



MAY GUIDE

SPARK CURIOSITY. MAKE CONNECTIONS. THRIVE TOGETHER.



INTRODUCTION TO PLAYWRITING

WITH EAN MILES KESSLER

Tue 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27 6:00-7:30 PM - Blackfoot Room

In this 4-week workshop, participants will explore the essentials of playwriting. Each session includes creative prompts, group discussion, and peer feedback. Consistent attendance is encouraged. Program led by playwright and theater educator Ean Miles Kessler - Rutgers BFA graduate trained at Shakespeare's Globe with director Tim Carroll.

BIKES, BOOKS, AND BOARDGAMES

Boardgames and Relax

Wed 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 4:30-6:30 PM - Level One

Relax, have fun, and connect with others with boardgames! Play from the library's collection or bring your own to share with others. Whether you're a seasoned gamer or new to the world of board games, there's something for everyone.

Free Cycles Fixit Clinic: Bike Repair and Maintenance

Mon 5/12 11:30 AM-1:00 PM - Front Lawn on Main St.

Celebrate Bike Month with Free Cycles at the library! Get help with bike repairs, maintenance, and learn simple mechanical tips from Free Cycles staff. Weather permitting; bikes must stay outside.



Bike to the Library Day

Sat 5/17 9:00 AM-5:30 PM - Level One

Pedal into adventure on Bike to the Library Day! Ride to the downtown library, claim \$2 in Book Bucks from Level One staff, and treat yourself at the Library Store. Celebrate Bike Month, reading, and the fresh spring air!

RESOURCE ACCESS DAY (RAD)

Thu 5/8 12:00-3:00 PM - Level Four

MPL, Missoula Municipal Courts, and the Pretrial Assistance to Support Success (PASS) program, are partnering to provide free resources for everyone! Resources include legal support, housing and benefits assistance, healthcare, and more. Services are on a drop-in basis and lunch will be provided.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



Gun Safety Lock Giveaway

Thu 5/1 - Sat 5/31 - MPL Safety Desk Level One

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Missoula Public Health is providing free gun safety locks at MPL throughout May. Pick up to two locks per person, no questions asked, no library card needed, while supplies last. This initiative is a partnership between MPL, Missoula Public Health, and The Montana Happiness Project. In Montana, one person dies by firearm suicide every 54 hours, and firearms are used in 63% of suicides in Missoula. 1 in 4 attempts happen within five minutes of suicidal thoughts. A simple lock can save a life.



Movement For Your Mental Health with Turning the Wheel

Sat 5/3 10:00-11:00 AM - Cooper Room B

Discover a fun, uplifting way to connect with your mental health through movement! Join Turning the Wheel for an all-ages experience that inspires joy, self-expression, and a deeper sense of well-being.

Spice It Up: Library Spice Club

Wed 5/7 Open Hours - Demonstration Kitchen



Spice up your cooking with a free Spice It Up! kit, available the 1st Wednesday of the month. Each kit contains a featured spice, fun facts, and a budget-friendly recipe. This month's spice is coriander! Supplies are limited, one kit per household, courtesy of the Good Food Store.

BOOKMOBILE BOUND

Missoula Public Health Roll & Read

Sat 5/3 11:00 AM-1:00 PM - McCormick Park

Story stations, activities, free bike tune-ups, and more.

Northside/Westside Neighborhood Leadership Team Public Meeting

Wed 5/7 6:00-7:30 PM - Burns Street Center

SCAN FOR APRIL'S BOOKMOBILE LOCATIONS



PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Missoula Scholastic Chess Club Thu 5/1 3:30-5:00 PM - Cooper Room B

Students in grades 2–12 can challenge friends and pick up new strategies - beginners are welcome!

First Friday: Trashformations Early Education Upcycled Art Show

Fri 5/2 5:00-7:00 PM - Level Four

Celebrate community and creativity at this First Friday event, featuring artwork from early education classrooms across the area. Show your support for upcycling by wearing your best thrifted or upcycled outfit for a chance to win raffle prizes. Drawing is at 6:45 PM (you don't need to be present to win). Enjoy light appetizers and refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

Story Time for Diverse Abilities

Wed 5/7 and 5/21 1:00-2:00 PM - Art Box

Youth Services librarians read a selection of engaging stories geared toward teens through adults with cognitive or other disabilities.

