



Southeast  
Service  
Cooperative

210 Wood Lake Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
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Southeast Service Cooperative's  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Young Authors, Young Artists Conference  
for Students in Grades 3-5

# Young Authors, Young Artists Conference

**Registration Deadlines**

Early-Bird: April 24, 2023

Final Registration: May 1, 2023



May 16-18, 2023

Rochester Community and Technical College  
Heintz Center



## 2023 Young Authors, Young Artists Conference

On May 16, 17 and 18, over 1,000+ students in grades 3-5 from public, private, and home schools across southeast Minnesota will converge in Rochester for a conference that promotes student enthusiasm and competence in written and visual

communication. Students will learn from and work with authors, poets, illustrators, artists, journalists, bookmakers, and others in sessions that expose them to the art and joy of writing and creating.

**DATES**  
Tuesday, May 16  
Wednesday, May 17  
Thursday, May 18

**AUDIENCE** Students in grades 3-5

**LOCATION** Heintz Center, 1926 Collegeview Drive SE, Rochester  
(an extension of Rochester Community and Technical College)

**TIMES**  
8:15 - 8:45 am .....Check-In  
8:45 - 9:30 am .....Introduction/Keynote Speaker  
9:40 - 10:40 am.....Session 1  
10:50 - 11:50 am....Session 2  
12:00 - 12:30 pm....Lunch  
12:30 - 1:30 pm.....Session 3

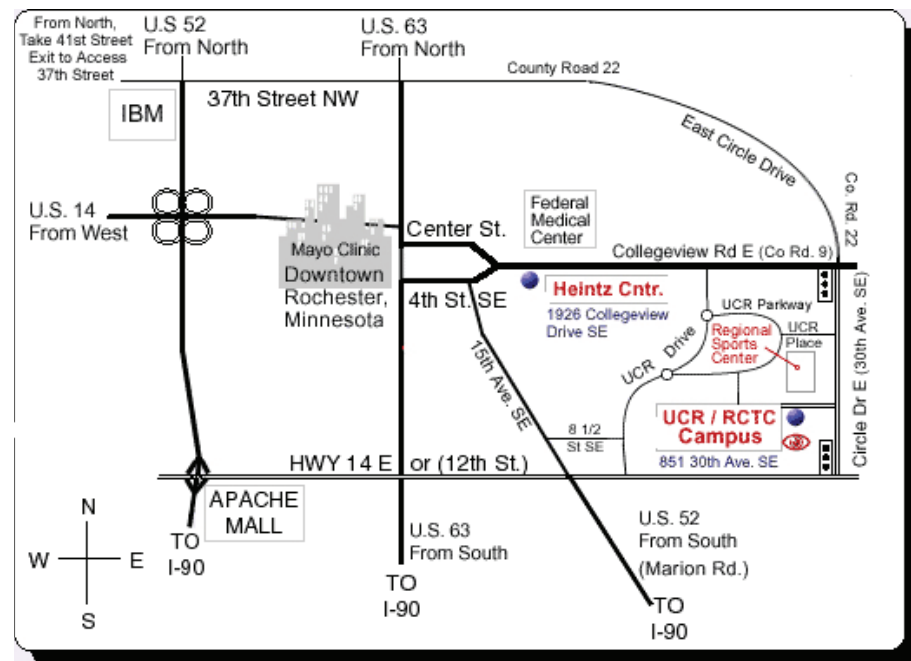
**COST** Registrations received by April 24, 2023:  
\$49 per student

Registrations received after April 24, 2023:  
\$59 per student

Chaperones are FREE!

The final deadline for all registrations is May 1, 2023.

## Map to Heintz Center 1926 Collegeview Drive SE, Rochester



### Driving Directions to Heintz Center

1926 Collegeview Drive SE, Rochester

#### HWY 52 Southbound:

Exit at 41st STREET exit to access 37th STREET NW (turns into East Circle Drive and County Road 22) and travel east through the intersection of US 63. Before the County Road 9 intersection (stop light), merge right onto Country Road 9 (College View Road). Continue past the Fuad Mansour Soccer Complex. Turn left at the 4-way stop and turn left into the west parking lot of Heintz Center (enter in Door H15). Buses must park in the east lot (other side from drop off).

