Colorado State Library

Library Webinar

Outdoor Programming

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>> CHRISTINE KREGER: We have a poll for you in the middle of the screen. Curious if you see a cold and snowy day? We will get started in just a minute. I'm going to do one last test with the microphone with Maryann.

For those of you just joining, we will get started in just a moment. We had a little hiccup with one of the presenters and their microphone. Bear with us just a moment.

>>: Once again, welcome everyone to CSO in session. Outdoor programs. If you have not had chance to introduce herself, please continue to do so in the lower left-hand corner. We have quite a few people on today which is fabulous and we have a lot to cover so we will jump right in.

My name is Christine Kreger, and I am the Professional Development Consultant for the Colorado State Library. Before we jump in today's session, I want to tell you a little bit about the session and how things will work today.

First of all, you may be used to webinars where you sit back and listen to presenters, but we are going to try to involve as many of you as possible. If you logged in early enough, we had a poll up that you were able to answer. We have several more polls for you to participate in. We are talking program and we know that libraries have tons of programming: some inside and outside and all over the place. As you go through the session, you will share your ideas about programs and share your questions in chat, and we want to learn from everybody as we go through our presentation.

The main way you will communicate today is via the chat. Many of you have introduced yourselves. We’ve got people from all over the US which is fabulous. As we go through today's session, if you need to get a hold of me for any reason, I'm up in the upper left-hand corner, all the way at the top where it says Colorado State Library. If you hover over that, you can send me a private message and I can potentially help you with audio issues if you are having trouble hearing and whatnot.

We also are recording today's session. The recording will be available later this afternoon, probably within about one hour of the session. We also do have a live transcriptionist today. My lovely screen that is showing the arrow off to the left, that pod does not seem to be working. Bear with me one second. If you need live transcription, if you go to this URL, you can see a full screen of everything that the presenters are seeing today. There will also be a transcript available to go along with the recording as well.

Without further ado, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce of the presenters for today. We have Beth Christ, Consultant for the Colorado State Library. Noah Lenstra, who is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. That's a long title to say. Maryann, who is having a little bit of audio problems, we will continue to work with her to see if she can get connected. She contributed an immense amount of information for this session. Maryann Mori, who is a Library consultant from the state library of Iowa.

Since we don't have Maryann connected just yet, Noah, I will have you go ahead and take it away.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Thanks, Christine, and she prepared a lot so I will be using her notes and my voice. We have three parts to our session. We will begin with why you should consider winter programming, going over some of the benefits. We will move on to how you can provide winter programming, offering ideas for both programs and partnerships. We will finish out with why. We will have a ton of opportunities for you to interact and share thoughts and ideas. We encourage you to do so throughout the session by utilizing the chat feature. Again, imagine this is Maryann talking. Here are some of the things Maryann likes to do on winter day. She rides bicycles all year round. Staying active outdoors in winter means you are generating your own heat and often not as cold outside as you may think.

Let's start with why. What are our reasons for being outside during the winter, and why should we encourage this behavior among our patrons? Again, winter can be absolutely enchanting and beautiful. This is a picture that Maryann took on one of her winter bike rides. A magical awesome experience to be part of this beautiful theme in central Iowa. True confession from Maryann: she wasn't always this enthusiastic about winter, as I'm sure some of you may also might not be so enthusiastic. If you answered with you groan and go back to bed, don't worry, you can develop your own love of being outside during the winter.

While outside during the winter you can see sites like this. This is a photo Maryann took from one of her winter bike rides. Being outdoors in winter is a unique way to enjoy winter in ways that you won't always find at other times of the year.

Here's a similar example. A school library in Vermont during COVID-19, did an outdoor story time. The kindergartners were very distracted by the rainbow during our outdoor story time. We are finding that as we go outside during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also rediscovering the magical quality of nature in the great outdoors and sharing that love with our patrons.

A wonderful why for being outside, is the beauty and briskness that enhances our physical, mental, and emotional health. Exercising, sunshine, are two things to help beat winter doldrums. I want to quickly introduce the concept of nature deficit disorder which is an actual thing that you can learn more about on the children in nature network. This is a picture of Grady getting outdoor time from the Philadelphia flyer. I put this in because I think of nature deficit disorder as the Snickers commercials when people are hungry. If you spend too much time inside, you may become a little bit crazy. Being cooped up all winter challenges our mental health. Get outside and refresh and recharge. Again, learn more at this website.

