

CULT MOVIE VAULT TREJVERSE!



High Plains Library District

# Community

MAY 2026

# SRA 2026

PAGE 3

**Ancient  
Greece Scroll**

PAGE 5

**Cult Movie  
Vault**

PAGE 7

**And More  
Inside!**



The Human Bean

Support for this program was generously provided in memory of Martha J. Baird

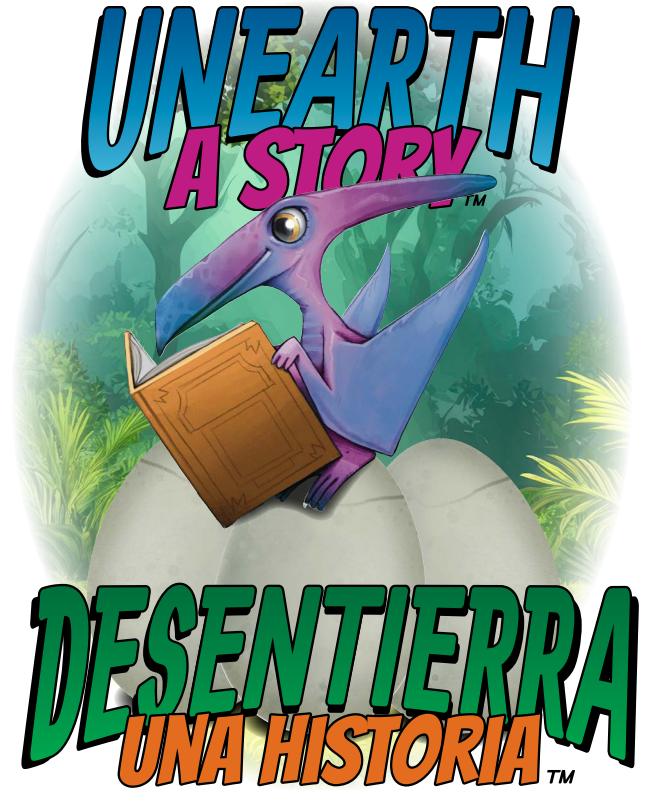
# Contents

What Does it Mean to Unearth a Story? .....**3**

Summer Reading Before Books?  
Unroll a Scroll in Ancient Greece .....**5**

Cult Movie Vault: Xander Cage and  
The Trejoverse .....**7**

Locations .....**11**



Wonder Play Socialize  
Bibliotecas Experience Imagine Laugh Dream Connect Experience  
Build Maktabaduhu Create Share Games Read  
Explore

## What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to [mylibrary.us/letters](http://mylibrary.us/letters) to get your feedback in the right hands.

# What Does it Mean to **Unearth a Story?**



*by HPLD staff*

The fossilized spine of a massive creature is painstakingly uncovered, snaking across a layer of stone like monstrous barbed wire.

A mammoth block of stone is pried from the opening of an ancient tomb and thuds to the ground, raising a cloud of dust to choke the air.

Ancient glyphs wind around the walls of a rainforest temple, depicting the beginning of the cosmos.  
Worn hands swipe dust from the cover of a photo album before reverently turning the first page.

A lab scientist pieces together the data from years of careful observation of tiny, zooming amoebae to solve a microscopic mystery.

From the mundane to the breathtakingly thrilling, unearthing a story can take many forms.

So, what is a story? Is it a retelling of a series of events? A way to make sense of something? A history? A theory? A fantasy? A dream for the future?

Yes!

There are at least as many kinds of stories as there are people, binding us together within and across families, cultures, and worlds.

At the library, we're all about the stories, so let's clear off the cobwebs to reveal old stories and never stop discovering (and even writing) new ones! We know that we all need the stories that make up our world to keep us learning, growing, inspired, and connected.



Plus, what's more fun than a good story?

Lace up your boots, sharpen your curiosity, pack for the journey (whether that's a solitary pbj or an entire laboratory setup—totally up to you; this is your adventure), and make your way to the library, where we're in the business of bringing all the stories you can handle!

