

*Dungeons & Dragons*​  
*Programming for Adults and Teens*​

(When you have little to no experience and an even smaller budget)​

Presented by Catherine (Cat) Roberts, Morristown Branch Manager, Shelby County Public Library

DIY (Difference is You) Conference, September 19, 2025, at the Indiana State Library

Image: Sets of polyhedral dice on felt lined trays with
miniatures for dungeons and dragons tabletop rpg. A red
dice set on a green tray is in the foreground.

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Background:

* Branch Manager & Librarian​
* Velma Wortman Morristown Branch, Shelby County Public Library​
* Working in Libraries for 12+ years​

-~6 years Circulation/Library Assistant​

-~6 years Branch Manager (wearing all the hats)​

-Currently working in a branch with 4 total staff​

-Started with only 2 total staff & annual budget of $6000 for collection, $600for program materials​

-Learned quickly how to improvise and work within a shoestring budget

Dungeons & Dragons? DnD? D&D?

* Over 50 years of gameplay​
* TTRPG = Tabletop Role Playing Game​
* Skills involved:​

  -Basic Math​

  -Critical Thinking​

  -Teamwork​

  -Creative Writing/Storytelling​

  -Problem Solving​

* PopCulture​

  -Television​

  -Movies​

  -Video Games​

  -Podcasts​

  -Webseries

   

Popular Media representations of Dungeons & Dragons include, but are not limited to: Baldur’s Gate III (Videogame, Larian Studios, 2023), Stranger Things (Television series, Netflix, 2016-present), Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (Feature film, Paramount Pictures, 2023), Dungeons & Dragons (Television series, Marvel Productions and D&D Entertainment, 1983), Tiny Tina’s Wonderlands (Videogame, 2K Games, 2022), and The Legend of Vox Machina (Actual Play webseries adapted to television series, Critical Role and Amazon Prime Video, 2022-present)

No really, what is D&D?

Video Clip from "Real Ones" with Jon Bernthal. ​  
Clip Title: Deb Shows Jon How to Play Dungeons & Dragons. ​  
Clip description: Deborah Ann Woll demonstrated how to play Dungeons & Dragons to Jon Bernthal through imaginative storytelling. ​(Closed captions are available at the link)  
Clip link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpVJZrabMQE](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpVJZrabMQE___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OmRhOWI6ZTdkMGNjNDI4YzhhMDYwYThhNjJkZjQ2MzU5OGZlNDU4ZTA4Yzk2YTVhNjRlMTZhMmExOGE2MmFmOTIxZDVjNjpwOlQ6Tg)

[](https://www.youtube.com/embed/JpVJZrabMQE?feature=oembed)

Deborah Ann Woll Teaches Jon Bernthal Dungeons and Dragons

Make Connections

* Where's the interest?​
* Ask your patrons!​
* It can all start with just ONE person.​
* Call-out events​

-In-person​

-Online

Photo of a group of teens around a table with a librarian, playing Dungeons &
Dragons. The table has books, papers, miniature figurines, maps, and dice on it.​

Photo of a group of teens around a table with a librarian, playing Dungeons & Dragons. The table has books, papers, miniature figurines, maps, and dice on it.​

Photo of a group of kids around a table with librarians, playing Dungeons & Dragons.
The table has books, papers, and dice on it.​

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Library Resources

* Wizards of the Coast​

D&D Afterschool Club Kit​

Dndbeyond.com Educator License (currently unavailable, please contact customer support for Wizards of the Coast for more information)

When it is restored to the website, use this link to submit a request for a D&D Educator Kit: https://dnd-support.wizards.com/hc/en-us​

Submit Request – select D&D Educator Kit, fill out form​

* Local Game/Comic Shops​
* Volunteers? Donations? How-to-Play sessions?​
* Inter-library loan for source books

Screenshot of dndbeyond website, showing character thumbnail images from a
Dungeons & Dragons adventure campaign.​

