



TEXAS
BOOK
FESTIVAL

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Please note: Media credentials are required to cover the Texas Book Festival. Credentialed media receive priority access to author sessions. Please complete the form located here http://texasbookfestival.org/Press_Room.php and return to allison@brendathompson.com.

October 23, 2013

Texas Book Festival this weekend!

A few of the new and exciting things about this year's Festival

AUSTIN—The Texas Book Festival is here! Saturday and Sunday are jam-packed with hundreds of author sessions and panels, children's activities and cooking demonstrations, book signings and vendor displays. This is a round-up of just a few of the new and noteworthy things happening at this year's 18th annual Texas Book Festival.

Two new, unique and interactive events this year offer the opportunity to go on a kayak and/or bike tour with select Festival authors. These events are not author readings; they are hour-long mini-tours that allow a group of readers to engage with authors in real-life conversations on a more personal level. Both events are first come, first served.

Kayak Tour with Authors, meet at Congress Avenue Kayaks, 74 Trinity St., Saturday from 8- 9 a.m.

Authors Kevin Fedarko (*The Emerald Mile*) and Brad Tyler (*Opportunity, Montana*) aren't afraid of getting their feet wet. In this unique twist on a Festival session, they invite readers to join them on a kayak adventure.

Bike Tour with Authors, Mellow Johnny's, 400 Nueces St., Sunday from 8- 9 a.m.

Literary stars turn cyclists at this Texas Book Festival event. Meet at Mellow Johnny's for a city tour with [Lawrence Wright](#) (*Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, & the Prison of Belief*), [Stephen Harrigan](#) (*The Eye of the Mammoth: Selected Essays*), [H.W. Brands](#) (*The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses Grant in War and Peace*), and [Rob Spillman](#) (editor of *Tin House* magazine). Bring your own bike or get a discounted Texas Book Festival rental on one of Mellow Johnny's bikes.

Literary Death Match is must-see literary and comedic hijinks at its Lone Star State best. The session, 10 a.m. Saturday at the Paramount Theatre, will feature four writers reading their own wonderful tales for seven minutes or less, judged by three all-star judges. Two finalists will be chosen to compete in the Literary Death Match finale, a vaguely-literary game that will steal your affection and make your heart pound. Full schedule available [here](#).

This year's Saturday night Lit Crawl Austin event is packed with headlining authors at even more venues than before. Play Nerd Jeopardy with Reza Aslan and Kevin Smokler, hear authors Cathy Chung, Fiona Maazel, and Teddy Wayne get personal, and play Literary Taboo with the editors of popular literary magazines *Electric Literature* and *The Rumpus*. Look at the whole 2013 Lit Crawl Austin [schedule](#) and choose your own adventure!

In addition to new food vendors this year, **the Festival will for the first time feature the TMBBQ 'Cue Court**, brought to you by Texas Monthly, which will feature three barbecue joints from Texas Monthly's popular and impeccably curated top 50 list. Sample barbecue from Two Bros. BBQ Market, Blue Ox BBQ, and a unique mash-up of Miller's Smokehouse and the Peached Tortilla.

The Texas Book Festival unveiled a **brand-new website**, with responsive design and increased functionality including the ability to sort authors and panels by genre, this year; and a brand-new and improved **free mobile app** for both iPhones and Android phones.

An exciting announcement of a new partnership that will help the Texas Book Festival expand its programming and reach new audiences in a big way next year will be made by Executive Director Lois Kim at 1 p.m. Saturday, in the House Chamber, just before the session with R.L. Stine (author of *A Midsummer Night's Scream*).

For more information about any and all Festival happenings, go to www.texasbookfestival.org. Join the conversation on social media with the hashtag #txbookfest. See you at the Festival this weekend!

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About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival is a nonprofit organization that celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by

Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of dedicated volunteers, the Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol every fall. The Festival features author readings from more than 225 renowned Texas and national authors, panel discussions, book signings, musical entertainment, live cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. Thanks to donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. The TBF supports Texas public libraries and literacy through its Library Grants and Reading Rock Stars programs, and also hosts events year-round. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook and Twitter @texasbookfest.

H-E-B is the presenting sponsor of the 2013 Festival. Additional major sponsors include: Kirkus Reviews, Barnes & Noble, Brigid Cockrum and Family, Texas Monthly, Central Market, Tocker Foundation, Buena Vista Foundation, C-SPAN2/Book TV, Austin American-Statesman, Pentgram, and media partners KUT and KLRU.