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## SOKY Book Fest marks 20th year

By JACKSON FRENCH [jfrench@bgdailynews.com](mailto:jfrench@bgdailynews.com) 22 hrs ago



Though the Southern Kentucky Book Fest's scheduled headlining writer, the author of "A Series of Unfortunate Events," won't be able to attend the annual festival, it will still offer a vast array of writers for the public to meet.

Sara Volpi, SOKY Book Fest's coordinator, said roughly 130 authors specializing in everything from poetry to young adult fiction to nonfiction will be in attendance.

"It's really well-rounded," she said. "There are authors for pretty much anyone, any reading level."

According to Volpi, Daniel Handler, better known by his pen name Lemony Snicket, under which he wrote "A Series of Unfortunate Events," won't make the event due to a scheduling conflict.

The SOKY Book Fest, which gives the public the chance to converse with a wide variety of authors, will take place at Knicely Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The day before, the affiliated Teen & Children's Day will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the Kentucky Writers Conference is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All events are free to attend and the authors will have their books for sale Saturday.

A full schedule of workshop sessions during the Writers Conference taught by various authors is available at [sokybookfest.org](http://sokybookfest.org), where anyone interested can register for them.

The sessions are on a firstcome, first-served basis and do not require attendees to register, Volpi said.



Among the authors appearing at the event are Loren Long, author of the “Love Otis” children’s book series and who also illustrated Barack Obama’s picture book “Of Thee I Sing,” poet Cheryl Hopson and young adult novelist and former character actress Emmy Laybourne.

Former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear will also be on hand to sign copies of his book “People Over Politics,” Volpi said.

“You don’t have to travel far to meet these amazing authors because the Knicely Center’s just up the road,” she said.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the SOKY Book Fest, which Volpi said is a rare opportunity in the region to meet so many authors in a two-day span.

“I think it’s a great way for the literary community in Bowling Green to come together,” she said. “I think it’s something for Bowling Green to be proud of.”

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