

February 10, 2026

Dear Battle of the Books Coordinator,

Battle of the Books is quickly approaching and we hope your students are getting excited as they move through the list of titles! Please remember that students *must read at least 20 books to participate*.

Below is a summary of Important Information and Due Dates for quick access. Following the summary are specific details for planning and clarity so that everyone has a successful day at Battle!

AT A GLANCE	
Important Information	Due Dates
Your school is registered for Battle of the Books!	Please be sure to add these important due dates to your calendar!
South 3rd grade Battle of the Books Monday, March 23, 2026	3rd Grade & Jr. High Timeline Monday, February 2, 2026 Estimated students & Volunteers Due Friday, February 19, 2026 Student & Volunteer Names Due (1 Reader, 1 Timer, 1 Shepherd for every 6 students) *If they are related, please help us match the student participant to the adult volunteer so we can try to keep them together. Friday, March 13, 2026 Site Coordinators will receive team assignments for students, Shepherds, and placement for Readers and Timers.
North 3rd grade Battle of the Books Tuesday, March 24, 2026	
Junior High Battle of the Books Wednesday, March 25, 2026	
North Kern County Battle of the Books Monday, May 4, 2026	
South Kern County Battle of the Books Tuesday, May 5, 2026	
Central Kern County Battle of the Books Thursday, May 7, 2026	
<p>The California Living Museum Zoo (C.A.L.M.) 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy Bakersfield, CA 93306</p> <p>Cost Anyone planning on attending that is not a volunteer will need to pay the Group Entrance Fee of \$9/pp. Please be sure that all spectators are aware of this requirement.</p>	4th-6th Grade Timeline Monday, March 2, 2026 Estimated students & Volunteers Due Friday, April 3, 2026 Student & Volunteer Names Due (1 Reader, 1 Timer, 1 Shepherd for every 6 students) *If they are related, please help us match the student participant to the adult volunteer so we can try to keep them together. Friday, April 24, 2026 Site Coordinators will receive team assignments for students, Shepherds, and placement for Readers and Timers.

If you are interested in purchasing practice questions for this year's list of titles. Here is the link: [America's Battle of the Books](#). These are not the same questions that we will use at the County Battle.

1. Important Due Dates!

Monday, February 2, 2026 (3rd Grade/Jr. High) & Monday, March 2, 2026 (4th-6th Grade)- Estimated Numbers. Please email your respective region at NorthKernBOB@gmail.com, SouthKernBOB@gmail.com, CentralKernBOB@gmail.com or JrHighKernBOB@gmail.com with A) The name of your school, B) An estimate of students participating, C) Estimated number of volunteers. These numbers help us know how many teams to form for the event. Please note that teams are limited to 30 students. Your school may register additional teams, as space allows.

Friday, February 19, 2026 (3rd Grade/Jr. High) & Friday, April 3, 2026 (4th-6th Grade)- Final Lists. Please email your respective region at NorthKernBOB@gmail.com, SouthKernBOB@gmail.com, CentralKernBOB@gmail.com or JrHighKernBOB@gmail.com A) The name of your school, B) First and Last names of students who have met the 20 book minimum and will be participating, C) First and Last names of Adult Volunteers (Parents and Staff) and which student they are attached to (if applicable). 1 reader, 1 timer, 1 adult for every 6 students participating.

Friday, March 13, 2026 (3rd Grade/Jr. High) & Friday, April 24, 2026 (4th-6th Grade)- Final Info Back to You. We will send you the lists of teams that your students and Shepherds are on, as well as the location of your timer and reader.

2. Location! This year's battle is at CALM! We are thrilled to expand our partnership with KCSOS and have access to The California Living Museum Zoo (CALM). We are grateful to the KCSOS for the use of their property. It is important for all students and adults to remember this is a working zoo and the animals, grounds, and buildings should be treated with the utmost respect. Please instruct your students to not yell at the animals, not play in the buildings, not climb the trees, or play hide-and-seek while on the grounds, especially during the lunch break. Thank you for your understanding and support of our requirement to respect the grounds of the CALM Zoo, as well as for the safety of all students participating.

A map of the zoo is attached, so you and your team can begin familiarizing yourselves with locations on the property. Please share this information with participants and volunteers as early as possible. Please have students head directly to Grassy Area following check-in and before finding a spot for lunch. We encourage designating an adult from your site to find your school's meeting location for lunch so that the other volunteers and students can be in the right place, on time.

C.A.L.M. requests all of us bag our own trash and have an adult take the bags to the dumpster. Large construction trash bags are recommended. No children should be allowed by the dumpsters. The committee will be charged a custodial fee if students use the trash cans for their lunch rubbish. Thank you for your adherence to these requests; your help is greatly appreciated.

3. Parking! There is ample parking at CALM. Buses will park in the second parking lot, situated farthest away from the zoo to accommodate for their size. Cars are welcome to park in the front lot.

4. Check-In and Name Tags! The School Site Coordinator will check-in, on behalf of the team between 8:45-8:55 a.m. Each student should have a nametag on with *his or her full name and assigned battle team* name for quick team building and camaraderie. Instructions and a team building exercise will begin promptly at **9:00** at the Family Events Area, which can be accessed through the entrance gate to the zoo and past the restrooms.

5. Lunch! All school sites are asked to bring their students' sack lunches in a cooler or box marked with the school's name and two large trash bags for clean up after lunch. Please note that there are no food options close to CALM. Please plan accordingly. Schools will be responsible for picking up all trash from their lunch site

prior to the final battle. Trash bags will need to be deposited into dumpsters by an adult. **There will be no custodians assisting with clean-up for the event.**

6. Weather Conditions! We can't predict the weather for the day of the event yet, however, if it's sunny- please note that there is limited shade. Please encourage student and adult volunteers to wear a hat, visors, and/or sunscreen.

7. Volunteers! The Kern Battle of the Books is not possible without volunteers. **Each school site is asked to provide adult volunteers.** Two of the volunteers will serve as a timer and a reader. Reader/Timer volunteers need to report to the Outdoor Amphitheater for orientation and job placement by 8:45 a.m. Each school site is also asked to provide an adult volunteer for every 6 participating students to serve as the team's Shepherd. The Shepherd is charged with staying with the team and escorting the students from round to round and then back to the Family Events Area when the battles are completed.

8. Spectators/Non Volunteers! Guests are welcome to attend the event without volunteering, however, they will be charged admission at the Group Admission Rate of \$9.00/pp. This includes school and district employees coming to "check in" on their teams.

Thank you for your prompt attention to all the Battle of the Books deadlines and instructions. We are looking forward to a great year! This is our first year organizing the event and we value your input, feedback, and support!

Sincerely,

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And the Kern County Battle of the Books Committee