I also want to quickly introduce the concept of Friluftsliv, a Norwegian concept that refers to open-air living. It's kind of, you consider it as kind of the outdoor analog of the Danish concept of hygge. This is the idea that we can be spending outside all winter long and all year round and transforming our engagement in the outdoors. This is a perfect concept to our outdoor programming year round, so I would encourage you to take a look at learn more about this concept, if it's I went to you.

The final why is that it's just plain fun. Think back to when you were a kid and how much he loved playing outside. You can regain those simple happy feelings as an adult. I now want to turn things over to your why. Christine, do you have the poll ready to pull up?

What is your why? Just quickly, we would like to hear some reasons why you like to go outside during the winter. A lot of people are looking for fresh air. Mental and emotional health. Exercise. The joy of nature. Vitamin D. It's great to hear people have lots of different reasons for going outside during nature. What I really get out of the results of this poll, is there's really no one reason why people go outside. As we encourage our patrons to go outside during winter, it's good to emphasize the multiple benefits of going outside: physical health, mental health, and just the joy of being outside. Christine, do you want to switch back to the slides?

Just to continue right along. We would get into the how section of this presentation. We will look at possibilities, programs, places, and partnerships. The first thing we want to emphasize is we can do a lot without actually going outside civilly by highlighting opportunities, promoting the efforts that other entities in our communities are already doing. We can start by promoting possibilities. With that, I'm going to turn things over to Beth.

>> BETH CHRIST: Thanks so much, Noah. I hope you are hearing me right now. We are having a few technical difficulties but we will soldier on here! We are going to start out talking about some examples of ways that public libraries across the US and Canada are promoting opportunities that are already there, so that's exactly what the Grandy County Library District here in Colorado has done this winter. They are partnering with groups and individuals to provide library programming pertaining to winter activities.

Here is a screenshot of a library corner article that appeared in a recent addition in Sky-Hi News, and it features libraries with two virtual programs designed to help people recreate outdoors responsibly this winter. The programs include one about uphill skiing policy. I'm seeing the technical difficulties.

>> CHRISTINE KREGER: It seems like with as many people as we are having on right now, we are having bandwidth issues.

>> BETH CHRIST: I'm not sure what's going on there. The programs include one about uphill skiing policy, the second one is avalanche safety which is so important when you are doing any kind of backcountry activity, and that is a partnership with the local avalanche educator. You are seeing YMCA Of the Rockies! Well. Interesting. Some of you are seeing the right slide. I will plow forward. Sorry about all of the confusion today.

The gist of this is to find folks in your community who know the information about outdoor activities, bring them into your library for a wonderful program partnership like they have here in Grandy County.

Some other possibilities are local shops, like ski shops, sporting good stores, ski resorts and other types of businesses that can all be potential programming partners. You can bring them in. Also, during that time you can take the opportunity for the library for things that pertain to the program topic, too.

Here's another example simply promoting nature books as a means of encouraging people to go outdoors this winter. A question for you here is what books or magazines are already in your library that might promote outdoor activities. Could you post something on your libraries website to make a virtual display about them if you are not open right now, and how can you best work these resources.

Any ideas? You can type them in chat. In the interest of time, please type in chat any thoughts you have on that and I will continue on. Good, thank you very much. Great ideas coming in right now. Barbara, promote the best sledding hills. I love that. Allison suggests take and make activities for crafts. Books about gardening. These are super. Jessica mentions forest bathing book. So many great ideas. Keep them coming and I will talk forward.

What is your local park and rec department offering? This example for Minneapolis shows there are quite a few [audio cutting out]. We are having bandwidth issues. I apologize for that. Minneapolis, here's an example showing quite a few outdoors offerings happening there. Your library can help promote these activities which cannot only help your patrons learn about the opportunities but also might strengthen the relationship between your library and another department. Do you know if your local Parks and Rec Departments have activities for the winter? How are you collaborating with them? I would be curious to know in the chat. Please do text away!