Screenshot of dndbeyond website, showing character thumbnail images from a Dungeons & Dragons adventure campaign.​

Obstacles & Solutions

* Scheduling​
  + Set a time for programming, keep consistent. Patrons may not always be able to attend, give grace.
* Availability​
  + Be upfront and honest with yourself, patrons, and coworkers about availability. Don't be afraid to cancel or postpone if necessary. Allow your group to still meet even if a session isn't running. Other activities are available related to the game!
* "Satanic Panic"​
  + Promote the positive!
  + Refer back to math skills, critical thinking, teamwork, creative writing/storytelling, problem solving
* Not Enough Players?​
  + Even one player can still make a good story.
* Too Many Players??​
  + Ask your players if they want to help run games; make more than one group to play.​
* Story ideas​
  + What’s your favorite fantasy story? Lead them through it and don’t be afraid to change the story. Otherwise, the internet is a great resource to find pre-made stories.
* Roleplay?
  + Share resources, Let your players know what you expect.

Internet Resources

* Reddit​
* [https://www.dmsguild.com/browse.php?pfrom=0&pto=0](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___http://duhttps/www.dmsguild.com/browse.php?pfrom=0&pto=0___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OmRmZDY6N2ZhZjg5NWI0ODBiMDE0MWEzM2ZkOWFkMjE4NzU0YjlkODNlNTlmODNhODJjY2FjZDU3ODkzOWNmODcwNDM4OTpwOlQ6Tg) Dungeon Masters Guild​
* [http://dndbeyond.com](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___http://dndbeyond.com/___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjdiOGE6NTc4NWFlNzQwNDBmNTFkMzE0YjkwOWU4ODdjYzU2Yjg2YWZhZDM4MjkyYjNkM2M1YmFlMjg4OWU3ZTg4YzBkMTpwOlQ6Tg) dndbeyond​
* [http://5e.tools](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___http://5e.tools/___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjE0ODc6NzgyNGY3ZDdjNzgyMTUwZTc1NzVhZTM5NDkzY2M4M2RlZDc3NjI5NDQ5MDA4MWFjZWYyM2Y3Yzc5MTI5ZDVkNTpwOlQ6Tg) 5e.tools ​
* [http://donjon.bin.sh](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___http://donjon.bin.sh/___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjNkNzE6MWI5ZmJkZjE1NTE0NDE3N2RhNTcwNTZjZDA3YjUyNmU1NWFlNDE3ZWRhMDVhMTE0ODI1MDU0OTJmMDhkODRmNzpwOlQ6Tg) Donjon.bin.sh​
* [https://archive.org/search?query=dungeon+magazine](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://archive.org/search?query=dungeon+magazine___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjYxMDM6Y2E0NjE1ZmE3Yzc4YTNjMWM0NDRhN2RkYWRhNTYzZDA3MGUxNjQwMjU5M2ZiN2UyYjMzMjM1N2E2YTc0NTdmZDpwOlQ6Tg) Archive of Dungeon Magazine ​
* [https://www.themonstersknow.com/](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.themonstersknow.com/___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjQ1NmQ6NWFiNmU4MzU4NzQ2MzdiNDgxMzU1NTM3YjQ2MzllY2QwZjg2MDc4ZGVjZTA4MzMwMzI1ZjMzNDAxODJjYjdlYjpwOlQ6Tg) The Monsters Know What They're Doing​
* [https://app.dungeonscrawl.com/](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://app.dungeonscrawl.com/___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjE0NmI6MzZlNTYzMmQyM2RjNGViMjkxOWJiZWM1NTkxYTkwYzJjNmVjNmY1ZDU5MDFmOWQ0Mjg2MGU0YjJjNGM3ZmZlNDpwOlQ6Tg) Dungeon Scrawl ​
* Instagram & Facebook reels, TikTok​
* And many, many more!

