



Crete Public  
Library District

# PROGRAM GUIDE

Spring 2026



## Program Registration

Programs that require registration will be marked with a \*.





Scan the QR code to register for upcoming events or call (708) 672-8017.

## Heideman Community Garden Returns!

We're excited to be heading into our third season of the Heideman Community Garden. If you've been thinking about starting a gardening hobby or growing your own fresh produce, now is the perfect time to get involved by applying to host one of our garden beds. Applications open March 2, with the gardening season running from April 6 through October 31, 2026. Applications are open to the public, but Crete Public Library cardholders will receive first priority. Garden beds fill up quickly, so be sure to submit your application early.



All programs are in person, unless marked as  for zoom or  for recording.





Registration  
opens Feb. 16

# YOUTH PROGRAMS



## Recurring

### All By Myself\*

*Tuesdays: Mar. 3-17 & Apr. 7-21 from 1-1:45 pm | Ages 3-5*  
Join us for picture books, songs, and activities designed for preschoolers to promote early literacy and school readiness.

### Let's LEGO\*

*Wednesdays: Mar. 4 & Apr. 1 from 6-7 pm | Grades K-5*  
Each month we'll have a new LEGO building challenge to complete and put on display in the Library.

### Once Upon a Storytime\*

*Thursdays: Mar. 5-19 & Apr. 9-23 from 11-11:30 am | Ages 0-2*  
Snuggle, bounce, and bond with your little one as we share rhymes, songs, and stories to foster language development and a love of reading at this program.

### Muffins with a Mystery Reader\*

*Saturdays: Mar. 7 & Apr. 4 from 10:30-11:15 am | Families*  
Start your weekend with a delicious treat while enjoying stories and songs with Ms. Kerry and our Mystery Reader.

### Peter Halligan's StoryWalk: *The Very Impatient Caterpillar*

*Mar.-May | Families*  
Visit Peter Halligan's StoryWalk, located off of Steger Rd. & Nicolette Dr., for our winter story *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* by Ross Burach.

### Survival Kids: *I Survived The Destruction of Pompeii, 79AD\**

*Monday, Mar. 2 from 6-7 pm | Grades 2-5*  
Do you have what it takes to survive? Each month we'll read an I Survived book, learn about real-life disasters, and explore the science behind them with hands-on activities. March's pick is *I Survived: The Destruction of Pompeii, 79 AD* by Lauren Tarshis.

### Book Drop: Echoes & Obstacles\*

*Saturday, Mar. 7 from 1-2 pm | Families with children 4 +*  
Introducing a new 4-part family STEM program for kids 4+ and their grownups, featuring real scientists, hands-on activities, and a free Book Drop family guide to continue learning at home. This month, explore echolocation and bats with *Fiona the Fruit Bat*.

### Kid Creatives: Leprechaun Traps\*

*Monday, Mar. 9 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2*  
*Monday, Mar. 9 from 6-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5*  
It's time to get crafty! This month make your own Leprechaun Traps.

### Comics & Cookies: *Arlo & Pips: King of the Birds\**

*Tuesday, Mar. 10 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2*  
Spring is almost here! Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss *Arlo & Pips: King of the Birds* by Elise Gravel, create some crafts that are oh so tweet, and enjoy cookies!

### STEAM Tweens: Circuit Flowers\*

*Thursday, Mar. 12 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5*  
Spring approaches! Join us as we create light up flower bouquets to welcome the season.

### Bluey Bash\*

*Saturday, Mar. 14 from 10 am-12 pm | Families*  
Wackadoo! It's a Bluey Bash! Join us at the Library for this family event. We'll have stations set up around the room celebrating all things Bluey. We'll end the day with a game of Keepy Uppy!

### EPIC Graphic Novel Club: *Little Monarchs\**

*Tuesday, Mar. 17 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades 3-5*  
Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we discuss *Little Monarchs* by Jonathan Case, create a craft, and enjoy a snack.

### STEAM Kids: Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies\*

*Thursday, Mar. 19 from 6-7 pm | Grades K-2*  
Welcome, Spring! This month we'll learn about the friendly faces we start to see in the spring. Join us as we learn about flowers, and birds, and butterflies, Oh My!

