Thompson

Precocious Gertie is out to earn a merit badge during a Girl Scout camp out. As Gertie is identifying bird species, she runs across a Northern Brown Bear that looks hungry. She yells at him, “Don’t eat that!” when he tries to eat a rock and then precedes to lecture him on what he is not to eat using her guidebook for help. She has nonstop dialogue with the bear,

except that she does not allow him to take part in the conversation. After a disagreement, Gertie tells Bear he is on his own, but the very loud rumbling of his empty tummy causes her to have second thoughts and she helps him find food. All who pick up this volume will enjoy this delightful food. All who pick up this volume will enjoy this delightful illustrated book, written for early elementary students. There is underlying humor that smaller readers will not catch, but will delight older readers or the adult that is reading the book to a child. End flap pictures add to the storyline. Conversations on rudeness, helpfulness, problem solving, and taking turns can develop from the reading of this funny book.

Submit news, articles, pictures, or resources for the newsletter to Chelsea at trls.assistant@gmail.com.

Please feel free to email or call with suggestions and comments for the newsletter or system.



Positive (A Memoir)

By Paige Rawl

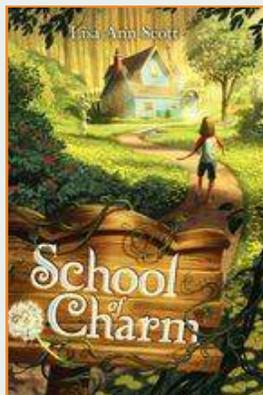
Recommended for sixth grade and up.

Review by Diane Limoges

Paige has never known life without HIV, but that has never gotten in the way of her normal life. That is, until she nonchalantly tells her best friend that she is HIV. Now she is called names, receives nasty notes, and her best friend will have nothing to do with her. When she goes to

her teachers and counselor she is told she is making too much of it and she is as much to blame as her fellow students for the bullying that will not stop. How does she make it stop and will she ever have a somewhat normal life?

Though a true story of a young girl’s life with HIV and people’s ignorance about the virus, this is really more a story of bullying. I hope that those reading this have a better understanding of how words and actions can affect a life.



School of Charm

By Lisa Ann Scott

Recommended for grades 4 through 6.

In this work of fiction, Brenda, an 11-year-old girl, who has been nicknamed Chip, is a tomboy and a daddy’s girl. After her father’s death, Brenda, her two sisters, and her mother all move to North Carolina to live with their grandmother. Grandma hopes that the girls will follow in her footsteps at being crowned Miss North Carolina. However, those hopes are suddenly thwarted when Grandma realizes that Chip loves to be close to nature and get dirty, of which causes a strain between them, and on all the family relationships. The strained relationships, the feeling of isolation, and the loss of her father cause Chip to ‘escape’ from the family on a daily basis. While exploring an enchanted wooded area near grandma’s house, Chip discovers *Miss Vernie’s School of Charm*, and learns that it is free to those who believe they need it. Chip hopes that the School of Charm will help her to become the beauty queen that her grandmother desires of her. Instead,

she finds the charm school is much like a haven where she befriends two girls who have also suffered similar family losses. In the beginning, all of the girls are reluctant to share their feelings, but those hidden feelings begin to emerge as the relationships evolve. The School of Charm is run by Miss Vernie, who is kind, caring, supportive, and nurturing. She has unusual teaching methods, and an almost magical style of helping the girls to better understand themselves. With the assistance of *Miss Vernie’s School of Charm*, Chip discovers the powers of fitting in and being true to herself; she evolves into her true being, and is proud of who she is. Her grandmother finally accepts Chip for the unique person she truly is.

I greatly enjoyed this book and highly recommend this book for grades 4–6. It would make a nice addition to any public or school library. This book examines subjects of friendship, family, loss, grievance, change, and self-discovery. Emphasis is placed on life’s purpose as realistically finding your place in the world.

FREE

STEM in the Library Workshop

**LA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY
31 JANUARY 2020
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

This half-day workshop, facilitated by Dr. Sandra Wever Frerichs, Science Education Specialist with Nebraska 4-H, will develop your expertise in planning and delivering STEM programs that engage children and families in learning at your library. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and videos, you will be prepared to provide STEM learning experiences that are active, relevant, engaging, and appropriate for children.

**NO REGISTRATION FEE
3 CE available**

Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/LibSTEM>



Summer Reading + Teen STEM Workshop

**12 FEBRUARY 2020
NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

4-H STEM Reading Connections with Jackie Steffen

During this session, you will learn about the summer resources developed by Nebraska Extension that tie into this year's summer reading theme "Imagine Your Story." This hands-on workshop will allow you to interact with "myth" themed lessons and resources and also give you a sneak peek of how this program has expanded to involve childcare providers, parents, and 4-H clubs.

Afterschool Teen STEM with Julie Boyle

This session will use the Think, Make, Create Lab to learn the importance of STEM, family engagement, and active learning. This hands-on lesson on active learning and its importance for teens will be a fun resource for libraries this summer.

**4 CE AVAILABLE
LUNCH FEE: \$15**

Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/trlsSRP>





Customer Service Workshop

on 9 March 2020
at 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

**Metropolitan Community College in
Fremont, Nebraska**

Registration fee: \$25

4 CE available

Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/TRLSCustomerService>