Wonder  
Socialize  
Play  
Experience  
Imagine  
Bibliotecas  
Laugh  
Build  
Maktabaduhu  
Explore  
Create  
Share  
Games  
Read  
Experience  
Connect  
Dream

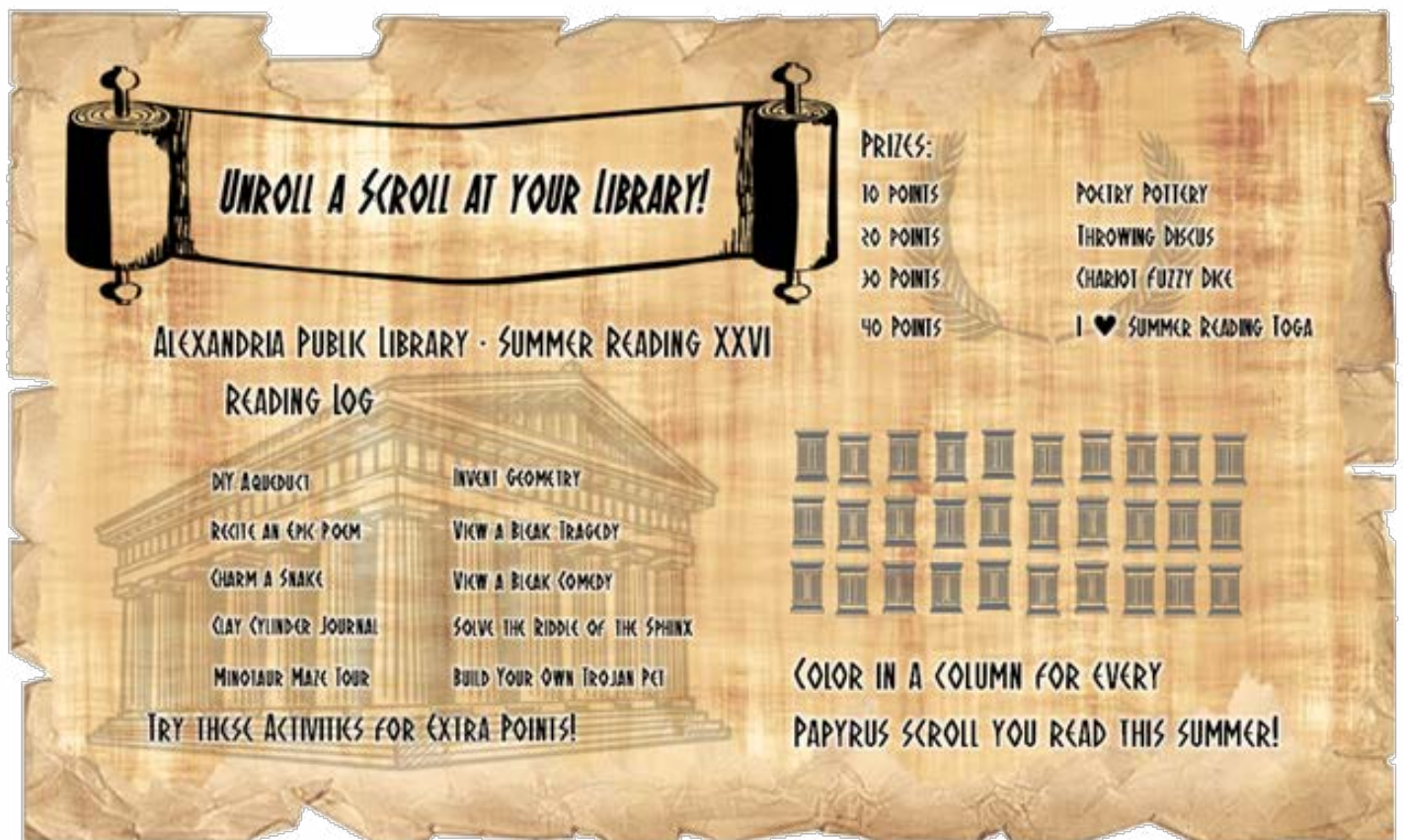
# Did YOU have a great library experience? Like, ever?

