



# Friends Of Kentucky Libraries

Dedicated Volunteers Supporting  
Libraries Across the State



## Spring into Reading 2026: A Day of Sunshine, Stories, and Student Imagination

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) welcomed 250 third and fourth grade students to its front lawn on Friday, April 24, 2026, for this year's Spring into Reading celebration—and the day could not have been more perfect. With bright skies and warm weather, students from area schools enjoyed a full outdoor experience designed to spark curiosity and strengthen reading skills.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL) was proud to support the KDLA event by providing snacks and water for all attendees, helping students stay refreshed and ready to learn. This year's program featured expanded pre-entertainment to help students settle in and get excited for the morning ahead. The highlight of the day was guest storyteller **Lyndsay Bonilla**, whose energetic performance captivated the crowd and set a joyful, imaginative tone. Her storytelling invited students to step into new worlds and reminded everyone how a single book can open countless doors.

Each student received a book to take home—an important gift that encourages continued reading and exploration long after the event ends. Reading fuels imagination, builds confidence, and helps young learners discover new ideas, and Spring into Reading continues to nurture that growth across Kentucky.



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## Our Friends in Trimble County

With each issue of our newsletter, we highlight a local Friends of the Library chapter. This month, we're pleased to feature the Friends of Trimble County Public Library (TCPL) in Bedford, Kentucky.

TCPL serves a rural community of about 8,700 residents in north-central Kentucky and is one of our newer Chapters, founded in October 2024. They received early support from FOKL through the 501(c)(3) fee reimbursement grant.

Chapter President Cindy Warrick shares their mission of supporting the Trimble County Public Library's commitment to encouraging lifelong learning, promoting the joys and benefits of reading, expanding outreach efforts, and strengthening library programming through targeted fundraising.

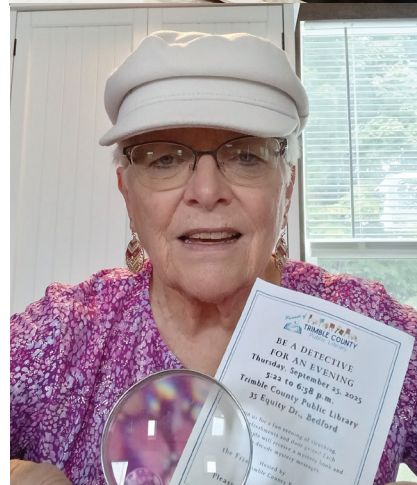
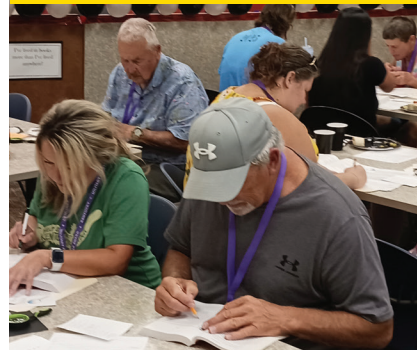
The Trimble County Friends were recently awarded an FOKL grant for their creative program, Be a Detective for an Evening. Designed as both a fun community event and a membership-building opportunity, the program invited attendees to decode a mystery message using a provided book, enjoy refreshments, and participate in door-prize drawings—all while learning about the Friends group and its mission. The event was a great success, increasing membership from 19 to 25!

The Chapter promotes its meetings (always welcoming new volunteers) through the library's monthly newsletter. They have also organized several other community-focused activities, including a Friends Burger Bash in partnership with their local McDonald's, where a portion of proceeds supported the Chapter, and participation in the December Holiday Parade, where they distributed free books at their Friends table.

We are pleased to share this Chapter's success in supporting the Trimble County Public Library, an essential hub for literacy, programming and community services.



Trimble County Public Library



Cindy Warrick joining in the fun!

## 2026 Friends of Kentucky Libraries Grants

FOKL is offering multiple \$500 grants to help local Friends Chapters establish, grow, and strengthen their support for their libraries. Past grant recipients have used these funds to enhance summer reading programs, launch Little Free Libraries, purchase equipment, and develop new community events.

Applications were sent out April 1 and are due back by May 31, 2026.

Winners will be notified by June 15, 2026, and the Chapters will have one year to use the funds. To be eligible for grants, you must be a member of FOKL. We will request pictures so that FOKL can share with other Friends Chapters.

*Good luck everyone!*



## 2026 Outstanding Volunteer, Small Chapter, and Large Chapter Awards

Each year, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL) celebrates the dedication, creativity, and impact of Friends volunteers and chapters across the Commonwealth.

These awards honor the individuals and groups whose service strengthens their libraries and enriches their communities. Award applications will be sent out July 1 and are due August 15, 2026. To be eligible for awards, you must be a member of FOKL.

This year, FOKL will present monetary awards and certificates to recognize exceptional service:

**\$50 Award Each** for Outstanding Volunteer in two categories: less than 100 Friends and greater than 100 Friends Chapters.

**\$100 Award Each** for Outstanding Small and Large Chapters.

Winners will be notified and awards will be given at the FOKL annual meeting in October.



## Friends of Kentucky Libraries Annual Meeting

In celebration of the Casey County Public Library's 50th Anniversary, the FOKL Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, at the South Central AgCenter in Liberty, Kentucky. The meeting will be hosted by the Friends of Casey County Public Library.

We're excited to have Jamie Collins, Marion County Library Director and President-Elect of KLA, speak at the meeting.

Jamie represented Kentucky Public Libraries when she traveled to Washington, D.C. to call on Federal Legislators. She will provide valuable information on advocacy and the state of library funding.

Visit [www.friendskylibraries.org](http://www.friendskylibraries.org) for updates.



## FREE Advertising for Your Local Book Sale

We will promote any Kentucky public library book sale (periodic or ongoing) on the FOKL website and through our Facebook page. Email your event details to

[contact@friendskylibraries.org](mailto:contact@friendskylibraries.org) and we'll share it!

Visit [www.friendskylibraries.org](http://www.friendskylibraries.org) for the latest updates!

May 2026

## Remembering Our Mission of Advocacy

Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL) again participated in Library Legislative Day in February 2026.

Over 80 Library professionals representing 40 counties visited their Kentucky legislators to ask for continued support of Kentucky's public libraries.

FOKL's signature yellow M&Ms were handed out to legislators with a "Thank You for Supporting Public Libraries" message.

We must be a unified voice advocating for libraries across the commonwealth. There are many ways that your Friends Chapter can influence legislators including making phone calls to your representatives, sending information monthly or quarterly showing how your Chapter supports the library, and sending pictures with commentary explaining the impact your Chapter and library has on your community.

Please continue to contact your State Legislators and members of Congress to make them aware of the vital role that libraries play in their communities.



## Memberships in FOKL Make Us Stronger

Becoming a member strengthens FOKL's ability to support Friends Chapters statewide—helping new groups get started, revitalizing existing ones, and advancing KDLA initiatives.

Membership also makes possible the grants we offer for 501(c)(3) filing and for programs that grow and strengthen Chapters, as well as our annual awards recognizing outstanding Friends volunteers and Chapters.

*"The only thing better than a library is a library with Friends."*

*-Anonymous*

Email us at  
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FriendsKYLibraries.org

**We want to hear from you!**  
For questions, comments or assistance, contact us at:

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