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**This April at Orange County Library System:
National Library Week, Southwest Author Series and
Melrose Film Festival Submissions**

ORLANDO, Fla. (March 19, 2026) Orange County Library System (OCLS) is buzzing with excitement over National Library Week, April 19-25. Get your limited edition “You Bee-long at the Library” sticker, and stick to our social channels for special library content all week. Plus, sign up for a new library card and receive a free prize pack including a pair of WonderWorks tickets and a free treat from Jeremiah’s Italian Ice, available while supplies last.

Celebrate National Library Week by exploring library resources with craft programs like [Create an Accordion Book](#) at North Orange on Monday, April 20. Find the perfect new addition for your reading list with the hottest reads of 2026 at South Trail Branch with [To Be Read](#) on Thursday, April 23. Tap into health and wellness at your library with [Line Dancing for Seniors](#) at Fairview Shores on Friday, April 24.

Wrap up National Library Week with a thrilling evening at the 19th Annual Southwest Author Series on Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m. This year’s event features Tess Gerritsen, bestselling author of the Rizzoli & Isles series and the Martini club series, including her latest books *The Summer Guests* and *The Spy Coast*. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Southwest Branch, and light refreshments will be served. Book sale and signing to follow. Presented in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips. Registration required; visit <https://ocls.org/19th-annual-southwest-author-series/> for more details.

The Melrose Film Festival is accepting submissions now through May 1, highlighting the work of imaginative filmmakers across the globe. Entries are accepted from all filmmakers, but Florida filmmakers may submit one film free of charge. Categories include AI Shorts, Animated Shorts, Documentaries, Micro Short Films and Short Films. All entries must be 10 minutes or less and adhere to festival rules. Complete rules may be found at <https://filmfreeway.com/MelroseFilmFestival>.

Orange County Library System (OCLS) is a public library system serving the 1.5 million residents of Orange County, Fla. With 15 locations and a vast network of online and outreach resources, OCLS enriches lives through experiences and opportunities to learn, grow and connect. With free programs from technology classes for all ages to early literacy education and free online resources including language learning and homework help, an OCLS library card offers unlimited value. In 2026, two new locations and a mobile library will bring library value directly to more residents across the county. For

more information, visit ocls.org, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or download our app available now in your app store.

GENERAL EVENTS

Cuisine Corner: “Baby Chick” Mini Cheese Balls

South Creek • Thursday, April 2 • 5:30 p.m.

Make cute “baby chick” mini cheese balls, perfect as appetizers or snacks. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15792116>

Citizenship Inspired

Windermere • Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 • 3 p.m.

During this 4-session program, students will meet to prepare for the U.S. Naturalization (Citizenship) Test and Interview.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15800120>

Golden Hour Senior Series: Preserving Your Stories

Eatonville • Saturday, April 4 • 11 a.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15792683>

Washington Park • Monday, April 20 • 11 a.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15694520>

Join with others searching for ways to capture their unique stories. Together we’ll learn to journal and scrapbook treasured memories so they can be shared with friends and family. Registration required.

Top Five Organizing Rules for a Clutter-Free Spring

Virtual • Monday, April 6 • 6:30 p.m.

Join bestselling author and expert organizer Jamie Novak as she shares five simple rules that make organizing a breeze. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/14966557>

Fiber Arts Meetup

Chickasaw • Tuesday, April 7–28 • 4:30 p.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15051021>

Fairview Shores • Friday, April 17 • 11 a.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15775868>

Alafaya • Friday, April 17 • 4 p.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15847441>

Have a great time with other fiber artists while working on your craft. Bring your work in progress, yarn and tools. All levels are welcome. Registration required.

Plant Clinic

Windermere • Tuesday, April 7 • 10:30 a.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15089044>

Winter Garden • Tuesday, April 7 • 10:30 a.m. - <https://attend.ocls.org/event/15089015>

Bring your plants and get answers to your gardening questions from Master Gardener volunteers from the UF/IFAS Orange County Extension Office.

Stamp Carving

Orlando Public Library • Wednesday, April 8 • 5:30 p.m.