If you're reading HPLD's newsletter, we're betting the answer is "Yes." Or possibly even "YES!"

To let our staff know that they're having an impact in your community, we're proposing a quick letter-writing campaign. Write your favorite HPLD staff member a letter, and if they're up for it, we'll ask them to read it out loud for the first time on video. That way, they can see how much you appreciate them, and you can see how much your words mean to them!

# Summer Reading Before Books?

*Unroll a Scroll in  
Ancient Greece*



by David Sharp

When did this whole [Summer Reading Adventure](#) thing start? It's been around for a long time, and I can see why. Every year, eager readers flock to the library to pick up their reading logs, join in some awesome summer activities, and walk out with a stack of books and prizes. But have you ever wondered what the earliest Summer Reading Adventures looked like? I decided it was time to find out.

In honor of this year's theme, Unearth a Story, I grabbed my shovel and began digging. Wouldn't you know it, I found just the sort of thing I was looking for—well, first I found a bunch of garbage like some shiny rocks, fossils from some dinosaur nobody's ever heard of, and a giant oil deposit. Yuck! What a mess that was. But finally I came upon the real treasure: a summer reading log from the ancient Library of Alexandria.

For anyone unfamiliar with the Library of Alexandria, it

was a renowned repository of knowledge containing scrolls from every corner of the map. It was also considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. And I don't find it surprising AT ALL that the seven wonders would include a library. I mean if a statue of a cat lady with a broken nose can make the cut, then a library should definitely be on the list. Founded in Ancient Greece and destroyed during the time of Roman rule, the loss of the great library in Alexandria is a tragedy for the ages. Who knows how much history and knowledge was lost? But with this newly discovered summer reading log, we may unlock new insights into libraries of ages past. Let's see what it says...

Huh. A lot of similarities. Like our [Summer Reading Adventures](#) today, this log invites readers to accumulate points by reading through the summer and partaking in [neat summer activities](#). Participants returning to the library show off how many points they've earned and cash in on some great prizes.

Let's compare.

Looks like kids in Ancient Greece could win a clay pot with some poetry on it. Well, that's... something. A throwing discus. And look at the next prize. Where exactly do you hang fuzzy dice from a chariot? I wouldn't mind one of those "I heart libraries" togas, though. Well, you may not get ceramic prizes from our Summer Reading Adventure today, but you will have an opportunity to win more modern rewards like stickers, free books, and other goodies from local businesses. Don't you bet those kids in Ancient Greece would have flipped if they knew about personal-sized pizzas?

But if you do want to paint poetry on the side of a clay pot, we have [lots of great activities](#) for you to "unearth" this summer as well, like our [Artifact Makers craft program](#), [dinosaur yoga](#), [writing workshops](#), and something called the [Jurassic Jamboree](#). You can get crafty with [shimmer jars](#), [dinosaur dioramas](#), or a [prehistoric LEGO challenge](#). Or you can live out your game show contestant dreams in our [Dino Minute-To-Win-It](#) or our library take on the classic [Legends of the Hidden Temple](#). And, of course, we're bringing back some crowd favorites like [Singing in the Stacks Karaoke](#), [book exchanges](#), and [foam parties](#).

And, while you may envy those Alexandrian kids who got to charm snakes and build their own aqueducts and—yeesh, does that say invent geometry? You get to [learn how to build your own escape room puzzles](#). Or [explore the universe in an inflatable planetarium dome](#). Or [dance in a dinosaur disco!](#) And when you read all of your books this summer, you don't have to roll them up again. What was the bookmark situation in the days of ancient scrolls, anyway? It must have been frustrating.

Well, maybe your library isn't a wonder of the world, but it sure is wonderful. And I'll bet if librarians from the ancient Library of Alexandria could see what libraries offer today, they'd feel a sense of pride being a foundational piece of this grand tradition. And they would be insane with jealousy. I mean, as great as chiseling your own journal into a clay cylinder sounds, I think [the real fun begins today, May 18th, when registration starts](#). And all you have to do to be part of it is drop by your favorite High Plains Library District library, pick up a log, and prepare to unearth a story of your own.

