

THE 5TH ANNUAL BETTER OFF READ SUMMER BOOK FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 5TH,
2026**



**ARTPARK
STATE PARK
LEWISTON, NY**

FREE TO ATTEND ★

THOUSANDS OF BOOKS FOR \$1 OR LESS ★

LOCAL VENDORS

BALLOON ANIMALS ★

FACE-PAINTING ★

STORYTELLING ★

SURPRISE GUESTS

**PLUS A SPECIAL RAFFLE WITH PRIZES DONATED BY SOME OF THE WORLD'S
BEST STORYTELLERS**

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST PACKET

WWW.BETTEROFFREADFESTIVAL.COM

THE 5TH ANNUAL BETTER OFF READ SUMMER BOOK FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2026 @ ARTPARK STATE PARK



The Better Off Read Summer Book Festival is an annual, all-ages, free-to-attend, literary festival held in Lewiston, NY with the mission to encourage reading, promote writing, and celebrate storytelling. The festival features thousands of new and used books available for purchase at highly-discounted prices; vendor booths by local authors, artists, and merchants; food trucks and other concessions; complimentary attractions such as storytelling, face-painting, and balloon animals; a high-profile celebrity-sponsored basket raffle; and much more.

Having first been held at Stella Niagara in the summer of 2022, the festival has seen tremendous growth throughout the past four years. In August of 2025, **The 4th Annual Better Off Read Summer Book Festival** took place at Artpark State Park. For the first time, the festival was proud to feature over 100 local vendors, including more than 40 independent authors. The event was also grateful for the opportunity to expand to include more attractions than ever before including live entertainment.

Over the years, the festival has been proud to receive support from dozens of area sponsors. These include well-known Western New York organizations such as the **Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres, the Buffalo Bisons, the Buffalo Bandits, Wegmans**, and more; as well as numerous smaller local businesses such as **Dimino's Lewiston Tops, Orange Cat Coffee Co, Vincenzo's Pizza, The Village Bake Shoppe, Kelly's Beauty Bar**, and many others.

Additionally, for each of the past four years, the event has been incredibly proud to feature a special raffle with prizes donated by some of the world's best storytellers. Previous donors to the festival include **Tom Hanks, Billie Eilish, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Scarlett Johansson, Bob Dylan, Ed Sheeran, Aubrey Plaza, Bruce Springsteen, Sarah Silverman, South Park, Colleen Hoover, Foo Fighters, Nicolas Sparks, Radiohead, Coldplay, George Lucas, Tony Hawk**, and many more.

The event is proud to be returning to **Artpark** on **Saturday, September 5th** for **"The 5th Annual Better Off Read Summer Book Festival"**.

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Lewiston, NY

The Village of Lewiston, NY is a stunningly gorgeous small town located along the Niagara River only a 20 minute drive from the majestic Niagara Falls. Known historically as the final stop on the Underground Railroad, and often viewed as the cultural centerpiece of Western New York; Lewiston attracts many visitors from all over the world each year looking to dive into its rich history and experience its unparalleled charm. The village has frequently been named one of the top ten small town treasures in the country and often receives national attention for its award-winning restaurants, cozy coffeehouses, vibrant outdoor pubs, and countless specialty shops.



Artpark

ARTPARK is a park and a cultural institution located on the Niagara Gorge in Lewiston. Established in 1974, Artpark is a collaboration between the New York State Parks and the cultural nonprofit institution, Artpark & Company.

Artpark is currently programmed and managed by an independent nonprofit Artpark & Co. and is widely regarded as a summer performance venue. Artpark delivers 150+ events attended by 150,000+ visitors, on 150+ acres of land over 110 days of summer.

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EVENT ORGANIZERS

IAN KINNEY



Hi, my name is Ian Kinney. I'm a writer from Lewiston, NY, and I run a small, non-profit publishing company alongside a free community library out of rented office space at my former elementary school, Stella Niagara Education Park.

The Better Off Read Summer Book Festival is my annual way of thanking the local community for donating books to my library throughout the year. However, it's also just my all-out and sincere attempt at trying to show people that reading, writing, and storytelling really can be so much cooler and more fun than they ever imagined.

The incredible support and positive reception this event has received throughout the past few years has been nothing short of a dream come true for me. It's my hope that this festival will continue growing and expanding for many more years to come.

MARLEE JAEGER

Marlee Jaeger is my long-running, part-time, summer assistant. She has been working with me ever since I was first coming up with the idea for this festival, and the event would never be possible without the time, dedication, and hard work she puts into it each year.

Marlee currently attends Fredonia State University as a third-year student and is enrolled in their Pre-Med Program. In addition to a lifelong love of reading, her other hobbies include binge-watching old episodes of *Gilmore Girls* at her desk, listening to Lana Del Rey, and eating Chipotle.



