



Dear Young Author,

Congratulations! In recognition of your writing efforts, you have been selected to represent your school at the **Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival** to be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2026** at the Tinley Park High School, 6111 175<sup>th</sup> Street, Tinley, Illinois.

At the **Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival**, the Illinois Reading Council will be celebrating the written work of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade along with the Illinois Reads Authors from the **2026 Illinois Reads Book List** found at [www.illinoisreads.org](http://www.illinoisreads.org)

During the Book Festival, the Young Authors, chaperones, and other book festival participants will attend sessions led by the Illinois Reads Authors. From 1:00 to 2:00 pm, the Young Authors and their chaperones will be invited to attend the special **Young Authors Celebration** held in their honor. At the **Young Authors Celebration**, the Young Authors will have lunch with one of the Illinois Reads Authors where they can share their book, receive their **Illinois Reads Young Author Certificate**, and their manuscript will be officially affixed with the seal as an honored **Illinois Reads Young Author**.

Plan to **bring your original manuscript** with you. The manuscript must include a **cover** that has your manuscript title, author name, and contact information on the back of the cover.

To assist you and your family in planning for the Book Festival, we have included the following with this document:

- Tentative Schedule
- Parental/Guardian Waiver Form (*must be signed and returned by April 5, 2026*)
- Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that **registration is required for the Young Authors Celebration** and your school will be providing the details on how to register. The Illinois Reading Council hopes that you can attend and enjoy the fun activities being planned for the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival.

Sincerely,

Illinois Reading Council  
1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2  
Normal, Illinois 61761  
Phone: 309-454-1341  
Fax: 309-454-3512  
Email: [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)  
Website: [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)



## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the  
Tinley Park High School, 6111 17th Street, Tinley Park, Illinois

**10:00 – 10:20      Opening Ceremony**

**10:30 – 12:45      Illinois Reads Author Book Talks  
and Author Book Signings**

**11:00 – 1:00      Exhibits Open**

- Anderson's Bookshop ~ *Illinois Reads Books for Sale*
- NIU STEAM Activities
- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom
- IRC Guatemala Handicraft Project
- Illinois Reading Council ~ *Free Illinois Reads Bookmarks & Posters*

**1:00 to 2:00      Lunch with Authors**

- Young Authors will be given a ticket for lunch
- Chaperones who preorder lunch will be given a ticket
- Lunch will be available for purchase by other attendees



## PARENTAL/GUARDIAN WAIVER FORM

This form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian for each student planning to attend the **Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival** on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**. **Please note: Young Authors will not be registered for the Young Authors Celebration until the signed waiver is received.**

Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact (in case you cannot be located):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### School's Contact Information:

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School's Main Onsite Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The law requires that parental permission be obtained for medical or surgical procedures for unmarried minors under 18 years of age. The following consent form must be signed by parents so that procedures may be promptly carried out and so that no unnecessary delays will occur with treatment. However, no emergency surgical procedure or operation will be performed in a local hospital without parents being contacted, fully informed and their consent obtained. I understand any medical expenses are my financial responsibility. I also authorize my student's school and the main school contact named above to release information of such care to my health insurance carrier for the purpose of reimbursement and authorize assignment of insurance benefits to the designated service provider for any care provided.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian—original signature required \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, minor, also do hereby release, acquit, and forever discharge the officers, employees, and representatives of the Illinois Reading Council and the Tinley Park High School from any and all claims, causes of action, damages, or judgments, whether in contract or in tort, for any injuries including personal that may be incurred arising out of or in any way connected to \_\_\_\_\_'s participation in the **Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival** held on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**. Also, unless notified in writing, this waiver constitutes an agreement that the registrant's image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs and videos for promotional purposes of the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian—original signature required \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Will my child be supervised at the event?

Yes. Each school must provide chaperones who will be attending the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival. These students must stay with their chaperone at all times and can attend author sessions during the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival. Chaperones can be the administrators, teachers, teacher's aides, and/or parents/guardians.

### Will my child receive lunch at the event?

Yes. All Young Authors will receive a lunch. The cost of lunch is included in the registration fee, which was paid when students were registered for the event. Chaperones have the option to also preorder a lunch.

### What should my child wear to the event?

We suggest that children wear clothing that will be comfortable as they move through the day's activities.

### May I stay with my child and bring my other children to the Book Festival?

Yes. The **Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival** is a fun and free event for **ALL** families, students, and book lovers and **ALL** are invited to attend from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

If you have any additional questions about the **Young Authors Celebration** and/or the **Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival**, please feel free to contact the Illinois Reading Council by phone at 309-454-1341 or by at [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org).

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### MANUSCRIPT IDENTIFICATION CARD

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of coauthor (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Manuscript \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School District Number \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_