#### HWY 63 Southbound:

Exit (left) at 37th STREET NW (turns into East Circle Drive and County Road 22). Follow the directions outlined above.

#### HWY 63 Northbound:

Exit at HWY 14 East (also known as 12th Street SE) and travel east. Turn left at 15th Avenue SE/Marion Road intersection. Follow 15th Avenue to 4th Street SE and turn right onto 4th Street. Continue to the 4-way stop and turn right. Turn left to enter the west parking lot of Heintz Center and enter in Door H15. Buses must park in the east lot (other side from drop off).

#### I-90:

Exit at HWY 63 North and follow instructions above.

#### HWY 14 Westbound or Eastbound:

Exit at County Road 22 (30th Avenue) and follow to County Road 9 intersection. Turn left onto Country Road 9 (College View Road). Continue past the Fuad Mansour Soccer Complex. Turn left at the 4-way stop and turn left into the west parking lot of Heintz Center (enter in Door H15). Buses must park in the east lot (other side from drop off).

**Note to Schools & Parents:** This form can be copied and sent home with students. We will not accept registrations submitted on the form below. Registrations must be submitted by Excel spreadsheet found on the SSC website: [www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary](http://www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary)

**Dear Parent:**

Your child has been invited to attend the Young Authors, Young Artists Conference, a celebration of student writing and creative expression. Published writers, illustrators, artists and speakers will work with your child to enhance his/her writing skills and creative expression. Registration information has been provided below by your child's school. More information and detailed descriptions of all available sessions are available on the website at [www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary](http://www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary)

Participants should **bring their own lunch and beverage**. No refrigeration will be available.

Although not guaranteed, every effort will be made to give students two of three session choices.

**Conference Attendance Date (please circle one):**

**Tuesday, May 16**   -or-   **Wednesday, May 17**   -or-   **Thursday, May 18**

**Cost Per Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Return Student Registration Form By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return This Form To:** \_\_\_\_\_

• Individual Registration Form •

Young Authors, Young Artists Conference 2023

Student Name

Student District/School

Grade

STUDENT SESSION CHOICES

List three sessions you would like to attend. Sessions are listed to the right. Every effort will be made to grant your requests as space allows, but we cannot guarantee that you will get all of your requested sessions. Assignments are made based on many factors.

Session Letter

First session choice

Second session choice

Third session choice

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT INVOLVEMENT/PERMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the conference as an adult chaperone.

Parent Name

Parent Email

• Sessions •  
Choose Top Three

A - Bring Your Imaginary Creatures to Life!

B - Communicating Through Art and Design

C - Comic Jam!

D - Wood Slice String Art

E - Soft Pastels Made Easy

F - It's Alive! Creating Incredible Characters

G- Snowball Write-Fight!

H - Titles That Tear It Up

I - Bookmark Your Creativity

J - Charismatic Characters

K - Readers Theater

L - Sand Art Bottle

M - Tie-Dye Dandelions

School Attendance Day Assignments

Don't worry, the days may look uneven, but the schools are assigned based on the previous year participation, or potential participation this year.

**Tuesday - May 16, 2023**

Albert Lea	Rochester - Folwell
Blooming Prairie	Rochester - Lincoln
Byron	Rochester - Franklin
Cannon Falls	Rochester - Pinewood
Kasson-Mantorville 3rd-4th grade	Rochester - Riverside
Rochester Central Lutheran	Rochester - Sunset Terrace
Rochester - Bamber Valley	Rochester - Washington

**Wednesday- May 17, 2023**

Fillmore Central	Red Wing
Glenville-Emmons	Rochester - Elton Hills
Homeschool	Rochester - Gibbs
Kasson-Mantorville 5th grade	Rochester - Jefferson
Kenyon-Wanamingo	Rochester - Longfellow
Lewiston-Altura	Rochester Catholic - St. Francis
Lyle	St. Felix
Pacelli Catholic	Stewartville
Pine Island	

**Thursday, May 18, 2023**

Austin	Northfield
Chatfield	Randolph
Faribault	Rochester Catholic - St. John's/St. Pius
Goodhue	St. Charles
Grand Meadow	Zumbrota-Mazeppa
LeRoy-Ostrander	
Mabel-Canton	

**Don't see your school above, or the date doesn't work?**  
**Please contact Katie Hartman - [khartman@ssc.coop](mailto:khartman@ssc.coop)**

## Meet Your Conference Presenters

**Nick Ozment** has written for over 100 different books and magazines. He has created memorable monsters in fiction, and taught college classes on fantasy literature. In the past decade he has led history and ghost tours in Rochester. He lives in southeastern Minnesota with his wife; daughter; son; Dragonfly the dog; and three cats named Silver Bells, Hocus, and Hallowe'en.