Some other groups to look for our conservation groups, state and national parks, environmental organizations etc. Scout mentions books and videos are quite popular. Yes, indeed. Other organizations include local sporting goods stores, counting conservations, again the national state and local parks, nature Conservancy's. This example is from the YMCA Of the Rockies. As an organization in Colorado. Your library might consider promoting some of these types of organizations, programs and services. Those of you in Colorado will recognize these backpacks. This is a program we started here in 2016, where we partner with our Colorado Parks and wildlife, another state agency. We partner with them and the state library. We have these backpacks now during the pandemic, little plastic pouches which are a lot easier to clean that have the state park pass, along with we now have four laminated nature guides, a set of binoculars, leave no trace principles, and a few other items to help people enjoy their experience outside. Take some time. We are really trying to increase access to state parks so people don't have to pay the fee to get in, and it has been very popular. These are circulating in all Colorado public, military and publicly funded libraries

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Thanks, Beth. I wanted to share a few other ways that we can promote outdoor experiences and collections. In addition to checking out park passes, other libraries are checking out passes to zoos, other botanical gardens, basically any facility, outdoor facility or community that might have a fee associated with it, that's the perfect partner to work with to see if they may be willing to give your library a few passes.

For instance, a library has teamed up with a number of local parks to give away free passes that patrons can check out. They also have acquired telescopes and teaching people how to use it, and doing outdoor programming throughout the winter. In the state of Vermont, if we have anyone from Vermont, you may know that Vermont Department of Health has worked with over 50 public libraries throughout the state of Vermont to make available snowshoes.. In addition to state parks, your state and local health departments also have an interest in people being outside and being active during the winter, so don't forget about health departments when you are thinking about partners that you can work with to promote outdoor possibilities. Beth, do you want to say little bit about this one?

>> BETH CHRIST: Yes, thank you. One other possibility that it's really great to do in the winter is Citizen Science projects. These are projects like birdwatching, measuring snowfall, and other weather and wildlife and environmental observation projects. They provide real-world data that site is using their research, the data that everyone can observe and input. This program here from Kansas, it's next week, and it features Charles Nilon, a professor in fisheries and wildlife, who will discuss how birdwatching provide opportunities to get involved in Citizen Science. Just in time for the national Audubon Society’s annual Christmas bird count which is the longest running citizen science survey in the world!

I have a few others. At the very least, your library can share articles or lists that offer ideas for outdoor winter activities in your area, such as this example from "Real Simple" magazine. Look at our resources for additional links of winter outdoor activities you can promote. These are examples of things you can say. We are informational professionals so we can get this information out!

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Great, thanks Beth, and thanks-- I'm sorry-- sorry, Beth. I was just going to jump right into programming ideas, as I'm sure a lot of you in the chat has already started talking about programming ideas. Christine, to get us started, do you want to bring up that poll so we can see what people have already planned this winter? If you would, take a moment to let us know what you are already doing, what's on your outdoor winter programming calendar already. I'm seeing a lot of story walks. Another story walk program has really taken off the summer. I see a lot of scavenger hunts. Build a birdfeeder. DIY stuff. A little bit less outdoor story time, outdoor art challenges. If you have other things you are doing let us know in chat. It's great to hear that so many of you will all be doing outdoor programming. Christine, if you want to switch us back, please.

I see where people are doing outdoor movies and winter take and make, free passes to the outdoor science part. Tai chi on the lawn. In North Carolina, we are little bit spoiled in terms of weather. I just want to highlight that I saw a few people talking about outdoor booklets. Some of you may have seen in Connecticut, a library in Connecticut, the Russell Library have got a lot of press this summer. Actually, they did a one-of-a-kind book club experience where they did a program called book gap on a kayak, so they parted with Parks and Recreation to actually have people socially distant but discussing books on a leg. Why not do the same thing with snowshoes? Programming Librarian, they already have on their website model for how to do a snowshoe book club, so go ahead and think about if we can do book yak on a kayak, we can also do some kind of book discussion on snowshoes or a walking socially distant outdoor thing. I'm sure everyone is may be aware of Winter StoryWalk. Here's a picture from Ontario, Canada, of a librarian who just got her most recent story walk up and installed in a local nature Conservancy. Story walks are the perfect way to promote outdoor engagements, and people can do it on their own time so you don't have to worry about people congregating. You can also do it downtown. This is an example on the left from Longmont, Colorado, of doing a bilingual story walk, with the pages of stories are posted in the windows of local businesses. Again, you can do story walks not only in nature spaces but also in conservancies.

I'm going to run through a lot of examples right now and I will take a moment to see where we are at for Q&A. Another example is to work with your local business core doors to do a small business scavenger hunt. This is an example from selling County Arkansas, where is kind of if you do these things, you fill it out and if you complete your card your entered into a contest for a raffle. You can do this with all kinds of different things, find things in a park. There's a million ways to get people outside: you can do kind of and outdoor bingo. Scratch off a letter on your bingo card and if you see a certain type of bird or try any trail, there's a whole bunch of possibilities.

