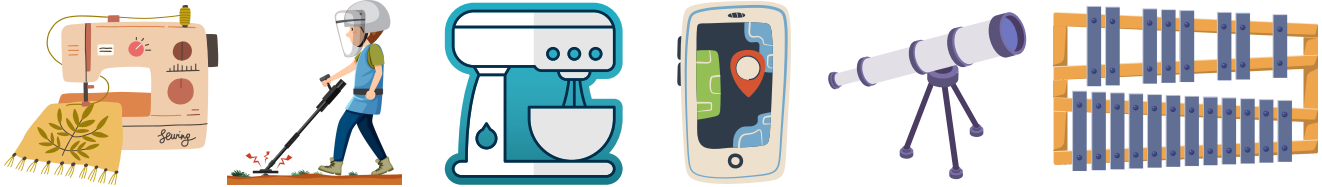




Montrose Regional Library Educator Newsletter

WINTER 2023-2024

Welcome to Montrose Regional Library's school and educator newsletter!



Library of Things

The Montrose Regional Library has invested steadily in its Library of Things, a collection of useful -- and occasionally whimsical! -- non-book items available for checkout. These items can be borrowed for your personal use or for use with your students, inside or outside classrooms. To give you a taste of all the Library of Things has to offer, peruse the below mini-catalog. Items can be checked out for one week and renewed once. Visit the library website for a more complete listing, or look for the Library of Things binders in Youth Services and Adult/Teen Services in the Montrose Regional Library.



The Cometron FirstScope Telescope is a lightweight and portable model with a focal ratio that proves excellent for observing comets, star clusters, and galaxies.



The Fujifilm Instax Mini 12 Instant Camera takes photos that develop within minutes. Instant Mini film for the camera may be available for purchase at the library's Reference Desk, or users can provide their own.



For those looking to explore a new instrument, try out an easy beginner 10-key accordion for kids.



This Singer Heavy Duty Sewing Machine features an all-metal frame, as well as more power and enhanced speed, so it can accommodate thicker fabrics and long seams.



This sturdy balance is made for precise measurements. Help children learn mathematical and scientific concepts, including inequalities, mass, comparisons, operations, and order.



Dip your toes into the world's most popular role-playing game with this set of everything you need, including ready-to-play characters and five sets of game die, for a grand adventure.

Even More Things (from the Library of Things)



The Think and Learn Code-a-pillar Twist teaches preschool children ages 3-6 years about early coding and problem solving with 1,000 possible combinations of its caterpillar segments. No computer required.



Try your hand at geocaching with a slingpack filled with all the materials you'll need: introductory information on geocaching, a GPS unit, a compass, an outdoor journal, and more.



The JBL Flip 5 is a portable bluetooth speaker equipped with a rechargeable battery that provides up to 12 hours of playtime and can be paired with multiple speakers.



Stretch, breathe, and center with this yoga kit for kids. Includes children's yoga mat, pose cards, and a game. Yoga can help children manage their anxiety and increase body awareness.



Make 2.25-inch buttons with the Badge-A-Minit bench press system. Ten free button sets included. Additional buttons available for purchase at the Reference Desk for 15 cents each.



Darkside Ollie is a rolling robot that you can program or just drive around. Requires a tablet or phone, and an app download.



The Makita Brushless Cordless Drill comes with a mechanical 2-speed transmission and includes a rechargeable battery and a variety of drill bits.



Use a sky quality meter to measure the light pollution in your area, and record your results in the community journal. Provided by the Colorado Canyons Association.



Learn to play the baritone ukulele. Includes tuner, picks, and strap.



Use this Growing Readers Together kit to investigate different feelings and emotions. Look at your face in the mirror and mimic the emotions you see on the cards.