**Greg Wimmer** began his career as an illustrator and designer working for a small Ad Agency in Rochester. Greg spent the last 25 years as a freelance artist. More recently, he has been working on personal paintings of wall murals. His murals can be seen around Rochester as well as Austin, MN, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Greg believes a strong sense of design is helpful in all areas of art.

**Micah Amundsen** is a comic book creator from Rochester with a BFA in Entertainment Design from UW Stout. When they aren't illustrating and self-publishing comics, they're teaching students in person, online, and through art tutorials on TikTok.

**Angie Severson** is the Executive Director of Miss Angie's Place and Owner of Art with Angie LLC, both of Pine Island, MN. She is a licensed K-12 art teacher and currently teaches private art lessons, homeschool art classes and hosts art parties. Sculpture is her favorite type of art and spending time with her three daughters is her favorite pastime.

**Terri Michels** photographer and author, and her latest Children's Picture Book is titled *Simon of Cyrene*, and *the Legend of the Easter Egg*. She also has more than 60 children's non-fiction titles published as well as several photos in national publications. She continually strives to blend her two arts forms, writing and photography. Terri is a presenter at Young Writers' and Young Artists' Conferences around the Upper Midwest. In Terri's perfect world she would be reading, writing, and photographing the world around her.

**Jacqueline West** is the author of eleven novels for young readers, including the New York Times-bestselling series *The Books of Elsewhere*, the Schneider Family Award Honor Book *The Collectors*, and *Long Lost*, winner of the Minnesota Book Award for middle grade literature. She lives in Red Wing, Minnesota with her family.

**Mary Bleckwehl** loves barns and cookie dough and sharing her love of stories and award-winning books with anyone who breathes. She has taught outstanding students and raised amazing kids and unruly pets. Her Awesome Disgusting Careers series and new picture book, *ARRRGH! Me HATE To Wait!* join her growing list of published work. Bleckwehl lives in Northfield MN with her husband and over-sized dog. Before that she was the queen of the jungle gym (in third grade).

**Amanda Grace** is a Minnesota based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who just released her seventh album called *Please Dear Sun* Moving with different genres has given her a flavorful path and keeps her creativity moving in new directions each year. She began singing and songwriting at a young age and continues her love of music. Amanda enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family in nature; especially cross-country skiing and mountain biking. As a kid she could be found training her stubborn horses and running track and cross-country races.

**Elin Johnson** is an artist and illustrator living just outside of Rochester. She mostly spends her days painting commissions for people but will once in a while take on a script for a children's book to illustrate. She loves to tell stories through pictures and is looking forward to creating together with you and hopefully open your mind to the fun world of illustration.

**Joy Blewett** loves to teach creativity and imagination, encouraging artistic expression. She is an elementary art teacher in Stewartville, with a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and an MEd from the University of Minnesota. In 2020 she was a recipient of the SEMAC Emerging Artists grant and had a capstone exhibition in 2021 that included her student's artwork at the Rochester Art Center. She is honored and excited to be a presenter at YAYA this year.

**Melanie Schmidt** is the Enrichment Coordinator with Mankato Public Schools and a strong supporter of youth engaging in the arts.

**Megan Butts** Currently lives in Southern Minnesota with husband, 7 yr old son, and 2 piggies. Megan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design and has a love for Science & Art. She loves creating hands-on learning adventures for her son so much she wanted to bring the same creative learning opportunity to local communities she opened Craft lab in Stewartville. She loves being able to provide a special space for the community and their families where kids can create & learn.

**Grace Kittelson** is the owner of Sunshine and Roses Traveling Art Studio. Grace travels to many different Community Ed programs teaching canvas painting classes. Sunshine and Roses has a knack with kids, and guides them step-by-step through the creation process.