### Learn Cool Magic Tricks!\*

*Saturday, Mar. 21 from 9:30-11 am | Ages 6-12*  
Amaze family and friends with incredible magic tricks using cards, coins, rope, and more! Join magician Michael Darnell for this hands-on experience with all materials included, plus a magic kit and wand to take home.





# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## Shadow Box Collages for Kids\*

Monday, Mar. 23 from 5-6 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Mar. 23 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5

Students will learn how to curate their own shadow box collections, using collaged images, trinkets and ephemera. Shadow boxes and all art supplies will be provided. Please dress students accordingly, as we will be using glue. Inspired by Joseph Cornell's Memory Boxes that are on display at Chicago Art Institute.

## Fascinating Fingers and Play!\*

Thursday, Mar. 26 from 11 am-12 pm | Ages 0-5

Join us for a fun, hands-on family lesson led by certified early childhood instructors to learn simple activities using everyday materials that support your child's school readiness. Build language, early math, problem-solving, and social-emotional skills and leave with practical ideas you can use right away.

## STEAM Tots: Storybook Science\*

Thursday, Mar. 26 from 6-7 pm | Ages 3-5

Join us for a fun filled night of fairytale themed experiments and challenges!

## Comics & Cookies: Hello, Hedgehog: Do You Like My Bike?\*

Tuesday, Apr. 7 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2

Spring is almost here! Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss *Hello, Hedgehog: Do You Like My Bike?* by Norm Feuti, create some crafts that are oh so tweet, and enjoy cookies!

## STEAM Tweens: Rain Problems\*

Thursday, Apr. 9 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5

Rain doesn't just bring gloomy skies, it can also bring problems that need solving. Join us as we work to solve some of the problems that rain can bring.

## Book Drop: Nature Detectives\*

Saturday, Apr. 11 from 1-2 pm | Families with children 4 +

Join our new 4-part family STEM program for kids 4+, featuring scientist videos, hands-on activities, and a free Book Drop guide. This month explores garden observations with *Jayden's Impossible Garden*.

## Kid Creatives: Runaway Rabbits\*

Monday, Apr. 13 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Apr. 13 from 6-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5

It's time to get crafty! This month make your own racing rabbits.

## STEAM Kids: Rain Rain Go Away\*

Thursday, Apr. 16 from 6-7 pm | Grades K-2

Let's get through the gloomy rain season by learning a little bit about it! Join us as we enjoy rain themed learning and experiments.

## LEGO WeDo\*

Saturday, Apr. 18 from 10-11 am | Grades 1-5

Build and program your own cool contraptions with LEGOs and a computer in this introduction to coding.

## EPIC Graphic Novel Club: Kerry and the Knight of the Forest\*

Tuesday, Apr. 21 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades 3-5

Join us on a quest through a mysterious forest at EPIC Graphic Novel Club! We will discuss *Kerry and the Knight of the Forest* by Andi Watson, enjoy a snack, and create a craft.

## STEAM Tots: Mini Meteorologists\*

Thursday, Apr. 23 from 6-7 pm | Ages 3-5

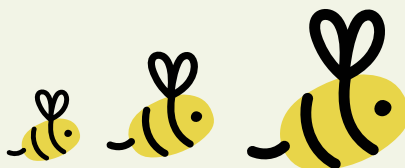
April showers bring May flowers, but the gloomy weather is so hard to get through! Join us as we become meteorologists for a day and learn to predict and understand the weather around us.

## Kids Recycled Fawn Figure\*

Monday, Apr. 27 from 5-6 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Apr. 27 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5

Welcome spring by creating your own eco-friendly fawn out of dried flower petals and recycled cereal boxes! Students will practice painting patterns to match fawn coats and learning to assemble a simple spring meadow. Please dress students accordingly, as we will be painting and gluing.



\*Parenting Programs can be found on Page 7\*

# TEENS, TECH, & COOKING

## Teens

### Mimic the Masters: Teen Art Club\*

*Mondays: Mar. 16 & May 18 from 6-7:30 pm*

Explore and create art from methods used by master artists or art movements. All supplies are provided.