This is an example from a place in Vermont where they do something called Valentine’s Day Phantom project. Every year between midnight and dawn on Valentine’s day, a mysterious group of people put hearts on businesses in downtown. You could think about doing something like this to encourage people to be safe but also be outside, and just contribute to creating a sense of vitality in the community.

Here's another example. I'm sure-- early in the pandemic, a lot of librarians got involved in this. Here's an example of a library that has kind of a window bear thing back in March and April. We can still do this. I think now that the COVID cases are surgin once again, it's more important than ever to kind of be creating fun places that people want to go. This is late breaking and I did not have time to put it in my slide, but I'm putting a link into Twitter, a library in Illinois actually created holiday cards outside the library. Different businesses and organizations from Illinois created giant greeting cards. I think we can really kind of contribute to creating fun places, fun competitions that get people outside exporting the community while also being safe and not at risk of spreading COVID-19.

Just another example. You can do an impromptu snowman contest. I borrowed this idea from my colleague, Deborah, at the New Hampshire state library. She says next time a good snowstorm is predicted for your community, put out on your social media and impromptu snowman challenge. Encourager community members to submit their best snow reaction. In that process, celebrate the cognitive creativity of your community. You can distribute snowman kits that families can assemble and place in their windows similar to what I was saying with the paper tree contest.

We've talked a little bit about Citizen Science, but I want to share here.This is an example from DeKalb, Illinois, where they actually gather people in person, socially distant program. You can only have 10 people in attendance, so you if you do something a person, I would definitely have very strong participation limits and have strong procedures in place to ensure social distancing. As you see here, they limited the program to 10 people and they have split the program up to four timeslots. They did the same program four times throughout the day to ensure crowd control, and they had the stations set up in advance so people go to their station, they stay at their station for the duration of the program as they build a birdfeeder and then they go home. If you do anything where people would actually be in the same place at the same time, you want to make sure to have very strong precautions in place. I'm going to turn things back to Beth to talk about this program in Colorado.

>> BETH CHRIST: Thanks! This is the outdoor adventures program at a library in southwestern Colorado. This is a great program. It is faith-based experiential education, an afterschool program for tween's, and they meet two hours once a week during the school year. It is all outdoors. The program was developed by a team of librarians, educators, artist, biologist, and outdoor recreation specialists. It gives tweens an opportunity to explore, create, and play outdoors. Activities are really driven by the kids interests, and so they look different every year. They sometimes may include outdoor crafts, skill building, like this example here where the kids wanted to learn how to make a snow shelter so they did. Developing outdoor games, observing wildlife, doing Citizen Science projects and more.

It's just a fabulous example of really hands-on outdoor and youth led programs.

>> CHRISTINE KREGER: We got Maryann connected again. We are going to let her actually participate. Thank you all for filling in and let's keep going.

>> MARYANN MORI: I'm glad to be back. I would say that I went outside to enjoy snow but it's actually 60 here in Iowa. Think about the places where you can actually have some programming. We have plenty of trails like this in central Iowa. What I think that you can just set up a pop-up event and have a program like this. We are going to offer you some suggestions and places you can consider having some programs, the first one is actually at your library. Beth or Noah, you start this one.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: When you think about programs where you can engage in public outside, definitely thinking about what you can do in the green space around your library. This is an example of a library in Wisconsin that actually got some funding and support from a local power company to create a light display. Some people are welcome to drive by or walk by. Even though they can't go in the building they could still give some holiday cheer with this quite elaborate holiday light display.

This is an example from Toledo, Ohio. Some of you may have done during the summer sidewalk courses as part of your summer learning program, where you can continue to do them as weather conditions being appropriate. I, or even a 50° day, if it's warmer than usual go ahead and dupe pop-up outdoor chalk obstacle course. You can see the snow is melting but they are still creating outdoor spaces on the library sidewalk to engage people and get people moving.

I saw when we did the poll, not too many people talked about doing snow art. I think there's a huge opportunity to encourage people to actually create art at the library. Here's an example. This library in Massachusetts, to celebrate Halloween and fall, they had different businesses create scarecrows that were then mounted at the library for people to come by and appreciate. You can do something similar with snow. Maybe have designated times for people to come to the library or to another space and creates snow art, and have people kind of create a collection of art projects using snow. Maryann, back to you.

