The Oklahoma Center for the Book

Promotes Oklahoma Authors

- Sponsoring the annual Oklahoma Book Award. Since 1990, the Center for the Book has presented its prestigious awards to authors working in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children/young adult—encouraging writing in and about the state.
- Representing Oklahoma at the annual National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., displaying author information, library promotions, and even state tourism materials.

Celebrates the State's Literary Heritage

- Providing a literary map of Oklahoma Authors, designed for the Oklahoma Center for the Book as part of a national project initiated by the Library of Congress.
- Arranging for authors to visit Oklahoma communities.
- Participating in the Oklahoma Literary Landmark sponsored by the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO). Literary Landmarks have been designated in Okemah for Woody Guthrie, Oklahoma City for Ralph Ellison, and Claremore for Lynn Riggs.
- **Developing the Oklahoma Authors database**—consolidating biographical, bibliographic, and contemporary information on Oklahoma authors.

Encourages Reading for Pleasure by Oklahomans of All Ages

- Serving on the steering committee of Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, a Centennial reading and discussion program celebrating Oklahoma's literature and history.
- Sponsoring Kids Caught Reading, a part of Oklahoma's Celebration of Reading. The Oklahoma Center for the Book gives cash prizes to elementary school students who are "caught" reading in their spare time.
- Sponsoring Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing contest that invites children and teens to write letters to authors whose books have changed the way they view the world and themselves. Cash prizes are given to Oklahoma winners.
- Participating in many statewide literary events such as the Celebration of Books and the Red Dirt Book Festival, often partnering with other organizations such as the Oklahoma Library Association and the Oklahoma Literacy Coalition.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries is a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The national center was established by law in 1977 to strengthen and celebrate the vital role of books, reading, and libraries in the cultural life of the Nation.

Oklahoma formed the fourth state Center for the Book in 1986. The mission of the Oklahoma Center is to promote Oklahoma authors, celebrate the state's literary heritage, and encourage reading for pleasure by all Oklahomans.

Visit our website for information on The Oklahoma Center for the Book, the Oklahoma Book Awards, and Oklahoma authors: www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb.

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The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book supports the Center with volunteer and financial help.

Join us as we recognize the important contribution of Oklahoma and Oklahomans to the world of literature.

Help us as we raise awareness of books and reading throughout the state.

Become a member of the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book today!

Please call (405) 522–3383 for more information about the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

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