

Mid-State Literacy Council Book Fair, 2025 **Credit: Bridget Schell.**

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Mid-State Literacy Council to host 12th annual book fair celebrating community and literacy

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – The Mid-State Literacy Council (MSLC) will host its 12th Annual Book Fair on Saturday, Nov. 21 through Sunday, Nov. 22, in an effort to connect community members with opportunities to support adult literacy in Centre County.

The free event will take place at Barnes & Noble, located at 365 Benner Pike in State College, and feature activities designed to bring residents together while introducing them to the organization's work.

Rather than focusing solely on fundraising, the MSLC hopes the book fair will serve as a "friend-raiser," encouraging attendees to become volunteers, donors and long-term supporters.

“I want people to walk away feeling like they have found an organization that cares about building community,” said Ash Mayes, chair of the organization’s book fair committee. “At the end of the day, that’s what the Mid-State Literacy Council sets out to do.”

The MSLC is a community-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing literacy in all forms, including classes, to adults in Centre and Clearfield counties. Literacy serves as a gateway to accessing information, navigating health care, pursuing employment opportunities and achieving personal goals.

“My experience in the classes helped me learn comfortably,” said Widia Nurmala, a student at the MSLC. “They have levels in every subject. It is helpful for students to choose their own goal. The Mid-State Literacy Council is an inclusive place so you can learn at your own pace without feeling judged.”

Despite its importance, literacy challenges persist across the country and close to home. According to the National Literacy Institute, 28% of U.S. adults read at the lowest literacy level. Locally, 13% of Centre County residents struggle with everyday literacy, according to the National Centre for Education Statistics.

This year's book fair will feature local author readings, hands-on craft making activities for all ages, music performances, and more.”
The event’s activities include:

Saturday, Nov. 21

- 10 a.m. – Hand-binding a Reading Journal with The Rivet featuring Addison Leedy
- 11 a.m. – Printing Taiwan: A Typography and Rubber Stamp Printmaking Lab with Wen-Chi Teng
- Noon – Cupcake Celebration: Ruth C. Kistler Service Award Reception with Dr. Triwik Johnson
- 2 p.m. – My Renaissance, Poetry Reading and More with Dr. Asantha Attanayake
- 3 p.m. – Suzuki Musicians from The Music Academy with Delia Ceres

Sunday, Nov. 22

- 11 a.m. – Book Club Basics with Schlow Library, Christine Walsh
- 12:15 p.m. – Author-ity: Chat with Nittany Valley Writers' Network (NVWN) members J.L. Delozier, Tricia L. Sanders and Dave Agans

Fifteen percent of eligible purchases made during the in-store event, Nov. 21-22, and online Nov. 20-27, including Black Friday, will benefit MSLC. Online shoppers can support the organization by entering Book Fair ID 12984365 at checkout.

Beyond raising awareness of these programs, MSLC hopes to expand its volunteer network, particularly in Clearfield County and the Philipsburg area, where additional volunteers could help the organization reach more adults seeking educational support.

“I can’t understate how important it is for us as a community to understand that there’s no shame in having a literacy ability that is lower than it should be, but we all have to have a responsibility to one another to try to improve that,” Mayes said.

Participants are not required to provide proof of citizenship, residency or other documentation to access the organization's educational services.

For more information about the book fair, visit this link.

To learn more about volunteering with the Mid-State Literacy Council, visit the website.

Adults interested in becoming students can learn more here.

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