>> MARYANN MORI: This is huge. Just relax and have fun and make a snow angel and let's take another poll. I think Christine will bring up a poll. In what places could you see yourself promoting outdoor winter fun? This is not all about necessarily having to do it yourself but just promoting. Where are some places in your community that you are thinking you might be able to promote something? A few of you are saying “other.” If you can, put in the chatbox where those other places might be. Some of you are just saying the residence front yards. Great. It looks like several of you have access to parks and trailheads, and many of you actually at your library evidently have green spaces around your library. That's wonderful ideal places.

>> CHRISTINE KREGER: Would you like to look at the poll longer or look at the slides?

>> MARYANN MORI: We can go on. We got another section here of tips for you. Tip number four. This was Noah's phrase. Let's just hit your sleigh! Hit your sleigh with another organization and let's talk a little bit about partnerships that you might develop, either with an existing activity or an existing group or event.

This first example, that's me in the picture there, after a very cold and very snowy bike ride. I do ride my bike year-round, and I work part-time in a bike shop in addition to my full-time position with the state library of Iowa. At the bike shop, I had suggested let's do a series of seminars talking about winter cycling. The guys loved the idea so I did the introductory one which was how to get started with your cycling. I talked about how to get acclamation to the cold and what types of clothing you would want to look for, just how to do it and how to appreciate it. A presentation would work equally well in a library setting. Think about partnering with your local bike shop, local cycling club, or surely you have a cycling enthusiast in your area, so see if you can partner with someone like that and sponsor an event at your library, either in person at some point in time or virtually as we're doing right now.

You also might be surprised to learn that there are several online groups that exist to support and promote outdoor winter activity. I'm a member of this winter cycling group that you see here, and I know such groups also exist for winter hiking, winter walking, probably for skiing, as well. Look to see what types of groups you might be able to refer your patrons to, or check to see if there are some actual local clubs that are meeting in your facility. You might want to check a sporting goods stores because they might often know about such groups that already exist.

Here's another way to hit your sleigh, and that is to learn what kinds of annual winter events are already taking place in your area, and find a way for your library to be a team player with such an event. In my area, central Iowa, there is an annual event known as the BRR, that stand for Bike Ride to Rippey because an event starts at a town in Perry town, rides to Rippy, Iowa. The event takes place on the first Saturday of February, no matter what the weather. In this photograph, I took a few years ago, the temperature was 15°, and they had a really good turnout because they were all lined up down the street and beyond. The Perry public library is right across the street from where these activities take place, and I know they always have some type of event, at least a passive event that they do for the people who are participating in the right to come over to the library and see what's going on, so that's a good way to hit your sleigh.

You can see this example of the Turkey Plunge, and this is a fundraiser for libraries that encourage people to go in and jump in the river or the lake. The one on the left, the Nantucket Atheneum, they have an annual event. They both have to conduct the events virtually this year but they gave me the idea that maybe even if you don't have a body of water nearby, you can consider this kind of event with a do-it-yourself kind of thing. I don't know about you but this kind of reminded me of the whole ice bucket challenge where people kind of did that on their own and then posted videos of what they were doing. That's an idea that you might want to run with.

This idea comes from Appleton, a city in Wisconsin, where they do a downtown window walk. The library also participates. This event is an event that encourages people to get outside and stroll even in winter. The neat thing about this is that the event not only includes the activities that people tend stroll to see, but there are also QR codes that are in the participant windows of local businesses and such. The people who are doing the stroll, they can scan the QR code and text into additional activities and learning they can do it home.

What kind of winter annual events occur in your area? Just put it in the chatbox. And then think about how could your library partner? If there is not such an event, how could your library start one? Somebody has a turkey trot in their area. A parade of lights. Does the library participate in that parade of lights? Stephanie commented that her town usually does something for the holidays, but not sure about in wintertime. You saw the one slide we had on here about the event the takes place in February. Maybe if there's not something happening around a holiday season, during midwinter months, the February time would be a good time that maybe you can think about doing something as well.

