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## Director's Message

Want to know a secret? I hate Summer Reading.

Don't get me wrong—I love *reading in Summer*, or any other time of year for that matter—but I don't love the idea of "Summer Reading" as a project in capital letters—a checklist of numbers of pages read, or minutes read, or titles from an assigned list. That approach makes reading seem like a chore to be gotten through, doesn't it? When actually reading is magical, interesting, fun, or informative. And studies show that while people who get prizes for reading enjoy the prizes, they don't necessarily continue reading at the same level after the program is over.

Luckily, we here at Talking Book Services know that we have a wonderful group of patrons who devour books all year-round. So why bring this up? Because if we want to continue to fill the world with great readers like you, we need your help showing others how enriching reading can be. So, share your love of Talking Books with others in your neighborhood, or community events; recommend your latest favorite to your reading and non-reading friends alike; listen together or read aloud to friends and family members. Readers beget readers—so go forth and multiply!



Jennifer Falvey  
Director of Talking Book Services

## Calling All Opinions!



Get your cursors, pencils, and left-clicks ready—it's time for a new Talking Book Services Patron Survey!

TBS wants to hear your thoughts about our services-- both for our service to you right now and our planning for the future.

Surveys will be going out via email, and are also available as a printable PDF on the Talking Book Services webpage: [sctalkingbook.org](http://sctalkingbook.org)

If you would like us to mail you a print copy of the survey, along with a return envelope, or if you need assistance filling out the survey, please call any of our Reader Advisors at 1-800-922-7818.

Please plan to participate in this important opportunity!

## Summer Reading 2023

June 1st was the kickoff of another great summer reading program at South Carolina public libraries and also at SC Talking Book Services (TBS)!

TBS patrons have a summer reading program that is created just for them. This program is divided into three reading groups, based on age, to encourage everyone to participate.

### **The reading groups are:**

- Children - birth to age 10
- Young Adult - ages 11 to 18
- Adult - ages 19 and up

### **The reading categories are:**

- Hours spent reading
- Number of books read

Patrons who enroll will receive a registration packet and choose to either count the number of books they read, or the hours spent reading. They will report progress by contacting a Reader Advisor at (800) 922-7818.

Participants who report reading at **least One Book or One Hour** will receive a swag bag and ONE entry in the Grand Prize Drawing for a Kindle Fire. We will give away two Kindle Fires; one device for "hours read" patrons and one for "books read" patrons.

To enroll in the TBS summer reading program, current patrons should contact a Reader Advisor at (800) 922-7818 or [TBSBooks@statelibrary.sc.gov](mailto:TBSBooks@statelibrary.sc.gov).



**And for even more fun, check out these events from the National Library Service in Washington:**

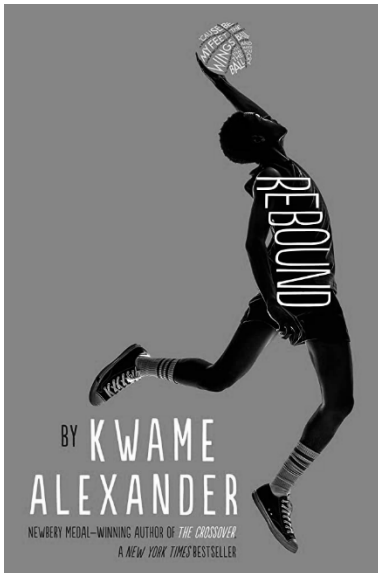
National Library Service Summer Reading Events:

In conjunction with Talking Book Services summer reading, the National Library Service has put together some great online Zoom events.

Please visit the TBS Summer Reading webpage or Facebook page for details and links to register: <https://www.sctalkingbook.org/summer-reading-program>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sctbs>

Visit the TBS Summer Reading Webpage for the Registration Links.