**HPLD**  
Library & Archive

**GRAND OPENING**

June 27, 2026  
2-5pm

Light snacks and refreshments

highplains  
Library District

**2650 W 29th Street, Greeley, CO 80631**

# Cult Movie Vault: Xander Cage and The Trejoverse

**BANG, this summer blockbuster movie** starts fast, so let's kick off this article with the same speed!

We have a guy, a tuxedo-ed fella, a real Jimmy Bond, running through the streets of what appear to be an eastern European city. Our James Bond, who is fleeing some guys for some reason, uses a nifty little pocket lockpick to sneak his way into a building.

I was OBSESSED with the idea of lockpicking as a child, probably because, as a latchkey kid who lost his keys several times and ended up needing to pee on the side of the house because I couldn't wait for my brother to get home, I felt like lockpicking skills were the answer to my "keyless entry" needs (sorry, mom, if you're reading this).

Jimmy, instead of doing a pee dance, lockpicks his way into a Rammstein concert, which provides what we'll count as this movie's first instance of diegetic music.

For those who aren't fancy enough to understand my film school terms, "diegetic" music is music that exists in the world of the movie as well as that of the viewer.



For example, if someone in the movie drops coins into a jukebox, hits G7 ("Street Fighting Man"), and everyone rocks out, that's diegetic. But if you and me, the viewers, are watching a movie, and if we're hearing music the characters are not, that's non-diegetic.

I felt the need to educate everyone on a little something because this movie is about to get real stupid.

Jimmy is sort of escaping through the crowd at the show, attempting to run away from some bad guys

by making his way to the stage, which seems like a very bad idea. I've been to a handful of rock shows in my time, and trying to quickly make your way from the back of the room to the stage is impossible unless you're the smelliest man on earth and everyone is repelled by your odor, a strategy I've considered for concertgoing but never followed through on because I would have to live with my own stink for the duration of the ride up and down as well as during the show.

As Jimmy mounts the stage in an attempt to exit the room via the least convenient door possible, he's shot by a marksman on an upper balcony, his body falls into the

crowd, and the unknowing party people then crowdsurf Jimmy's dead body, which is, admittedly, awesome. There are worse ways to die than mid-crowdsurf at a Rammstein concert.

Cut to Samuel L. Jackson, who for this movie has a very scarred face because I guess someone decided to make him sit in a makeup chair for hours (this was before they just gave him an eyepatch and called it good). Jackson is some kind of...government guy, our Jimmy Bond's boss. After this latest murder of yet another agent simply trying to escape by penetrating the mosh pit at a Rammstein concert (IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT WAS HE THINKING?!), Samuel L. comes up with a plan: Because the government keeps losing agents, he thinks maybe they should send in a criminal, or a ruffian, a loner, a rebel, a real tough boy.

If these highly-trained types can't do it...what about an eXtreme sports guy?

Cut to a snooty, uptight jerk with a Corvette, telling a valet to park it in the shade so the sun doesn't fade the paint. Just in case we didn't know this Corvette owner was a jerk, he has a bumper sticker that says, "Skateboarding IS a crime." Let me be clear: he's placed a bumper sticker on a Corvette. A Corvette so pristine that he doesn't even want it exposed to sunlight.

Younguns, you might not remember, but "Skateboarding is not a crime" was a very popular slogan back in the day when it seemed like skateboarders were constantly being told to vacate one parking lot or set of stairs or another. This was long before the days when cities hit on the idea of, "Maybe instead of running Sk8r boyz off from bank parking lots, we should just build skate parks, you know, sort of how we solved the problem of guerrilla tennis players who would set up a net in the middle of a strip mall by building tennis courts."

The valet, we don't see his face right away, but we see a row of three X's tattooed on the back of his neck. He squeals the Corvette out of the parking lot, and he meets up with some guys on the road who install a camera inside

the car so they can capture the upcoming stunt performed by our hero, Xander Cage, aka...

