



Texas Book Festival Returns to RGV Area for Six School Visits, Presenting Nine Authors and Donating 3,915 Books to Elementary School Students

AUSTIN, TX (February 28, 2022) – On March 3 and 4, the Texas Book Festival returns to the Rio Grande Valley to visit six elementary schools as part of the Festival’s annual Reading Rock Stars program. Throughout the two days, nine nationally-acclaimed children’s authors will visit each school and present to students, a culmination of weeks of each school’s preparation for the program. Additionally, TBF will gift each student a copy of the visiting author’s book.

TBF will donate 3,915 books to classrooms at Hurla M. Midkiff Elementary School, Bryan Elementary School, Guillermo Flores Elementary School, Enedina B. Guerra Elementary School, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, and Dr. R. E. Margo Elementary School.

With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have given more than 133,000 books to students in elementary schools across Texas since the program’s inception.

The Texas Book Festival’s Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in elementary schools by inviting authors and illustrators into classrooms with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write, and create. Thanks to generous support from sponsors—including H-E-B and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley—the Texas Book Festival gives each student an autographed copy of their author’s book and provides the school library with a new set of books by the visiting Reading Rock Stars authors. After each presentation, the author personally hands an autographed copy of their book to each student.

The authors featured in this year’s program include Jon Scieszka and Steven Weinberg, Reading Rock Stars veterans and authors of *Astro-Nuts Mission Three: The Perfect Planet*, the final book in the children’s book series, about the AstroNuts working fast to find a planet fit for human life before it’s too late. South Texas native David Bowles will share his book *My Two Border Towns*, a picture book debut about a boy’s life on the U.S.-Mexico border, visiting his favorite places on The Other Side/El Otro Lado with his father, spending time with family and friends, and sharing in the responsibility of community care.

“We are thrilled to be back in the Rio Grande Valley for Reading Rock Stars,” says TBF School & Community Programs Coordinator Michelle Hernandez. “Reading Rock Stars day is the culmination of the partnership and collaboration between school librarians and teachers, children’s book authors, and Texas Book Festival staff to bring an exciting and memorable

experience to students focused on reading, writing, and the joy and magic of books.”

For more information on the Texas Book Festival and its Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads literacy programs, please visit texasbookfestival.org.

WHO:

Raquel M. Ortiz
Diana Lopez
Jon Scieszka
Steven Weinberg
Victoria Castillo
Margarita Engle
Angela Dominguez
David Bowles
Anna Meriano

WHEN: March 3-4, 2022

WHERE:

Hurla M. Midkiff Elementary School
Bryan Elementary School
Guillermo Flores Elementary School
Enedina B. Guerra Elementary School
Cesar Chavez Elementary School
Dr. R. E. Margo Elementary

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With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, the Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former First Lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars elementary school program, the Real Reads middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming.

The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 275 renowned authors, panels, book signings, cooking demonstrations, and children’s activities. The 2022 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place November 5-6. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.