Learn how to carve a rubber stamp out of an eraser to use in your art. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15764349>

Reboot Boutique

Eatonville • Thursday, April 9 • 4:30 p.m.

It's time to add to your closet with new-to-you pieces. Join us for a free shopping experience with gently used clothing.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15180748>

The Mid-Year Momentum: Fuel Your Vision

Southeast • Saturday, April 11 • 3 p.m.

Reset, refocus, and get inspired! The Mid-Year Momentum: Fuel Your Vision is an uplifting space to check in with your goals and create a vision board that keeps you moving forward.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15699589>

Poetry Meetup

South Trail • Saturday, April 11 • 4:30 p.m.

Learn about different styles and create your own unique poem. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15763803>

Spring Photo Walk at the Melrose Center

Orlando Public Library • Saturday, April 11 • 10:30 a.m. • Sunday, April 19 • 1:30 p.m.

Interested in photographing the Downtown Orlando area? Join us for this two-day series starting with a guided photo. Whether you use a DSLR, film camera, mirrorless, cellphone or another device, come capture cityscapes to wildlife at Lake Eola. Return for our second meetup where we'll share our photos on the Melrose Center Media Wall. We'll discuss photos from the shoot and share challenges and achievements. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15793054>

Florida Explorers: Geocaching

Orlando Public Library • Sunday, April 12 • 2:30 p.m.

Discover how to treasure hunt through GPS with this popular hobby. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15772165>

Let's Get Creative: Watercolor Cards

South Creek • Tuesday, April 14 • 10:30 a.m.

Get creative and explore your artistic side with a fun activity. Socialize and connect while creating unique items. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15791715>

Semamori Paper Stitched Patterns: Hishi Plant

Southwest • Tuesday, April 14 • 10:30 a.m.

Learn about the meaning and history of the featured Japanese semamori pattern. Pierce and stitch the pattern on paper. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15947353>

No Cook Food For Seniors: Veggie Spring Roll

Hiawassee • Tuesday, April 14 • 11 a.m.

Eat light and healthy this spring with this easy and tasty bite or appetizer. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15707101>

Smarter Senior Seminar Series: Financial Ways to Survive

Southwest • Wednesday, April 15 • 1:30 p.m.

Financial planning is a significant key to your retirement. Discuss ways to have a clear plan in place before you retire. Finding ways to afford aging in place or in communities. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15675754>

Spice It Up: Miso

Hiawassee • Wednesday, April 15 • 4 p.m.

Dive into a new spice, taste your way through its history, culture and uses. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15705492>

Music for Alzheimer's and Dementia - LIFE Information for Elders

Orlando Public Library • Thursday, April 16 • 12:10 p.m.

Join Ashley Gravatte from ADRC for an interactive workshop that explores how music can support your caregiving journey, offering meaningful ways to connect with your loved one living with dementia.

Registration required. To register, email OfficeonAging@ocfl.net or call 407.836.7446.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/14322174>

Mini Mischief Makers: Keep 'Em Safe

West Oaks • Thursday, April 16 • 1:30 p.m.

Join Orlando Health as they share simple ways to support kids' curious adventures while creating a safe space for them to learn. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15744263>

Writers Meetup

Winter Garden • Saturday, April 18 • 4:30 p.m.

Meet with local writers as we brainstorm ideas, discuss writing methods and give constructive feedback. Submissions must be sent ahead of time. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15629755>

Acrylic Painting: April Showers

Eatonville • Saturday, April 25 • 11 a.m.

Follow along with artist Kerry Ezzo to paint an umbrella floral scene. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15678586>

Intro to Audio Recording: Start Making Sound

North Orange • Monday, April 27 • 4 p.m.

Learn the basics of recording: mics, interfaces, DAWs, and make your first track in this fun, 1-hour beginner-friendly session. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15641391>

Vinyl Record Meetup

Washington Park • Tuesday, April 28 • 5:30 p.m.

Bring your vinyl and enjoy some music on a professional turntable. Music selections must be appropriate for a public setting.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15756248>

YOUTH EVENTS

Teen Art Adventures: Arabic Tile Art

South Trail • Thursday, April 2 • 4:30 p.m.