Here's where I have a conundrum, readers. This is a newsletter announcing [the beginning of Summer Reading](#), and I don't really want to put the movie's name, also the code name of our main character, in here, because I feel like advanced spam filters will throw it immediately in the trash, and they'd be right to do so. The movie's title is pronounced like, "triple ex." Does that work? Do we all know what we're talking about now?



It's hard to explain, you had to be there, but in the late 90s, EVERYTHING was X. Games became Xgames, a video game box became an Xbox, and the X-Men trundled along with their X because Smilin' Stan Lee had done it back in the 70s, and man did that guy have some foresight when it came to naming stuff.

You know what's extra weird about this movie's title? Despite being titled like something WAY more adult and even featuring what appears to be a shirtless Vin Diesel on the poster, this movie is rated PG-13. Not even an R-rating, this was deemed just fine for kids in middle school.



Why wasn't this movie called "PG-13," then? When did we decide that accuracy isn't Xtreme or cool? I attended library school, and let me tell you, accuracy is straight chillin'.

Well, that's what we'll call the movie for the remainder of this article: *PG-13*.

Back in the stolen Vette, Vin Diesel then gives us the lowdown. Apparently, the Corvette's driver is a senator, and he is very against rap music and video games and the like, so Vin thought he'd teach Senator Bummer a lesson by stealing his car and

driving it off a bridge. Which he does with gusto.

As the car flies off a bridge and starts to fall into a canyon, Vin jumps out of the car as it freefalls. I don't know what you call this stunt. It's not really base jumping because the CAR did the jumping. You know what? In the spirit of the movie, let's call it Xjumping.

As the car hits the ground and explodes, we hear the

strains of “Bodies” by Drowning Pool, and Vin lands safely at the bottom of a canyon, where he’s picked up by a couple of guys, including Tony Hawk, who is credited as “Caddy Driver” (I’m not kidding).

Aaaand scene.

Later, as Vin celebrates his property destruction in his enormous loft that we’ve all been tricked into believing is affordable because you can see ductwork, a bunch of guys with guns bust in and shoot Vin with a knockout dart. And he wakes up in a diner, which, honestly, if you’ve been darted and are feeling a little logy, what better place to wake up than somewhere that has no concept of “reasonable hours” to serve coffee? Coffee shops often close in the evening, but diners? Why NOT have 5 refills of black coffee at 11 pm?

As Vin snaps back to reality, he notices what appears to be a robbery about to happen in the diner, but because he’s an amazing sleuth, a Sherlock, a Poirot, a real Detective Pikachu, he puts together, from a series of clues, that this is not a real diner holdup and is, in fact, a faked scenario to see if he’s...good at detecting that he has just woken up in a fake diner heist as opposed to a real diner heist.

Vin’s instincts are right, and this was all a test concocted by Samuel L. Jackson to determine if Vin...could put together this very specific scenario.

It’s an odd test for an undercover, international agent, but after seeing the occasional video of a Waffle House erupting into latenight fistcuffs, maybe Sam Jackson is onto something.

Next thing we know, after another darting (man, they must have a whole pantry of these darts that are about to expire) Vin wakes up on an airplane that’s driving along the runway (taxiing? Why is that called “taxiing?” That’s like getting in a taxi and asking it to “fly” you downtown), and he’s dumped out on the tarmac along with a couple other guys in what is apparently another test involving a Columbian cocaine operation run by none other than Danny Trejo.



Ah, yes. Danny Trejo was THE man you got when you wanted a scary guy in a movie. Like, he still kind of is, but he’s known now, he’s “Danny Trejo,” not one of those, “Oh,

yeah, THAT guy” guys.

That’s how you know you’ve made it, you aren’t a “That Guy” anymore, you’re Danny Trejo.

Danny Trejo threatens Vin Diesel and 2 other agents-in-training with a machete (foreshadowing! Of Danny Trejo’s career, anyway!) before helicopters swoop in and start shooting everything, and Vin Diesel mounts an escape from the area that involves doing a bunch of sweet jumps on a motorbike.

