Top 13 Most Challenged Books

In 2022, the American Library Association documented 1,269 demands to restrict library books and resources, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling this data more than 20 years ago. The 2022 challenges targeted 2,571 unique book titles, a 38 percent increase from the 1,858 titles targeted in 2021.

This unprecedented surge in local and statewide book challenges continues today and is on track to beat last year’s record. Already this year, challenges that resulted in removal of books from some library shelves in the U.S. include Amanda Gorman’s *The Hill We Climb*, H.G. Bissinger’s *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream*, and Jodi Picoult’s novel about a Holocaust survivor, *The Storyteller*.

Poudre Libraries defends your freedom to read – free of limitations, censorship, or consequence. It is essential to our democracy and one of the basic tenets of public libraries in the United States.

Celebrate your right to read with one of the Top 13 Most Challenged Books below – you can find them at the library.

1. *Gender Queer*
2. *The hill We Climb*
3. *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream*
4. *The Storyteller*
5. *Out of Darkness*
6. *All the bright places*
7. *This book is gay*
8. *Drunk ellipses*
9. *Court of Mist and Fury*
10. *Lawn Boy*
11. *Dear Wilder Fellow, the book you banned*
12. *The hill We Climb*
13. *The Storyteller*

Because many book challenges are not reported to the ALA or covered by the press, the Top Most Challenged Books lists and 2022 data compiled by ALA represent only a snapshot of book challenges.

Let Freedom Read
Banned Books Week is October 1-7

Poudre Libraries is hosting a variety of programs and activities this month to celebrate your right to read and to reinforce the Library’s commitment to intellectual freedom: the rights of individuals to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

We hope you exercise your freedom to read during Banned Books Week and every week!

- **DIY Banned Book Activities**
  - All Day / All Libraries
  - Stop by the libraries to browse themed book displays and participate in pop-up activities. You can even write a “Dear Banned Author” postcard to send to your favorite writer.

- **Let Freedom Read Reading Challenge**
  - Online registration required
  - Celebrate your right to read with our newest reading challenge, *Let Freedom Read*. This month-long program is part of the Library’s ongoing commitment to intellectual freedom and is designed for teens and adults, ages 12+.
  - Participants must read a banned or challenged book and complete one listed activity by October 31 to be entered into the prize drawing.
  - The *Let Freedom Read* challenge uses our online Beanstack platform – the same one we used for summer reading. Create an account or sign in to your existing account to participate. Visit PoudreLibraries.org to get started or download the free Beanstack Tracker app from your app store.

- **Fearless Readers - Registration Opens**
  - Sun 1
  - *Attack of the Black Rectangles* by Amy Sarig King takes on censorship and intolerance. Truth can be hard… but still worth fighting for. Registration opens today for the November 3rd book discussion. For grades 4 - 6 and an adult companion. Once registered, pick up your complimentary copy of the book at Council Tree Library.

- **Uncensored: Banned Book Week Kick-off**
  - Mon 2
  - *6:30 - 8:30 pm / The Lyric, 1209 N College Ave.*
  - Engage with passages from frequently challenged books and take action to protect your right to read. Bring a book you’d like to swap with other attendees – especially if it’s a book that changed your perspective or gave you new insights! Co-sponsored by Front Range Community College.

- **Banned Books Week Bingo Night**
  - Wed 4
  - *6 - 8 pm / Mythmaker Brewing, 1035 S. Taft Hill*
  - Play Bingo AND learn about banned books at this special Banned Books Bingo session! Hosted by Mythmaker Brewing and Poudre Libraries.

- **Free to Read Book Club**
  - Thur 5th
  - *6:30 - 7:30 pm / Council Tree*
  - *registration required*
  - Exercise your freedom to read and pick up a free book by joining our book club featuring banned and challenged books. This month we will be reading Maia Kobabe’s *Gender Queer*.

- **BYOBook Club**
  - Mon 9th
  - *5:30 - 7 pm / Wolverine Farm Publick House, 316 Willow St.*
  - *registration recommended*
Dia de Muertos / Day of the Dead Programs
In addition to the various Library events listed below, you can find other community events and activities at www.nocodiademueritos.org.

Hispanic / Latinx Heritage Month Programs
Poudre Libraries has a variety of programs presented in English and Spanish to celebrate Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15.

**Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month: Ciclo de cine / Movie Series**
6 - 7:15 pm / The Lyric, 1209 N College Ave.
Experience the work of female Latinx/Hispanic directors in this movie series. This week we will be showing the documentary Aguilas by Matte Zubiaurre.
En este ciclo de cine con motivo del mes de la herencia hispana y latina celebraremos el trabajo de diferentes directores femininas/hispanas. Presentando Aguilas by Matte Zubiaurre.

**Walking Tour of the Holy Family Neighborhood: Hispanic History in Fort Collins**
Recorrido a pie por el vecindario de Holy Family: La historia Hispánica de Fort Collins
9:30 - 11:30 am, Washington Park (north of City Hall / al norte del Ayuntamiento)
Hispanic Americans are part of the foundation of Fort Collins, and this tour explores the story of Hispanic/Latinx Americans in northern Colorado through the experiences of those who made the Holy Family neighborhood west of downtown Fort Collins their home. Presented by City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation. Los hispanos y latinoamericanos son parte de la fundación de Fort Collins, y este recorrido explorará la historia de los hispanos/latinoamericanos en el norte de Colorado a través de las experiencias de quienes hicieron su hogar en el vecindario de Holy Family de Fort Collins.

**Latiné & Hispanic Heritage Month Community Celebration / Celebración comunitaria**
11 am - 4 pm, Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave. / Jardines en Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave.
Celebra la vibrante cultura de Latiné e Hispánica durante este evento familiar gratuito. Disfruta de música en vivo, comida, baile, arte, recursos y mucho más! Evento Gratuito.
Celebrate the vibrance of Latiné and Hispanic heritage during Fort Collins’ free, family event. Enjoy live music, food, dancing, art, resources, and more!

**La Calavera Gorbancera con Memo Plastilina**
10 am - 12 pm / Harmony
Ven a la biblioteca y celebra el Día de Muertos creando la icónica Calavera Gorbancera en plastilina en este taller en español. El aclamado artista mexicano Guillermo Castellanos se conectará virtualmente para guiarlo durante el proceso. Para niños y niñas de 5 a 12 años. Todas las materiasles serán proporcionadas.
Create the iconic Calavera Gorbancera using clay in this watch party where we will connect virtually with acclaimed Mexican artist Guillermo Castellanos. This workshop will be presented in Spanish. For kids 5 to 12 years old. Registration required.

**Colorful Calaveras**
2 - 3 pm / Harmony
registration required
For kids in grades 3-5. Celebrate Dia de Muertos / Day of the Dead by creating calaveras (skulls).

**Colorful Calaveras**
10 - 11 am / Harmony
registration required
For kids in grades K-2. See description on October 19 above.

**Day of the Dead Story Stroll / Paseo Literario del Día de Muertos**
Library Park / Old Town
Enjoy spending time outdoors as you read Gustavo, the Shy Ghost by Mexican artist Flavio Z. Drago. Ages birth through age 8 and families.
El Paseo Literario mostrará el libro bilingüe Gustavo, el fantasma tímido de la artista mexicana Flavio Z. Drago. Para niños de 0 a 8 años y sus familias.

**Pan de Muerto relleno de atole de calabaza / Day of the Dead Bread with a Pumpkin Atole Filling**
6:30 - 8:30 pm / Online
registration recommended
Aprenderás a preparar pan de muerto relleno de atole de calabaza con el panadero mexicano Eliceo Lara. Los participantes deben proporcionar sus propias ingredientes y herramientas y tener acceso a un horno.
Make Day of the Dead bread with a pumpkin atole filling with Eliceo Lara. Participants must provide their own ingredients and tools, and have access to an oven.

**Animal Afternoon**
3 - 4 pm / Old Town
The library has gone to the dogs and cats and other story-loving critters! Drop in to read to friendly animals and find your new book buddy! For grades K-5. Presented by Larimer Animal People Partnership.

**Computación para principiantes: Computer & Technology Class**
1 - 2:30 pm / Old Town
Learn and practice the basics of using a computer. Equipment provided.
For grades 4-6. Meet once a month to plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more.

**Southern Genealogy Research**
9:30 am - 12:30 pm / Harmony
registration recommended
Dive into historic documents including land records, probate records, tax records, and maps, as well as the methodologies for using these records effectively in your research. Presented by Larimer County Genealogical Society.

