

# Montana Center for the Book Prize

## Awarded in 2019

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### **Absarokee Lending Library, Absarokee**

With the closest public library 15 miles away, the [Absarokee Lending Library](#) was created by community members who wanted free and local access to books, movies, games, the internet, and more. The all-volunteer ALL offers a growing collection, author presentations, cozy reading nooks, a home for support groups, activity days and is open to ideas for additional creative programming. The organization has already found a larger home and local community members have donated funds and furnishings.

### **Free Verse Project, Missoula**

The [Free Verse Project](#) brings creative writing instruction and encouragement to Montana's juvenile detention centers. The Project is active in Missoula County Juvenile Detention Center, the Billings Juvenile Detention Center, Billings Shelter Care, and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility in Miles City. In addition, in 2018 Free Verse partnered with Billings-area writers and Second Season to bring together youth in detention centers with students from local high schools. Their efforts resulted in a published anthology of student work, "I am Montana: Student Reflections on Identity and Place."

### **The Browning High School Rising Voices Poetry Club, Browning**

The [Browning High School Rising Voices Poetry Club](#) is a weekly gathering for students to share their work, offer encouragement, and hone the craft of writing. The afterschool sessions culminate with an end of the year celebration where students, staff, and community members gather to listen to students share their work and celebrate their creative efforts. Over the years students have had the opportunity to work with published writers and have, themselves, been published in professional journals.

### **Bozeman Public Library's Children's Festival of the Book, Bozeman**

The [Children's Festival of the Book](#) is an annual celebration of children's literature, designed to encourage a love of reading for all ages. The festival – now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year – brings authors, illustrators, and artists to Bozeman to connect with kids by offering engaging presentations, book signings, and hands-on activities. The Festival also features a day of rural school visits.

### **Missoula Public Library's EmPower Place, Missoula**

Located in the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center, the [Missoula Public Library's EmPower Place](#) is a collection of books and programs offered free of charge to the adult and children visitors of the space. In addition to hosting bi-weekly readings by children's librarians, the EmPower Place offers a space for children of the Food Bank's visitors to access a healthy meal, play, read and socialize.