#### Themes:

March: Neo-Impressionistic

May: Create a colorful fiber mat inspired by Alexander Calder

### Teen Volunteer Thursday\*

*Thursdays: Mar. 12, Apr. 9, May 14 from 3-5 pm*

Middle and High Schoolers earn hours for their school community service requirements while making something for others at the Library.

#### Activities:

March: Create bookmarks for our Homebound patrons

April: Help library staff clean up library grounds (weather permitting)

May: Help library staff create summer reading decorations



Past photos from Teen Volunteer Thursday

## Tech

*Tech programs are for both teens & adults.*

### Logo Design and Branding with Canva

*Monday, Mar. 23 from 6-7:30 pm*

*Saturday, Apr. 18 from 2-3:30 pm*

This 90-minute class for independent and small businesses covers the basics of logo design and branding, beginning with a 30-minute presentation and followed by guided, hands-on logo creation in Canva. Participants must have a Canva account, their own device, and basic keyboard and mouse or trackpad skills.



### How to Listen to Podcasts\*

*Tuesday, Mar. 24 from 10-11:30 am*

Join us for this informal presentation about how to find and listen to podcasts. Similar to talk radio programs, podcasts are available for countless subjects, and you can listen to them whenever you like.

### AI Made Simple: Practical Tools for Everyday Life and Work\*

*Saturday, Apr. 18 from 2:30-4:00 pm*

Curious about artificial intelligence—or already using it but not sure you're getting the most out of it? This beginner-friendly workshop introduces practical, easy-to-use AI tools through live demonstrations and real-world examples that help save time at work and in everyday life. No technical background is required, and participants will receive trusted resources for continued learning along with a Q&A tailored to their interests.

### Learn about Tablets and e-Readers\*

*Tuesday, Apr. 28 from 10-11:30 am*

Join us for this informal presentation about tablets and e-Readers. We will talk about Android, Apple iPad and Amazon Fire tablets, as well as dedicated e-readers like the Amazon Kindle and Barnes & Noble Nook.

### What is AI?\*

*Tuesday, May 19 from 10-11:30 am*

Join us for this informal presentation about Artificial Intelligence. We will give an overview of the benefits and drawbacks regarding this topic.

## Cooking



*Cooking programs are for adults.*

### Thai Harmony\*

*Wednesday, Mar. 18 from 6:30-8 pm*

Discover the harmony of sweet, salty, sour, and spicy that defines Thai cuisine. In this class, we'll create dishes like Thai Basil Chicken with Coconut-Lime Jasmine Rice and finish with a refreshing Mango Sticky Rice for dessert.

### Pasta e Dolce\*

*Wednesday, Apr. 8 from 6:30-8 pm*

Experience the art of handmade pasta with a bright, springtime twist. In this class, we'll create Lemon Ricotta Ravioli with Spring Pea Sauce and Lemon Mascarpone Cups, highlighting the Italian philosophy of la dolce vita—savoring life's simple, delicious pleasures.

### French Flavors for Spring\*

*Wednesday, May 6 from 6:30-8 pm*

Take a culinary journey to the Mediterranean and discover vibrant, healthy dishes inspired by the sun-soaked flavors of the region. Each dish will be packed with fresh herbs, bold spices, and zesty ingredients that will transport your taste buds.

# RECURRING ADULT PROGRAMS

## Activities & Resources

### Adult Writing Group

Mondays: Mar. 2, Apr. 6, & May 4 from 6-7:30 pm

### Trivia Nights at Evil Horse

Thursdays: Mar. 12, Apr. 9, & May 14 from 7-9 pm

### Knot Just for Knitters

Thursdays: Mar. 5, Apr. 2, & May 7 from 1-4 pm  
 Thursdays: Mar. 19, Apr. 16, & May 21 from 6-7:30 pm

### SNAP Help

Wednesdays: Mar. 4, Apr. 1, & May 6 from 1-4 pm  
 Wednesdays: Mar. 18, Apr. 15, & May 20 from 9:30-11:30 am

## Book Clubs

### CPLD Book Discussion Group

Mondays: Mar. 9, Apr. 13, & May 11 from 6:30-7:30 pm



### Young Adult (for Adults) Book Club

Tuesdays: Mar. 17, Apr. 21, & May 19 from 6-7 pm



### Silent Book Club

Wednesdays: Mar. 4, Apr. 1, & May 6 from 6-7:30 pm  
 No assigned reading, choose your own book.

