

# Illinois Language and Literacy Council

Sue Anderson, Ed.D.

*Young Author's Conference Anchor*

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April, 2019

Dear Young Author:

Congratulations! In recognition of your writing efforts, you have been selected to represent your school district at the 44th Annual Illinois Statewide Young Authors Conference to be held Saturday, May 18 2019, at Normal West Community High School 501 North Parkside Road in Normal, Illinois, 61761.

Please bring your original manuscript with you to the conference. The official conference seal will be given to you to be placed on your original manuscript. During the day, you will have an opportunity to share your original manuscript with other young authors.

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

- Check-in information for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8
- Complete conference schedule
- Frequently asked questions about the conference

The following documents can be found at: <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/yac.html>

- Bloomington-Normal Area Hotel Map

I hope you will enjoy the activities we have planned for you at the 44th Annual Illinois Statewide Young Authors Conference.

Sincerely,

Sue Anderson, Ed.D  
Young Author's Conference Anchor  
Illinois Language & Literacy Council

Please "like" us on Facebook and/or follow us on Twitter for more information on the conference as well as an opportunity to interact with other young authors from around the state!

Please help! This may be the last year of the Young Author's Conference due to a loss of funding from the state. Please consider donating to our Gofundme campaign so that we can continue this wonderful conference for students! [gofundme.com/2467wgjk](http://gofundme.com/2467wgjk)

## CONFERENCE CHECK-IN INFORMATION

### **Students in Kindergarten through Grade 8**

On the day of the conference you should report to the Cafeteria at **9:00 a.m.** for student check-in, where you will receive your room assignment and conference materials. Group Leaders will be in there as well holding placards displaying each group's room number. Following student check-in, the K-8 Group Leaders will escort their groups to the Opening Ceremony in the Lower Bowl Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. Families of participants are invited to the Opening Ceremony as well. From there, students will walk with their group leader to the assigned rooms. Parents will remain in at this time to enjoy their guest speaker.

# 45th Annual Illinois Statewide Young Authors Conference

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE May 18, 2019

9:00 a.m.	<b>Student Check-In</b> <i>Kindergarten through Grade 8</i> <i>Cafeteria</i>
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Ceremony and Welcome</b> <i>Kindergarten through Grade 8</i> Lower Bowl Auditorium
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Small Group Sessions and Author Visits</b>
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch for all Students</b> <i>Kindergarten through Grade 8</i> <i>Cafeteria</i>
12:50 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Special Sessions with Story Tellers and Author Panels</b> K-Grade 4: Storyteller North Gym  Grades 5 -8: Author Panel (5 authors) Lower Bowl Auditorium
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Recognition of Young Authors/Closing Ceremonies</b> K-Grade 2 Grades 3 and 4 North Gym  Grades 5 and 6 Grades 7 and 8 Lower Bowl Auditorium
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Author Book Signing (Optional Event)</b> <b>Book Display area</b>

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10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Parent Session</b> Parent Session with <i>Keziah Frost</i> Lower Bowl Auditorium <b>PARENT BREAK-OUT SESSION to be held after</b>
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**Please Note: Parents and family members are then on their own for lunch and have free time until the recognition ceremonies begin at 1:30 p.m**

## QUESTIONS WE'VE BEEN ASKED

Each year we receive many calls from parents and other adults who plan to accompany students to the Young Authors Conference. This year we're attempting to anticipate your concerns and answer some of the questions you may have about your child's participation.

### **How will my child be supervised at the Conference?**

Each young author is assigned to a small group of 10-15 young authors of the same age. Each group will be supervised by a volunteer leader and assistant group leader. Most of these volunteers are currently elementary teachers; others may be university professors, librarians, etc. All have given generously of their time and energy to make the Conference a success. The volunteer leaders stay with their groups throughout the entire day, including lunch, until the young authors meet their parents at the end of the recognition ceremony.

### **Will my child receive lunch at the Conference?**

Yes. All young authors will be served a lunch. The cost of lunch is included in the registration fee, which was paid when students were registered for the Conference.

### **What should my child wear to the Conference?**

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

### **May I stay with my child throughout the day?**

We ask you **not** to remain with your child after the young author reports to his or her classroom at the beginning of the day. As explained previously, the young authors will be well supervised.

### **I have other children who are not young authors. May they stay with my child who is a young author?**

No. We cannot accommodate children other than the young authors.

### **What is there for parents and other adults to do while the young authors meet?**

We have planned a session for adults accompanying children to the Conference. (See Conference Schedule for details.) Additionally, parents are welcome to sit at the back of the auditorium during the afternoon sessions (the storytelling sessions for grades K-2 and the author panels for grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8), and, of course, parents are especially welcome during the Recognition Ceremonies.

If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Illinois Literacy Council representative Dr. Sue Anderson at [anderbrose@aol.com](mailto:anderbrose@aol.com).

**Young Author's Coordinator – Make sure you print out the hotel information and attach it to this packet. Please send out Author information when the biographies become available.**