REBOUND by Kwame Alexander

Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

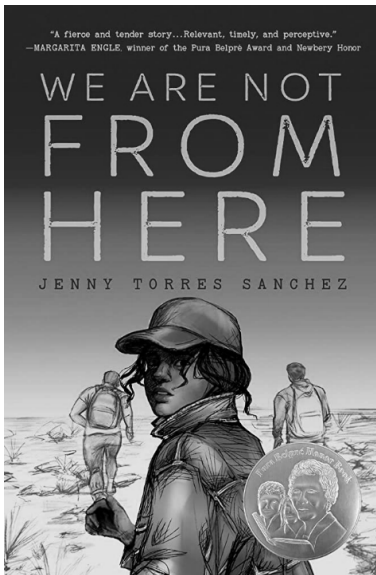
NLS Author Talk for Teens: Kwame Alexander  
7 p.m. (Eastern)

Join us on Zoom for our exciting author talk! Kwame Alexander is a New York Times best-selling author for children of all ages, as well as a poet, educator, and recipient of the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor, and the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award. This event will be moderated by NLS Director Jason Broughton.

Specially designed for YA and middle grades, but all are welcome. Ask your librarian for books in the NLS collection by Kwame Alexander. [picture of an orange book cover with a silhouette of a basketball player dunking a basketball]

You can have your TBS cartridges and Large Print books mailed to you on vacation!

Call a Reader Advisor before your trip to let them know where to send your materials: 1-800-922-7818



WE ARE NOT FROM HERE by Jenny Torres Sanchez

Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

NLS Author Talk: Jenny Torres Sanchez

7 p.m. (Eastern)

Join us on Zoom for our exciting author talk! Join Jenny Torres Sanchez, who writes children's and young adult fiction that has been a finalist for the Pura Belpre Award and included on the American Library Association's annual list of Best Fiction for Young Adults. Her book *We Are Not from Here* vividly captures the treacherous journey of three teenagers who cross from Guatemala through Mexico to the United States in search of a better life.

This program will be moderated by Maria Daniela (Dani) Thurber, a reference librarian in the Hispanic Reading Room of the Library of Congress. Specially designed for YA, but all are welcome. As your librarian for books in the NLS collection by Jenny Torres Sanchez. [illustration of a book cover showing a person in a red baseball cap and jacket looking over their shoulder, with two other figures ahead of them drawn as sketches]

If you are going out of the country on vacation, call to tell a Reader Advisor to put your account on hold while you are away. 1-800-922-7818

## Summer Teen Intern Program Sets New Record

**Q: What's better than an awesome group of teen volunteers?**

**A:** An awesome group of teen volunteers who take it to the next level!

For the past 28 years, the South Carolina Talking Book Services has hosted teen interns in partnership with the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. The teens participate in a variety of skill- and confidence-building activities, and they work at community organizations gaining valuable work skills.

This year's interns were a phenomenally-productive bunch. Over the course of only nine workdays of 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., they boxed more than 1,250 boxes and more than 55,000 cartridges!

To show their appreciation, TBS Staff presented the teens with certificates of appreciation for their amazing accomplishment



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The photo to the left is of four teens holding certificates in front of rows of packed boxes.

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## **Palmetto Council of the Blind Group Formation**

Are you Blind or have Low Vision? Or do you know somebody dealing with vision loss?

Are you a teacher of the blind or work in the blindness field? Or do you want to learn about resources for people who are blind or visually impaired?

Come check out Palmetto Council of the Blind of South Carolina, a new affiliate of the American Council of the Blind. PCBSC promotes the opportunity, equality and independence of the blind, through education, public awareness and advocacy. Members enjoy community and peer support, plus engagement and the opportunity to participate in activities and share resources with those in need.

In August, we will be holding a virtual open house to answer questions, provide information, and collect contact information for those interested in becoming members. Anybody who is blind or sighted and interested in supporting the blind, is welcome.