Unfortunately, Trejo gets in an SUV that’s blown up by a helicopter. Which is not an unfair fate for Trejo’s character,



but for the actor, I’d like to see him take a more exciting exit from the movie, like maybe, I don’t know, he gets into a giant cannon with his machete and is fired at a helicopter, and as he hacks his way through everyone onboard, the chopper crashes. That’s a more befitting end. I mean, you cast Trejo, why not give us a couple more frames of the man on screen?

Oh, well. RIP Danny Trejo, see you in the next Cult Movie Vault, most likely.



Now that Vin Diesel has passed his second test, he moves onto becoming an international super spy. Which means, of course, he's armed with some stuff by a nerd who seems to like making super spy stuff but also seems kind of horrified to discover that the things he's invented might be used to harm people. "Surely you're not going to use this giant harpoon to stab someone, right?"

But far more interesting than the gizmos Vin Diesel gets is the coat he chooses to wear.

This coat, I feel like it's the ultimate intimidation movie. Vin Diesel is such a tough guy in this movie that nobody even mentions it. Like, are you kidding? No way could I pull this off. I don't care how cold it was, if I showed up wearing that, I would be called "Lambchop" for the rest of my days. Maybe it's a look that can only be pulled off in movies by bald guys with huge arms.

Vin Diesel then proceeds to use his very X-Games skillset to do spy stuff, including snowboarding just ahead of an avalanche and using a metal serving tray to grind a rail for some reason, all winding up with an action sequence with a speedboat loaded with chemicals that, when they mix, become a deadly something or other.

Unfortunately for whoever came up with the scheme of delivering these deadly chemicals by boat, they are neutralized by...water. Perhaps watercraft isn't the best idea here.



But these baddies don't seem detail-oriented, as demonstrated by the adorable way someone seemingly just used some electrical tape to spell out the name "Ahab" in what looks like a child's handwriting on the side of their superboat.

To prevent the delivery of this chemical to wherever it's going, Vin Diesel drives a cool car, which he is good at, then also shoots a harpoon, which he is also good at, and then does kind of a waterski sequence, which, just to mix things up, he is VERY good at, and then manages to solve the problem by blowing up the boat.

**PG-13 is a movie that starts strong.** The first 30 minutes is possibly the most late-90s/early-2000s thing I've ever seen, and I adore it for that.

Buuuut it does Peter out a bit, which, as someone named "Peter," I get to say when I mean something starts with a lot of enthusiasm and verve and then just sort of congeals into a mass of "It's fine." The number of things in my life that have gone that way is immense, and I'm at peace with it.

And the movie just plain needs 40% more Trejo. As do most things.

# LOCATIONS

## LIBRARIES Visit [www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours](http://www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours) for library hours

### Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue  
Firestone, CO 80504  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80634  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue  
Eaton, CO 80615  
(970) 454-2189

### Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street  
Erie, CO 80516  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80634  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Fort Lupton Public & School Library

370 S. Rollie Avenue  
Fort Lupton, CO 80621  
(303) 339-4089

### Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue  
Johnstown, CO 80534  
(970) 587-2459

### Grover Library

402 Chatoga Avenue  
Grover, CO 80729  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

266B S. Irene Avenue  
Milliken, CO 80543  
(970) 857-1950

### Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street  
Hudson, CO 80642  
(303) 536-4550

### Kersey Library

332 3rd Street  
Kersey, CO 80644  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### LINC Library Innovation Center

501 8th Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Nantes Library

703 Birch Street  
Gilcrest, CO 80623  
(970) 737-1035

### Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street  
Ault, CO 80610  
(970) 834-1259

### Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue  
Platteville, CO 80651  
(970) 785-2231

### Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street  
Evans, CO 80620  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

## AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

### Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 350-9220

### Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 352-1267

## PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

### Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street, Briggsdale, CO 80611

**Need one-on-one help? Book a librarian today.**

Book a Librarian Appointments are free, one-on-one computer help sessions with tech specialists that are designed to answer all of your in-depth questions! They are available in English and Spanish.

Go to <https://www.mylibrary.us/bal/> or call 1-888-861-7323 for an appointment.