This festival would never be possible without the kindness, generosity, and support of our families, our friends, our volunteers, our entire community, and so many others.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PREVIOUS SPECIAL DONORS

The Better Off Read Summer Book Festival is proud to receive raffle prizes donated by notable individuals including best-selling authors, award-winning musicians, popular film and television stars, beloved comedians, legendary athletes, and many more.



ABBA

Adam Scott

Alex Lahey
Alfonso Ribeiro
Angel Olsen
Animal Collective



Anna Kendrick

Arcade Fire
Arctic Monkeys
Arden Myrin



Aubrey Plaza

The Avett Brothers
Beach Bunny
Beach House
Ben Schwartz



Benny Blanco

Big Thief

Bill Burr

Billie Eilish

Blink-182

Bob Dylan

Bob Odenkirk

Bob's Burgers

Bonnie Garmus

boygenius

Bruce Springsteen

Chelsea Cutler

Chris Pine

Coldplay

Colleen Hoover

Comedy Bang! Bang!

Dan Aykroyd

Danielle Fishel

Dave Grohl

David Byrne

David Steinberg

Dean Koontz

Deftones



Dirty Heads

Drew Barrymore

Ed Sheeran

Edward Norton

Emma Roberts

Foster The People

George Lucas

Goose

Gracie Abrams

Gregory Alan Isakov

Henry Rollins

Henry Winkler

How Did This Get Made?

Idina Menzel

The Irwin Family

Jason Alexander

Jeff Bridges

Jeff Lemire

Jimmy Kimmel

Jonathan Franzen

Kerry Washington

Kevin Smith

Khruangbin

Kid Cudi

"Lemony Snicket"

Lin-Manuel Miranda

Lizzy Caplan

Mac DeMarco

Mark Waid

Mark Wahlberg

Martin Short

Marv Wolfman

Matthew McConaughey

Melissa McCarthy

Metallica

Merge Records

Michael Schur

Michael Phelps



Mike Birbiglia

Mike Mignola

Missy Elliott

Mitski

My Chemical Romance

My Morning Jacket

Nate Bargatze

Nelson DeMille

Nicholas Sparks

Patton Oswalt

Pearl Jam

Pete Holmes

Quinn XCII

Rachel Bilson

Radiohead

Rainn Wilson

Roger Federer

Ronnie Chieng

Run The Jewels

Sarah Silverman

Scarlett Johansson

Seth Meyers

Simon Pegg

Slipknot

South Park

Stephen Colbert

"Sterling Archer"

Steve-O

Styx

Sufjan Stevens

SZA

Tegan & Sara

Tom Hanks

Tony Hawk

Vampire Weekend

Vance Joy

Wilco

Zac Brown Band



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PREVIOUS SPONSORS



A Dream is a Wish
Entertainment



Anderson's Frozen
Custard



Assemblyman
Angelo J.
Morinello



B & G
Gnomes



BB's Bingo



Be OK Studio



Birchtree Fotos



Broda
Machine
Company Inc.



Buffalo
Bandits



Buffalo Bills



Buffalo Bisons



Buffalo
Sabres



D'Avolio



DiCamillo
Bakery -
Lewiston



DiMino's
Lewiston Tops



Favorite's
Pizza



Kelly's Beauty
Bar



Lewiston
Porter High
School



NST - Niagara
Sports
Tournaments



Orange Cat
Coffee Co.



Power City
Eatery



Read It &
Eat



Stella Niagara
Education Park



Stuart
Sports



Sweet Tooth
Ice Cream Cart



Vincenzo's
Pizza



The Village
Bake
Shoppe



Wegman's



You & Me



Youngstown
Village Diner



**THE 4TH ANNUAL
BETTER OFF READ
SUMMER BOOK FESTIVAL**

8/30/25

ARTPARK STATE PARK



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SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FORM

The 5th Annual Better Off Read Summer Book Festival is hosted by Desales Resources & Ministries, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible. The purpose of this event is to encourage reading, promote writing, and celebrate storytelling. By agreeing to sponsor and donate to this event, you will be directly assisting in offsetting the costs of the festival and helping to make it as successful as possible.

Standard Sponsorship - \$250 Donation

Sponsors who donate \$250 or more will receive special acknowledgement as an event sponsor on the festival's website and social media. They will also be featured on event programs.

Major Sponsorship - \$750 Donation

Sponsors who donate \$750 or more will receive the full standard sponsorship package, however, they will additionally be featured as a key sponsor on all event posters and other potential advertising.

DONOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

Sponsorship Level:

(Circle one)

Standard or **Major**

Donation Amount:

\$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Desales Resources & Ministries, Inc

Desales Resources & Ministries, Inc.

4421 Lower River Rd

Stella Niagara, NY 14144