For more information or to receive updates, to be a part of the virtual discussion or to become a member, visit our Facebook page by searching Palmetto Council of the Blind. You can also call us at 803-960-9977 or email [info@pcbosc.org](mailto:info@pcbosc.org)

## A Gooney Good Time

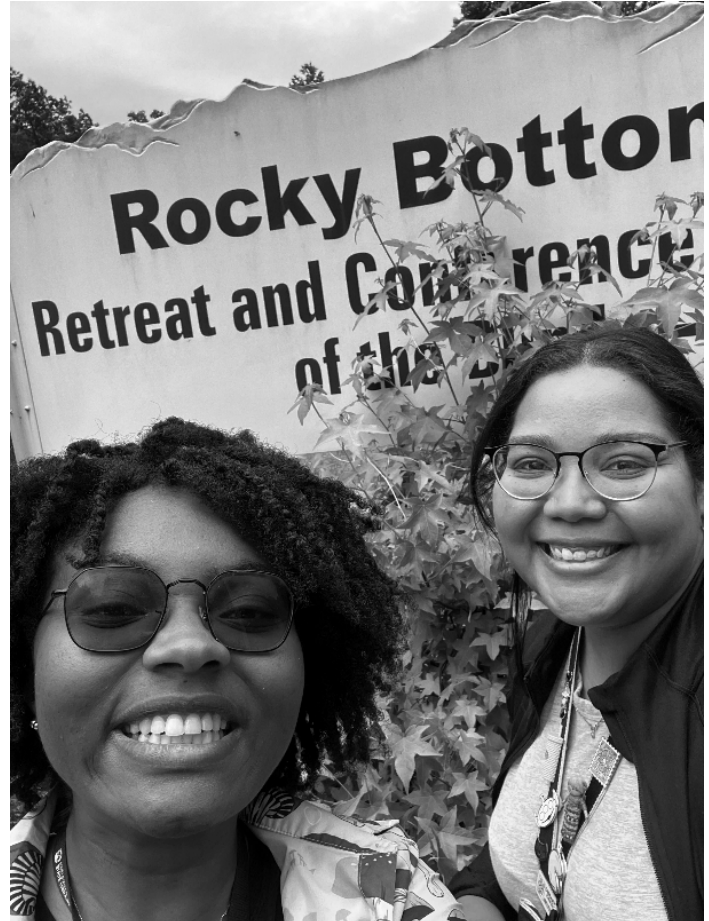
Talking Book Services Reader Advisors were delighted to hear that the National Federation for the Blind of South Carolina's annual Rocky Bottom Summer Camp program would once again be in-person, after several years of virtual activities. This June they hit the road to take some fun tactile activities to the eager elementary- and middle schoolers.

TBS Programming Coordinator Amber Sanders said, "I really enjoyed being able to do activities with the kids after having to conduct the program virtually last year. It's wonderful getting to see the joy on their faces in person."

New TBS Reader Advisor and Outreach Coordinator Tyler Edmond also got in on the fun. Though this was her first visit to Rocky Bottom, she said, "from the second we walked in the staff and the children were so welcoming and warm. I don't think we could have asked for a better group of kids."



Photo of Camp Rocky Bottom kids working on tactile crafts at a large table



Photos: On the left three kids making slime at a wooden table; On the right TBS Reader Advisors in front of the Rocky Bottom camp sign.

## 10 Questions with TBS: Reader Advisor Tyler Edmond

**Q: How long have you been a Reader Advisor?**

A: I've been a Reader Advisor for about two months now.

**Q: Dogs or cats (or something else)?**

A: Cats. I have two cats at home, a fluffy calico named Nora and a wiry tuxedo named Fran.

**Q: Coke or Pepsi?**

A: Coke, mainly because I like their variations more. My favorite soda is vanilla Coke.

**Q: Have you ever read a banned book? Which one?**

A: I almost feel like reading banned books comes with the job. Recently, I've read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. It's an emotionally heavy read, but I highly recommend the book.

**Q: What is your favorite season?**

A: I love the winter months. Winter has cold weather, warm sweaters, and my birthday.