# Choose Your Conference Sessions

## **A Bring Your Imaginary Creatures to Life!** *(fantasy writing/storytelling)*

If your favorite stories are populated with strange monsters and fantastical beasts, this is the class for you! Published fantasy author Nicholas Ozment will give you tips and tricks for creating magical creatures that your readers will believe. Bring your imaginary creatures to life through sketches and writing prompts. Nick Ozment

## **B Communicating Through Art and Design** *(illustrating)*

Learn the art of visual communication. In this class we will explore what it means to communicate through art. Most good design, illustration, or art carries a message with it. A picture is worth a thousand words. We will view different types of book cover designs the message they convey. As an activity, we will do some sketching and work on a simple book cover design. Greg Wimmer

## **C Comic Jam!** *(comic/cartoon)*

Collaborate with your fellow students to draw hilarious comics together! You draw the first panel of your comic, then pass it to someone else, who will draw the next panel, and so on! How will these stories turn out by the end? Micah Amundsen

## **D Wood Slice String Art** *(creative)*

Get ready for a hands on project complete with hammers, nails, wood and string! Each student will create their very own wood slice string art. Students choose their favorite colors to make each project customizable. Finished pieces can be used as ornaments, hanging decorations, gifts, etc. Angie Severson

## **E Soft Pastels Made Easy** *(drawing)*

In this workshop, students will be introduced to the art of coloring photographs using soft pastels. Each student will be supplied with a photo and working with soft pastels, will use their own imagination to bring the photo to life. Each student will produce a completed work of art. Terri Michels

## **F It's Alive! Creating Incredible Characters** *(writing)*

How do writers create characters that feel real? How can we make readers believe in a person or creature who does not exist? In this fiction workshop, we will get to know our characters, starting with the basics and then digging deeper. Pick your characters' pockets, look at their wish lists and peek into their journals, all while learning about motivation, backstory, and voice. Jacqueline West

## **G Snowball Write-Fight!** *(writing/storytelling)*

Look out! There's gonna be a blizzard! One person's trash is another person's treasure they say, so let's write it, toss it (as in a snowball fight!), snatch someone else's snowball (story), then add to it before tossing it again and again! Warm up that writing and tossing arm and join the snowstorm! Mary Bleckwehl

## **H Titles That Tear It Up** *(songwriting)*

Do you write songs in your head? Me too! Would you like to see if we can write a song together in class? Same! We will brainstorm creative titles on the spot, pick one and then we will come up with a new song you will help me write in class. See you there! Amanda Grace

## **I Bookmark Your Creativity** *(creative)*

Together we will play around with liquid watercolors in this creative and fun workshop where there's no wrong way to express yourself. Have a favorite saying or theme? Let's add it to your bookmark! We will make enough bookmarks for you to gift to a friend or loved one because reading is fundamental and just like creativity it should be shared. Elin Johnson

## **J Charismatic Characters** *(drawing/storytelling)*

From books to movies to video games, we all have characters that we fall in love with. We follow their adventures, wanting to see or read more. But where do these characters come from? It starts with imagination and an idea. Using prompts and choice art materials, students will explore creating their own characters, giving them personality and bringing them to life through storytelling. Joy Blewett

## **K Readers Theater** *(acting)*

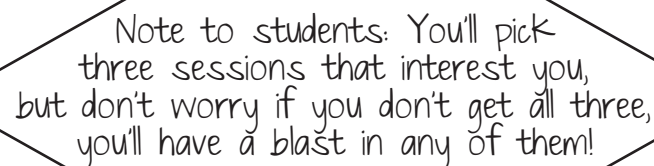
Readers Theater is a form or performance that requires actors to read with EXPRESSION! With no memorization required, youth can focus on the moods and characteristics of their character without the stress of memorizing lines. In this session, your teacher will audition and cast the entire class in a LIVE performance of a fairy tale style Readers Theater script. Readers Theater can be silly or serious, but this conference will keep things light so we remember that learning is fun. Fun props and silly costumes have been a hit at past conferences! Come to this class prepared to be someone or something you are not! Melanie Schmidt

## **L Sand Art Bottle** *(creative)*

Explore the art of Sand Bottles with Craft lab, we will learn about Sand Art History and you will create your very own one of a kind bottle. Can't wait to see your designs! Megan Butts

## **M Tie-Dye Dandelions** *(painting)*

Join Sunshine and Roses Traveling Art Studio to paint on canvas! Students will create super awesome Tie-Dye Dandelions on an 11x14 canvas. Step by step instructions will be provided. Students do not need any previous painting experience or special skills. First time painting on canvas, no problem! Grace Kittelson



Note to students: You'll pick three sessions that interest you, but don't worry if you don't get all three, you'll have a blast in any of them!