**Spy the Sun: Solar Viewing**
10 am - 12 pm / Old Town
registration recommended
Get ready for the upcoming eclipse on October 24 by exploring the sun with safe observation equipment. Spanish interpretation will be provided.

**Google Accounts: Computer & Technology Class**
1 - 2:30 pm / Old Town
registration recommended
Learn and practice the basics of using Google Docs. Laptops provided.
For grades 6-12. Meet once a month to plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more.

**Kevin Cook: The Geography of Life in Colorado**
1 - 2:30 pm / Old Town
This year’s series details Colorado’s wildlife diversity and explains how wildlife links together to create the lifescapes that we all treasure.

**It’s a GIRL Thing**
6 - 7:30 pm / Council Tree
registration recommended
Book club featuring Amino’s blouse by Hena Khan for girls grades 4 - 6 with an adult woman companion (mom, grandma, aunt, neighbor, mentor). Enjoy making new friends, a book discussion, and activities.

**Teen Council**
6 - 7:30 pm / Council Tree
registration required
For grades 4-6. Meet once a month to plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more.

**Snack & Craft**
3:30 - 5 pm / Council Tree
Drop in for a snack and try a new activity. This week we’ll have Oozobots out for you to play with and command.

**Signature Concert. Presented by Friends of the Fort Collins Symphony.**
12 - 1 pm / Old Town
Teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more.

**Computer Talks**
12 - 1 pm / Old Town
Learn aspects of the composers’ lives, their times, and works ahead of each Signature Concert. Presented by Friends of the Fort Collins Symphony.

For kids in grades K-2. See description on October 1 above.

**Colorful Calaveras**
2 - 3 pm / Harmony
registration required
For kids in grades 3-5. Celebrate Dia de Muertos / Day of the Dead by creating calaveras (skulls).

**Grants for all ages**
**Kinder Garden Readers**
10 am - 12 pm / Harmony
registration required
A STREaM program for you and your little ones ages 3-9! Program may include cool step-by-step science projects, color theory, experiments, crafts, and more. This session’s topic is Leaves.

**Amina’s Voice**
6 - 7:30 pm / Council Tree
registration recommended
Meet local language learners for conversation and fun! For intermediate to advanced speakers. Presented by T33 Español Without Stress.
**Advanced Genealogy Research**
9:30 am - 12:30 pm / Harmony registration recommended
Learn to analyze your ancestry DNA. Presented by Larimer County Genealogical Society.

**Experience the Eclipse**
9:30 - 11 am / Harmony registration recommended
Watch an annular solar eclipse in Colorado! Learn about eclipses and why they are important to study, and then view the eclipse safely.

**Kindness & A Craft with Michelle Schaub**
11 am - 1 pm / Council Tree
A special story and craft time with local children’s author Michelle Schaub. For ages 3-7 and their caregivers. Presented by Poudre Libraries and The Crowded Bookshelf.

**Bad Art Night**
6 - 7:30 pm / Council Tree registration required
Release your inner artist and let go of pressure for it to be “good” — instead let’s have fun and make some “bad” art! Zero skill is required, just bring your creativity and leave judgment at the door. Supplies provided.

**Rocky Mountain Raptors**
3 - 4 pm / Council Tree registration required
Birds of prey are coming to the Library! Learn more about these birds and conservation efforts in Colorado.

**Colorado Free College Application Guidance / Gratuities de aplicación a la universidad asesoría**
5 - 7 pm / Old Town
Drop in to get assistance applying to a higher education program and learn how to apply for various forms of financial aid and scholarships. Computers provided. Assista este programa para obtener asistencia para aplicar un programa de educación superior a un apoderado o agente financiero y becas. Computadoras disponibles. Interpretación al español.

**Authors of the Hour**
6 - 7:30 pm / Old Town
Local writers will join us to read their literary works! Feeling brave? Bring your own writing and take to the mic for a short reading of your own work during the second half of this event. Presented by Writing Heights.

**Rekindle the Classics**
6:30 - 8:30 pm / Gryphon Games & Comics, 1119 W Drake Rd. C-30
This month’s title is The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson. Join graduate students and faculty in lively and informative discussions of literature favorites.