We continuously add to the Library of Things, and future offerings will include an Action Filmmaking Kit, complete with a GoPro camera, tripod, light attachments, and versatile mounts and grips, a Podcasting Kit, and a Gel Plate Printing Kit. Our goal is to include relevant, necessary, and interesting materials, and to build circulating kits that supplement skills taught in school, so if you have ideas for items or materials we should include, please let us know. Email Amy at adickinson@montroselibrary.org or Laura at lmclean@montroselibrary.org.

Youth Services for Educators



Elevate Grant Programming Spring-Summer 2024

On International Youth Day in August, Elevate announced six recipients for their Foundations for the Future Grant. The Montrose Regional Library was thrilled to be named one of the six organizations. The basic tenet of this grant is to provide learning opportunities to children in the community to change their lives for the better. MRLD Youth and Teen Services will be working together to host monthly family STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) programs from December 2023 to July 2024.

Each program encompasses a different theme and includes subject matter experts in designated career fields that match the program concepts. Families can engage in fun activities while also asking questions of the invited guests about their jobs. Moreover, the grant will provide funds for new circulating kits each month that evolve from the program themes and activities.

With this grant, the library will be able to bring educational programs to the community about plants and pollinators, archaeology and fossils, art and artists, and animation and film-making, as well as a STEAM Fair with projects designed by local kids.

To finish the grant on a high note, we have invited well-known children's author Shannon Hale, writer of the Princess in Black chapter books and Friends graphic novel series, to Montrose during the summer reading program to discuss how she became a writer and sign copies of her books. February is when the library will host a community Science Fair for preschool, elementary, and middle school students, so call or stop by and chat with us for more information.

Safe Sitter and Safe @ Home Return

Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Montrose Library, the babysitter training programs will continue through 2024!

You'll be able to sign up at the library or through an online form this month. This is a free program for upper elementary through high school students interested in learning home safety and childcare skills. For grandparents, we will host a new set of classes that provide refreshers on childcare and first aid.

For more information, please contact the Youth Services department at the Montrose Regional Library by calling 970-964-2551 or email James at jstetson@montroselibrary.org. Register directly at <https://forms.gle/yACLyifZBKdxsm8eA>.



Upcoming Programs

Read It!: 90s Edition

Get ready, teachers: Read It! is back in 2024. This year, the focus is on all things 1990s.

Beginning January 11, join us in the reader rewards program for those 18 years and older, modeled on the classic Book It! program. Sign up at the Reference Desk and begin earning awesome prizes from local businesses for books read and reviewed before March 31. Business partners include Bluecorn Cafe & Mercantile, Colorado Boy Pizzeria and Brewery, Coffee Trader, Buckaroos Slices and Scoops, Amazing Glaze, Curiouser Books, Mosaic, Twisted Sugar, and more.

This year's events will include another Community Read and a closing pizza & movie night. Keep your eye on our social media and in-library promotion for more details!



Teen-ish Maker Series: Chocolate Truffles

Learn a simple method to make chocolate truffles. We'll talk about the process of chocolate-making, from cocoa bean to bar, and then experiment with chocolate ganache. All supplies provided, no experience necessary. Each participant will take home two small boxes of truffles (10-12 truffles total), along with the recipe and know-how to make more at home. For ages 11-18. Registration is required, and space is limited, so sign up ASAP at bit.ly/mrldteen. *For those with allergy sensitivities, necessary ingredients will include dairy and chocolate, and optional ingredients will include nuts, sugar, and coconut.



Family STEAM Fair

Do you know some between the ages of 4 and 16 who would like to create and present a project to the community about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math? If so, encourage them to register for this non-competitive STEAM Fair at the Montrose Regional Library on Saturday, February 10, from 12-1pm.

For full rules of participation, contact Tina at tmeiners@montroselibrary.org or 970-964-2569. Registration closes February 3!



We're goin' digital...

If you'd rather save the paper and sign up for our digital newsletter, scan the QR code and take a minute to give us your deets.

The Montrose Regional Library District fosters community by providing resources, encouraging reading, and supporting lifelong learning.