I see book cart drills. A freeze fest. Nice! Good ideas. Noah, there's another you are going to tell us about. I love the title.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: I want to briefly highlight since we are being hosted by the Colorado State Library. I'm sure Colorado folks know where Leadville is. Leadville is part of a nationwide initiative called winter mission. They are really focusing on encouraging folks in the intermission of the year between the fall and the spring school semesters, getting kids active during the holidays. They have a lot of great resources of things that they are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. I just want to quickly add, as you identify winter festivities that may be going on in your community, those are also great opportunities to consider doing a story walk or a story stroll, either along wherever the drive-through events or walked or event may be taking place. With COVID-19, we certainly do have to be very creative.

Just before we begin to wrap this up, we have a final poll, just thinking about the organizations that are on your Rolodex. Who could you reach out to? What organizations could you reach out to that are on your Rolodex for outdoor planning? I hear a lot of people go to Parks and Recreation. I'm hearing some people go to schools. I have some people at bike shops, conservation organizations, get outside type of organizations, like get outside Leadville group that I mentioned a minute ago. Let us know in chat if there's others. USDA cooperative-- ideal partners. State parks. Chamber of Commerce. That would be a great partner for a downtown story walk or for a partner, if there's any sort of winter outdoor festivity. These are all ideas.

The truth is you really can't go wrong with partnerships. Kawana, tai chi organizations, all of these organization are also interested in getting people outside and getting people healthy. Don't think that you only have to work with Parks and Recreation's. You have conservation organizations, state parks, downtown businesses, schools, the list goes on. Really take stock of what great resources you have in your community, and reach out and see what they are doing and see what you can do to help them and see what they can do to help you. Let's get outside and stay healthy by working together. Back to the presentation now. Maryann is going to give us a quick rap up.

>> MARYANN MORI: We’ve talked about why you should promote the great outdoors even in winter, and now we want to talk about tips or ideas or questions. Put those in the chat box. What are some things you are planning this winter? Or maybe you are thinking next winter you can go big and do something that you have learned here or how can you incorporate some of the information we have shared today? Some things to promote your library? Please put that in chat because that helps all of us.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Please keep using chat, but as you do add your thoughts in chat, I want to emphasize that we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and cases are searching. There's an old saying, safety first. They are saying people with extra risks of serious illness from COVID-19 should aim to limit social interactions as much as they can. The smaller the group size and the larger the space, the lower the risk. Outdoor activities pose less risk than the same activities indoors. At the end of the day, if something does not add value but does at risk, reconsider it. Especially now, we want to put safety first. As Maryann said, back to you. What are your ideas? What are your questions? What are your resources? I'm going to stop talking for a minute and see what is coming in on the chat.

>> MARYANN MORI: I see Stephanie commented that she would like to start a winter running club but doesn't think that will happen until the pandemic is over. Stephanie, I would encourage you to at least start talking about it and promoting it, and maybe doing some online presentations about the possibilities of winter running, presentations about winter clothing that are suitable for that kind of activity, or maybe at least pointing to resources that could get them thinking about that so that when the pandemic is over, you can actually revert to something like that and an actual program that people will be better prepared and maybe better receptive to it.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Great stuff! I see Amy covering places where they don't have snow all the time. Amy, I would say the same type of things we saw during the summer but in many places of the country, and like in places like Florida and Arizona, you have the luxury of looking at programs the libraries are doing in the summer and think about doing those same things if you had the weather to be able to do so.

>> MARYANN MORI: Teresa is talking about that. They did decorated posts at each branch location during the summer and patrons like that. She's thinking they can do something like that again in the winter months. I think that's a good idea.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: I'm seeing a lot of amazing things on chat. Terry is talking about working closely with coffee shops. I hear Becky talking about train stations. Businesses are struggling right now. Small businesses in particular. I was actually at an event a few weeks ago hosted by Main Street America, and we know that small businesses are really hurting right now. They would probably be more than eager to work with you on something.

>> MARYANN MORI: I like Barbara's comment. She's in the Southwest and they do cactus decorating contest.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: I love that, cactus decorating contest sounds amazing. Ask people to take pictures. You can do things in your back yard and take pictures, things that don't require people to be publicly together.

>> MARYANN MORI: Someone is asking about using a library parking lot to do an outdoor program, which could work. You would have to think about where would you park people so they could then get to the parking lot. Or if you have a way that you can have them stay in their car, like drive-in theaters kind of things, that they can still hear you. Maybe you can get some kind of partnership going where you can broadcast over a radio station. They could be in their cars. I don't know, let's get wheels turning here and see what we can come up with.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Yeah, I think that would be a great thing to do in collaboration with Parks and Recreation. They may have the equipment to do that already.