**The History and Continuing Tradition of Botanical Art**
7 - 8 pm / Harmony registration required
Trace botanical art from its earliest use to the modern day with expert Janet Vetter. Presented by the American Society of Botanical Artists.

**Book Club for Mortals**
3 - 4:30 pm / Online registration required
For October’s program, we will discuss The Friend by George Dawson and Richard Gladman.

**Snack & Craft**
3:30 - 5 pm / Council Tree
Drop in for a snack and try a new craft: stress balls.

**Money Matters: Medicare Options**
6 - 7 pm / Online registration required
Learn about the four Medicare parts, supplement insurance, and more. Presented by Rocky Mountain Credit Union.

**The Scoop: NoCo Community Conversations**
6 - 7:30 pm / Old Town registration recommended
These adventurous public discussions aim to showcase different viewpoints to keep our community in touch with the diverse range of backgrounds, positions, and opinions that make us great.

**Job Search Strategies**
10 - 11 am / Harmony registration recommended
Learn about hidden market strategies to tap into unadvertised jobs. Rethink networking with easy approaches, even for introverts!

**Leaf into Art**
1 - 2:30 pm / Old Town registration required
We read Aimee Suciou’s picture book If You Find a Leaf to inspire us, and then create art pieces using real leaves! Supplies provided. For kids 5-8.

**Fall Recipe Inspiration: Cooking with Sapna**
6 - 7:30 pm / Online registration required
Get inspired by Fall-themed breakfast and lunch recipes in this virtual cooking class with Sapna Von Reich!

**Multi-Generational Bad Art Night**
6 - 7 pm / Council Tree registration required
Release your inner artist and let go of pressure for it to be “good” — instead let’s have fun and make some “bad” art! Zero skill is required; just bring your family and friends and creativity. We will provide materials.

**Snack & Craft**
3:30 - 5 pm / Council Tree
Drop in for simple DIY activities available throughout the day.

**Multi-Generational Bad Art Night**
6 - 7 pm / Council Tree registration required
Release your inner artist and let go of pressure for it to be “good” — instead let’s have fun and make some “bad” art! Zero skill is required; just bring your family and friends and creativity. We will provide materials.

**Fort Collins Community Scrabble**
9 - 11 am / Old Town
Whether you’re new to the game, a casual player, or a tournament player, this is for you! Bring your board if you have one. Clocks are optional.

**Adult LEGO Competition**
1 - 4 pm / Old Town registration required
Grab a partner and join forces to compete against other LEGO enthusiasts. Top 3 teams win prizes!

**Crafternoon: Bring Your Own Project!**
2 - 4 pm / Council Tree
Work on your project and enjoy the company of other crafters while you are at it. This event is drop-in and BYOP (Bring-your-own-project).

**Online Safety and Data Protection**
6 - 7 pm / Online registration required
Learn about the four Medicare parts, supplement insurance, and more. Presented by Rocky Mountain Credit Union.

**Teen Writers**
4:30 - 6 pm / Harmony
Are you ready to flex your creative brain muscles? We will have writing exercises, prompts for ideas, and peer editing. Bring a piece you’ve already been working on to share with the group or start something brand new!

**Exploring Botanical Art Workshop**
6:30 - 8 pm / Harmony registration required
Beginner coloring mixing, wet-in-wet watercolor washes, and finishing details with colored pencils. All skill levels are welcome. Supplies are provided.

**Snack & Craft**
3:30 - 5 pm / Council Tree
This week’s craft is Monster Mallows and Franken Gummies.

**ESL Book Club**
6 - 7:30 pm / Old Town registration required
The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver will be followed by an American classic, The Great Gatsby to finish the year. For intermediate to advanced English speakers. Limited copies of the book available upon request.

**History Comes Alive: Mary Shelley Speaks**
1 - 2 pm / FRCC Longs Peak Student Center
Discover how the author of Frankenstein blended themes and events from her own life with a vivid imagination to construct one of the world’s most enduring novels. Performed by Susan Marie Frontczak.

**QSA**
5 - 6 pm / Old Town
A safe space for all LGBTQIP2SAA+ youth to gather to socialize and discuss current events, life, and books, with the occasional craft thrown in.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**
All Day / Harmony
Drop in for simple DIY activities available throughout the day.