Experiment with new techniques and create a masterpiece of your own. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15729225>

Teen Chess League

Chickasaw • Mondays, April 6 & 20 • 4 p.m.

Hang out, make new friends and play games of chess in a laid-back setting.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15803092>

Preschool Artists: Eric Carle

Winter Garden • Wednesday, April 1 • 10:30 a.m.

Washington Park • Thursday, April 9 • 3 p.m.

Southeast • Tuesday, April 14 • 4:30 p.m.

Chickasaw • Wednesday, April 15 • 11 a.m.

North Orange • Thursday, April 16 • 10:30 a.m.

South Creek • Thursday, April 16 • 10:30 a.m.

Alafaya • Tuesday, April 21 • 11 a.m.

Hiawassee • Tuesday, April 21 • 3:30 p.m.

Use color and textures to create a masterpiece inspired by artists throughout history. Registration required.

https://ocls.org/classes-events/?_event_search=preschool%20artists%3A%20eric%20carle

[Classes & Events - Orange County Library System](#)

Hue Knew: A Color Mystery

South Trail • Saturday, April 4 • 3 p.m.

Hone your hue awareness to investigate a crime of rainbow proportions. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15729808>

Create Comics

Orlando Public Library • Tuesday, April 7, 28 • 2:30 p.m. • Thursday, April 9 • 10:30 a.m.

South Trail • Wednesday, April 8 • 5 p.m.

Chickasaw • Saturday, April 11 • 11 a.m.

Create your own comic using Comic Life. Write a story, change layouts and add images to make your comic come alive. Ages 6–12. Registration required.

[Classes & Events - Orange County Library System](#)

Trap Baby & Me

Eatonville • Wednesday, April 8 • 10:15 a.m.

Washington Park • Wednesday, April 15 • 10:30 a.m.

Windermere • Tuesday, April 21 • 10:15 a.m.

An interactive music and movement class that brings early childhood development to life with beats and activities little ones can't resist. Ages 18–36 months.

[Classes & Events - Orange County Library System](#)

All About Skunks

Fairview Shores • Saturday, April 11 • 2 p.m.

Learn about the diet, habitat and behavior of one of the world's most misunderstood animals and meet a de-scented pet skunk. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15707970>

Tissue Paper Flowers

Southwest • Tuesday, April 14 • 4 p.m.

Create colorful tissue paper flowers to top gifts or decorate a room. Recommended for ages 6-12.

Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15874028>

Teen Volunteering: Teen Takeover

West Oaks • Saturday, April 18 • 11 a.m.

High school students will earn one hour of community service by completing volunteer tasks at the library. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15678488>

Bunny Care 101

Washington Park • Saturday, April 18 • 11 a.m.

Learn about the care and keeping of bunnies as house pets and meet some adoptable rabbits.

Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15531903>

Hearts of Gold Therapy Dogs

South Creek • Saturday, April 18 • 10:30 a.m.

Improve your literacy skills by reading to a therapy dog. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15069742>

Bilinugal Baby to Five Storytime

Englewood Community Center, 6123 La Costa Drive, Orlando, FL 32807 • Tuesday, April 21 • 10 a.m.

From the rhythm and repetition of nursery rhymes to the use of picture books, songs and flannel board stories, your child will be encouraged to develop early literacy skills. Ages 0–5.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15423873>

Pirates in Wonderland

Fairview Shores • Tuesday, April 21 • 4:30 p.m.

Down the rabbit hole the pirates go. In celebration of National Library week, sail through Wonderland with the swashbuckling crew in this fun-filled storytime. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15795683>

STEAM Junior: Flying Fun

Winter Garden • Monday, April 27 • 4:30 p.m.

Explore aerodynamics and the forces that make flight possible. Ages 9–12. Registration required.

<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15583808>

Backyard Birds of Prey

Eatonville • Wednesday, April 29 • 3:15 p.m.

Learn about birds of prey. In partnership with Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Registration required.
<https://attend.ocls.org/event/15782094>

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