**Q: Are you from SC?**

A: I was born here in Columbia, SC.

**Q: Carolina or Clemson?**

A: I'm going to get a lot of heat for this, but I just cheer for whoever's tailgate I'm at!

**Q: What is your favorite genre to read?**

A: I love a good historical romance but will pick out historical inaccuracies if I see them.

**Q: What is one place outside the U.S. you've visited, and/or one you'd like to visit someday?**

A: I've visited Mexico quite a few times. In the future, I'd like to travel to Quebec and the Maldives.

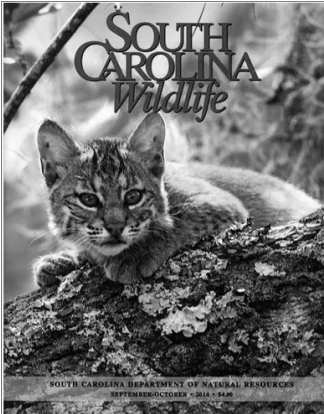
**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a Reader Advisor?**

A: I genuinely enjoy getting to know people and building a rapport with them. I love that people are starting to recognize me by my voice now.

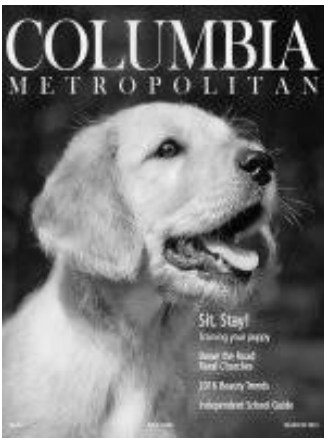
## Listen Local!

Do you subscribe to the local magazines produced by SC Talking Book Services?

TBS produces audio versions of many different South Carolina related magazines that you can receive every month automatically on audio cartridge.



*SC Wildlife*



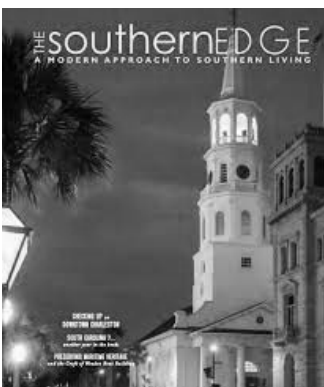
*Garden & Gun*

*Columbia Metropolitan*

*The Southern Edge*

*Carologue*

Need help? Just call 1-800-922-7818 and say "Give me all the South Carolina magazines, please!"



## **Let's Be Social!**

Follow SC Talking Book Services on social media  
we're always up to something!

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sctbs>**

Or visit the Talking Book Services website any time for news, information,  
and great reading recommendations:

**<https://www.sctalkingbook.org/>**

## Holiday Closures

South Carolina Talking Book Services will be closed for the following state and national holidays; please mark your calendars so you can plan ahead for any cartridge deliveries you may need. As always, you may contact TBS via email or by leaving a voice message on our designated phone line: 800-922-7818, and a Reader Advisor will respond as soon as possible when they return.

<b>2023 Holiday Schedule</b>	
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 16
Presidents Day	Monday, February 20
Confederate Memorial Day	Wednesday, May 10
National Memorial Day	Monday, May 29
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 4
Veterans Day	Friday, November 10
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23
Day after Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 24
Christmas Eve	Friday, December 22
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25
Day after Christmas	Tuesday, December 26

**HOURS:**

**Monday-Friday  
8:30am-5:00pm**

**Talking Book Services  
1500 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201**

**CONTACT US:**

**803-734-4611  
1-800-922-7818  
FAX: 803-734-4610**

**tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov**

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Persons unable to read or use materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive services.**

**Call for more information or visit our website:  
[sctalkingbook.org](http://sctalkingbook.org)**



**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY  
TALKING BOOK SERVICES  
1500 SENATE ST.  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201**

**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND  
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

**Return service requested**