**Books Build Boys Book Buzz**
5:30 - 7:30 pm / Council Tree registration required
Designed for boys in grades 4 - 6, along with an adult male (Dad, Grandpa, Uncle, Neighbor, Mentor). Engage in a staff-led discussion of A Nest for Celeste by Henry Cole. The free event includes pizza and activities.

Check poudrelibraries.org/events for updates and additional details.
### recurring events

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<th>day</th>
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| every  mo | Drop-in Hours: City of Fort Collins Multicultural Business & Entrepreneur Center 9 am - 12 pm / 2 - 5 pm / Old Town  
Receive help meeting your business or entrepreneurship goals.  
Assist a estas sesiones abiertas para recibir ayuda para alcanzar sus metas como empresario o las de su negocio. |
| every fr  | BYOD: Bring Your Own Device Drop-in Tech Help  
12 - 2 pm / Old Town  
Computer and device help from Library volunteers. Sign up is located at the library and is first come first served; bring your own device.  |
| every we  | Outreach Fort Collins  
12 - 2 pm / Old Town  
Drop in for consultation and resources related to housing, food, healthcare, and other critical issues.  |
| every we  | Food Bank for Larimer County Outreach  
1 - 3 pm / Old Town  
The Food Bank for Larimer County helps those facing food insecurities by connecting them to SNAP and other government benefits or community resources.  |
| every thu  | One-on-One Genealogy Assistance  
1 - 3 pm / Old Town  
Drop in to receive family history research assistance from Larimer County Genealogical Society volunteers.  |
| every thu  | Conversations in English  
7 - 8:30 pm / Online registration required  
An informal setting for English language learners to practice and connect with others. Registered participants will be emailed a Zoom meeting link.  |
| every fri  | Homeward Alliance Resource Navigation  
2 - 5 pm / Old Town  
A resource navigator from the Murphy Center will help people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness access services and resources.  |
| every fri  | Larimer County Community Justice Alternatives  
2 - 4 pm / Old Town  
Check in with your case manager from Larimer County Community Justice Alternatives, work with Competency Services, Bridges or check in with pre-trial services or MHIPS.  |

### weekly storytimes

**Check the online events calendar for weather-related updates or cancellations.**

**Monday**  
Council Tree - Toddler  
10 am & 11 am  
Council Tree - Ages 4+  
10 am & 11 am  
Harmony - Baby  
10 am & 11 am

**Tuesday**  
Council Tree - Toddler  
10 am & 11 am  
Council Tree - Ages 4+  
10 am & 11 am  
Harmony - Bilingual / Bilingüe  
10 am & 11 am  
Old Town - Baby Outdoor  
10 am & 11 am

**Wednesday**  
Council Tree - Baby  
10 am & 11 am  
Harmony - All Ages  
10 am & 11 am  
Old Town - All Ages Outdoor  
10 am & 11 am

**Thursday**  
Old Town - Bilingual / Bilingüe  
10 am & 11 am

**Friday**  
Old Town - All Ages  
10 am & 11 am

**Saturday**  
Council Tree - All Ages  
10 am

### special storytimes

- **Saturday, October 7**  
  World Language Storytime in Mandarin  
  11 am / Council Tree

- **Friday, October 20**  
  Timnath Storytime Express  
  10 am / Timnath Town Center, 4550 Signal Tree Dr.

- **Sunday, October 22**  
  Mindful Movement Storytime  
  1 pm / Old Town  
  Registration required

### Join the Poudre River Friends of the Library

Where would you be without friends? You know the ones. The friends who always have your back and who support even some of your craziest ideas.

Well, the same can be said about the Library District. Our Friends have been supporting us since 1939! How’s that for a long-lasting friendship!

Friends of the Library groups around the country are being recognized for their efforts during National Friends of the Library Week (Oct. 15-21), and we want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the great work that the Poudre River Friends of the Library has been performing for practically a century.

In fact, the Friends of the Library has contributed about $900,000 to Poudre Libraries programming and events since 2008!

**How Can You Help?**

- Become a member or make a donation!  
- Volunteer at the book sales.  
- Work a shift at the Friends’ Harmony Shop.  
- Help sort books for the book sales.  
- Join the Friends’ Board of Directors.  
- Donate your used books to the Friends.  
- Like the Friends of the Library Facebook page.

If you’d like more information about the Poudre River Friends of the Library, email them at fol@prfol.org or visit www.prfol.org.