>> MARYANN MORI: Transmitters. That's what we would need. There you go, you have to start investigating that and see what you can come up with.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: I wanted to add, I did a survey of the Association of rural and small libraries, and one rural library told me they had the city public works department actually make a mountain of snow in the parking lot, and then they gave out sleds for kids to go sledding down the mountain. If you have that much snow and if your library is not having people come in the building, if you are doing curbside pickup, your parking lot might be available.

>> MARYANN MORI: That would be a fun thing to do. I think we would have a hard time keeping staff from going out and playing.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Yeah, Maryann, I think even though you are making a joke, think it's a serious point. Librarians, we are trusted. We know that libraries are trusted institutions. One of the most basic things that we can do to promote safe outdoor recreation is to walk the walk. If people see librarians being active and being safe, that will inspire our communities. Just taking a picture of yourself doing some sledding and posting it to your social media, that can be as simple yet effective way to encourage folks to get outside and be active during the winter.

>> MARYANN MORI: I agree with that. I mentioned earlier about my part-time position with the bike shop and we have posted pictures in the past of some of the staff at the bike shop riding their bikes in the wintertime and is it going down the snowy streets and wearing our winter gear. It is inspiring for other people to see that answer know that as you said, Noah, we are walking the walk or writing the ride, as the case may be. If you have people in your step and go outside and enjoy the winter weather, feel free to put that on your social media sites. I think that would be a good way to encourage your public to go outside. [audio cutting out]

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: That's a great question about rain or ice related programs. The thing that comes immediately to my mind, dancing in the rain would be just to promote safety. In some ways, it's more dangerous to be out on the ice than to just be out on the snow, so that could be a good virtual program to bring in someone maybe from Parks and Recreation or just safety associated with being out when you have rain or ice conditions or rain that might be turning into ice that could become a safety public program. Maryann, other thoughts on that?

>> MARYANN MORI: Someone said they did a blog about playing in the rain this summer. What's good for summer is good for winter, too, in many cases. I agree with you, no, there can be dicier things to being out on ice. You obviously went to practice safety precautions but a lot of us live in areas where if it's not too cold, we just get plain old rain. The dancing and playing in the rain sound like fun.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: Someone mentioned earlier but I thought this was

>> BETH CHRIST: We have an organization in Colorado called [audio cutting out] -- they came out with winter related fun. You can also do something that that is specific to winter in your area. Just have a checklist of things that kids can do, and maybe you can incorporate that into a winter reading program or something.

>> DR. NOAH LENSTRA: That's a great idea, Beth. Thanks for sharing that. I've heard of that list before so that would be a great winter challenge. You can even use your [indiscernible] app. If any of you use [indiscernible] app for your summer reading, you can use that same app and have people do a winter challenge and see how many outdoor activities you can do during December through March, depending on how long your winter is. I wanted to briefly highlight that someone had mentioned earlier about the idea of doing a story walk, but calling it as story stroll. Not everyone can walk so I thought that was an excellent idea and I wanted to highlight that on the audio. Also, someone had asked-- we are running out of time.

Libraries are not the only resource. Trails during COVID-19. There was an article in the Boston Globe a few weeks ago, the Canadian Public Health Association has some good resources. There's a lot of resources in Canada, surprisingly given the severity of winter in Canada. In the minute we have left, I would love to hear what resources you have drawn upon for those of you have been doing winter programs this winter? What have you found useful?

>> CHRISTINE KREGER: While people are popping in resources, I will put in the chapter links and ideas. The slides will be posted probably in about one hour. I just posted my email in the chat. If you need a certificate for today you can email me. Before you leave today, we would love to have you fill out a survey which I'm popping in the chat as well. Let us know what you liked and didn't like. We had a couple of technology hiccups but our presenters plowed through and I think they were able to share a lot of fabulous ideas.

It is 1 o'clock on my computer. We have a couple of more minutes for people to ask questions before we close. I will pop my email address into chat again because I see that it was scrolling off of the screen. I wanted to give a huge shout out to all of our presenters, Beth, Noah, and Marion. A huge thank you to our transcriptionist. Thank you, everybody, for showing up and hanging in during the rough minutes at the beginning and sharing so many great ideas today.

I'm not seeing any other questions coming in. Winter, here we come! I hope everyone has a fabulous afternoon. Once again, thank you to our presenters today.