## Registration Information

### COST

\$49 per student (received by 4/24/23)

\$59 per student (received after 4/24/23)

### CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS

We encourage one adult per 10 students attending the conference. Chaperones who attend a session may be asked to assist the presenter with their needs.

### DEADLINE DATE

In order to process session choices and print personalized schedules for the students, registrations must be received by **May 1, 2023**. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Registrations received after enrollment has filled will be put on a waiting list and notified if there are cancellations.

### SECURE STUDENT SPOTS

You can secure student spots prior to registration. This would guarantee your students a spot in the conference, before having to collect registration forms from students. You should contact Katie Hartman with the number of spots you'd like to reserve.

### REGISTER STUDENTS AT

See Registration Procedure on next page.

### PAYMENT

See Payment Procedure on next page.

### SESSIONS

Students should choose three sessions to attend. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that students will be assigned to all sessions requested. We will do our best to satisfy as many requests as possible.

### CONFIRMATION OF SESSION CHOICES

Master lists of students' session assignments for each chaperone, and a map of rooms will be emailed to the school **Contact Person** prior to the conference (to pass on to individual chaperones).

### ARRIVAL

Conference check-in opens at 8:15 am. The supervising adult should check in at the registration table to pick up a box of conference materials. After distributing conference materials, chaperones should store jackets, lunches, etc., in the box and leave it in a designated area in the Commons.

### PARKING INFORMATION/BUSES

Parking is available at the Heintz Center. Buses and car pools must **unload on the west side** (door H15), and **park on the east side** of the building (Parking is not permitted in the west lot across from the hospital), you must return to the east lot.

### LUNCH

Participants should bring their own lunch and beverage. *No refrigeration will be available.* Lunch may be eaten in the Commons or outside.

### REFUND POLICY

Cancellations after the May 1, 2023 registration deadline can receive a refund (minus a \$15.00 processing fee). Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can be found at:  
[www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary](http://www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary)

## Registration Procedure

### Optional STEP 1 Secure Student Spots

- You can secure student spots prior to registration. This would guarantee your students a spot in the conference, before having to collect registration forms from students. You should contact Katie Hartman with the number of spots you'd like to reserve.

### STEP 2 Prior to registration, we suggest you do the following:

- Identify a **Contact Person** for each school building, district, or parent (for students not attending with their school group). An email address is required.
- You may duplicate the **Individual Student Registration Form** in this brochure. Add or delete information appropriate to your school and send the registration form home with your students. You may also wish to copy the session descriptions to send home with the form.
- Determine what sessions each student wants to attend and assign students to each supervising adult. All students must have a designated chaperone!

### STEP 3 Ready to register?

- Go to [www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary](http://www.ssc.coop/YaYaElementary)
- Download the "Student Registration" Excel spreadsheet and enter the information requested (student name, grade, chaperone, their 3 session choice letters). Re-save this spreadsheet and email it to: [khartman@ssc.coop](mailto:khartman@ssc.coop). Additional instructions will be provided to you upon receiving this file.

**All registrations must be submitted on the Excel spreadsheet.**

## Payment Procedure

### STEP 4 CONSOLIDATE PAYMENT and choose one of these options:

- Purchase Order (mail, email or fax)
- Check mailed to the address below
- Credit Card: Please call Katie 507.281.6667

**Registration is not complete without payment.**

### Mailing Address:

Southeast Service Cooperative  
Attn: Katie Hartman  
210 Wood Lake Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904

**Fax:** 507.288.7663

**Email:** [khartman@ssc.coop](mailto:khartman@ssc.coop)

### IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS

Contact Katie Hartman at 507.281.6667  
or by email at [khartman@ssc.coop](mailto:khartman@ssc.coop)

**Early-Bird Registration Deadline is April 24, 2023**  
**Registration Deadline is May 1, 2023**