Helpful Tips

* Don't get stuck in the sources!​
* "It's really more of a guideline than an actual rule"​
* Set Expectations Early​
* Don't sleep on Session Zero​
* If you want the extras, you can easily make them yourself(dice trays, DM screens, dice bags, miniatures, grid maps)​
* Let the algorithm pull you down the rabbit hole



Photo of a crocheted purple and teal dice bag with a polyhedral dice set falling out of it onto a photo frame repurposed with green felt to be a dice tray.

More resources for D&D:​ learn to roleplay, become a dungeon master & more ​(compiled by our branch's resident D&D staffer!)​

* Ginny Di:​  
   [https://www.youtube.com/@GinnyDi/videos](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.youtube.com/_@GinnyDi/videos___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjU0NTE6NDFlNzYxMDc1MWUxYmFkMjM4ZDA1ODViOTM5Y2U1ZmVlYmFhYzAwNGViYjBkNGIyOGY4ZjhjZmFkMDM1YmY0YTpwOlQ6Tg)​
* Dungeon Dudes:​  
   [https://www.youtube.com/@DungeonDudes/videos](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.youtube.com/_@DungeonDudes/videos___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjFmZDA6MzQzOWNhOWM4NGEzY2I5NWNmMjhiYzdjYWY0YjEzYTVjNTllMDdlMmFkODFlMDY5OTYxZDU2OWExZDVhODhhMzpwOlQ6Tg)​
* Matthew Colville:​  
   [https://www.youtube.com/@mcolville/playlists](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.youtube.com/_@mcolville/playlists___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjY0ODg6ZjUyNGE2ZGNkNjUwODMxZGJiNjI1YWNjMTg4ZTk4MjM5YWE5OGZlMTg2MGEzOTJjODhlNWMxOWNhM2JmOTAxNDpwOlQ6Tg)​
* Power Word Spill: ​  
  [https://www.youtube.com/@powerwordspill/videos](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.youtube.com/_@powerwordspill/videos___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjQzOTA6ZWQ1YjA2MGU1ZjFhMjIxZTZlOGI0OTg4NDNlMzEwOTdkNmM1MGZiNGY0NDlkNjllMzRlYjVkNTYzYjcwNDRiYTpwOlQ6Tg)​
* Adventuring Academy w/ Brennan Lee Mulligan:​  
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pURrup121Xk&list=PL9N3uh1EptF9vLBvG\_2wClBASoPUWHF-X](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r01/___https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pURrup121Xk&list=PL9N3uh1EptF9vLBvG_2wClBASoPUWHF-X___.YzJ1OnN0YXRlb2ZpbmRpYW5hOmM6bzplMTEyY2JiMTgxM2RjYWZhOGM0MTdlYzAyNDhkMmE2NDo3OjMyZGY6Y2RlMjBkMTlkYjkzOGEzN2U4ZDc0NzcwZDRkMmRhYmE5YzhlNDU2YmZhNDIxNGFjOTJjZTY4ZjFhNjE0MjgzMTpwOlQ6Tg)

Photo of a group of teens around a table with a librarian, playing Dungeons &
Dragons. The table has books, papers, miniature figurines, maps, and dice on it.​

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Supplies\*

* Dice​
* Maps​
* Character Sheets​
* Pencils/Paper​
* Dungeon Master Screen​
* Dice Trays / Towers / Storage Bags​
* Miniatures​
* VTT (Virtual Table Top)​
* ​
* ​

\*None of these are fully necessary to play DnD, and if they are, there are free options available.

image shows a virtual tabletop setup for
Dungeons & Dragons. It has a television laying flat with a
map displayed on it, and miniature figurines representing
player's characters are arranged on top of it.

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Let’s Play! Questions?

Cat Roberts, Branch Manager

Velma Wortman Morristown Branch of the Shelby County Public Library

[croberts@sscpl.lib.in.us](mailto:croberts@sscpl.lib.in.us)

CatTheLibrarianDM on dndbeyond



Photo of a group of teens around a table with a librarian, playing Dungeons & Dragons. The table has books, papers, miniature figurines, a virtual map on a television screen, and dice on it.​