Kids' Spring Chess Tournament at MPL

Sat 5/10 10:30 AM-2:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B

Test your skills and have some fun at the annual Spring Tournament! This free event is open to all young players in grades 2–12. Come out and make your next great move!

Sensory Story Time with Advanced Therapy Clinic

Sat 5/17 11:30 AM-12:30 PM - Imaginarium

An interactive story time to support individuals with autism or sensory processing challenges. Attendees can move and engage with restorative materials, offering an inclusive experience. Space is limited to 10 participants. Though designed for children, all ages are welcome.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Watercolor Painting Class

Every Friday 12:00-2:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B

Join local artist Robert Peltzer to build your watercolor skills. Robert teaches twice a month, with guest artists leading other sessions. Open to adults 18+, no fee or registration required. Bring your own watercolor supplies.

Yarns Group @ MPL

Every Friday 12:00-2:00 PM - Blackfoot Room

Calling all knitters, crocheters, and fiber artists! Bring your lunch, your latest project every Friday for a cozy afternoon of stitching, chatting, and unwinding. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just getting started, it's the perfect way to end your week with some crafty fun and great company.



Montana Repertory Theatre: First Reads

Sat 5/3 2:00-5:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B

MPL hosts Montana Repertory Theatre's First Reads, a staged reading series where local actors read contemporary plays being considered for full productions. Perfect for theatre lovers and avid readers! This month enjoy *Eelpout* by Paul W. Kruse.



EXPLORE THE PAST

Tracing Trades: Unearthing Your Ancestors' Occupations

Sat 5/10 2:00-3:30 PM - Blackfoot Room

The staff of the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library's Genealogy Center will present a live, virtual program on how to discover what your ancestors did for a living.

Western Montana Genealogical Society

Tue 5/13 6:30-8:00 PM - Blackfoot Room

Join this group for general genealogy discussions and tips on making your family history research more productive.

Western Montana Genealogical Society Work Day

Sat 5/17 12:00-4:00 PM - Blackfoot Room

Bring in your genealogical project and fellow genealogists can assist you, share websites, and offer research advice

4HistoryBuffs: A Land Surveyor's Interpretation of Missoula Property Development from 1860 -1890

Tue 5/27 6:00-8:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B

This month, explore the fascinating history of the city's property development from 1860 to 1890.

LET'S READ TOGETHER!

2nd Wednesday Book Group

Wed 5/14 6:30-7:30 PM - Blackfoot Room & Online

The Last Green Valley: A Novel by Mark Sullivan

Potomac Branch Library Book Club

Wed 5/14 6:30-7:30 PM - Potomac Branch Library

James by Percival Everett

3rd Wednesday Book Group

Wed 5/21 6:30-7:30 PM - Blackfoot Room

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Mon 5/5 11:00 AM-4:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B

Make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org and enter the code missoulalibrary or 59801 or call (800)733-2767. All donors will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Get Lit! Program: PainSavvy Health Literacy

Sun 5/11 & 5/25 1:00-1:50 PM - Blackfoot Room

A health literacy class covering strategies for preventing and overcoming persistent pain and increase movement. Enjoy a 25 minutes talk and an optional 25 minute walk.

Memory Café: Art for All

Tue 5/13 2:00-3:00 PM - Cooper Room A/B

This month explore your creative side with a variety of art activities for all abilities.

YMCA Yoga at the Library

Every Thursday 12:00-1:00 PM - Cooper Room A

Join MPL and the Missoula Family YMCA for free yoga at the library with Rebecca Moody! Build strength, balance, and flexibility through basic postures and breathing techniques that are perfect for beginners. Mats are provided or you can bring your own. A liability waiver is required available at class or online: <https://tinyurl.com/2994wjww>