### Book Appétit Cookbook Book Club\*

Mondays: Mar. 30 & Apr. 27 from 6-7:30 pm



### Sci-Fi Book Club

Wednesdays: Mar. 4, Apr. 1, & May 6 from 6-7:30 pm



## Movies

### Film Club

Thursday, Mar. 26 from 5:30-8 pm: *The Boxer*  
 Thursday, Apr. 23 from 5:30-8pm: *Dr. Strangelove*  
 Thursday, May 28 from 5-8 pm: *Ford v. Ferrari*

### Retro Movie Fridays

Fridays at 2:30 pm  
 Scan the QR code for the spring schedule  
 or visit [cretelibrary.org/retro](http://cretelibrary.org/retro).



## Illinois Libraries Present

### Beyond the Page with Percival Everett\*

Thursday, Mar. 19 from 7-8 pm

### Cristina Henríquez: Voice, Culture, and Human Connection\*

Thursday, Apr. 16 from 7-8 pm

### Babel-On with R.F. Kuang\*

Tuesday, May 19 from 7-8 pm





# ADULT PROGRAMS

## It Happened in Chicago\*

Tuesday, Mar. 3 from 6:30-7:30 pm

We all know Chicago's big stories, but it's time to discover the smaller, often forgotten ones. Storyteller Bill Pack returns with a unique program of short tales that bring to life the people, neighborhoods, and surprising history of the city of big shoulders.

## Strange, Dark, and Funny Origins of Everyday Sayings\*

Tuesday, Mar. 10 from 6-7 pm

Discover the darkly funny origins of everyday phrases with entertainer Dale Obrochta—from "kick the bucket" to "bite the dust," you'll never hear them the same way again!

## National Quilting Day Part 1\* National Quilting Day Part 2\*

Saturday, Mar. 14 & Mar. 21  
from 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Join us in this 2-part class as we celebrate National Quilting Day (March 21) where you will learn the basics to make a table runner. Participants should plan to attend both sessions. Supplies will be provided, but if you have your own sewing machine, rotary cutter and mat, feel free to bring it. Some sewing experience is required.

## Lucille Ball\*

Tuesday, Mar. 17 from 6:30-7:30 pm

Lucille Ball captured America's heart in the 1950s while quietly reshaping television behind the scenes. Historian and actress Leslie Goddard brings her story to life in an engaging historical portrayal of the legend and the woman behind her.

## The Life and Times of Babe Ruth\*

Tuesday, Mar. 24 from 6:30-7:30 pm

Think you know Babe Ruth? Author and baseball historian Gary Livacari explores Ruth's life, from his troubled childhood to his legendary career as one of the greatest figures in American sports history.

## Professional Headshots: Put Your Best Face Forward\*

Saturday, Mar. 28 from 12-2 pm

Need a new professional photo but don't want to pay studio prices? The Library has you covered! Stop by for a FREE headshot; perfect for resumes, LinkedIn, & more!

## Inner Peace - Intro to Guided Meditation\*

Saturday, Apr. 4 from 10-11 am

This introductory class offers a gentle introduction to meditation, teaching basic techniques to calm the mind and body. Participants will be guided step by step through a meditation focused on stress reduction and peace.

## Macro Photography 101\*

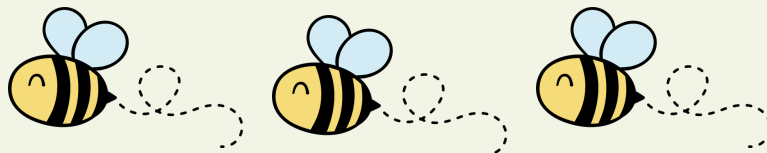
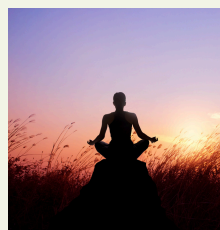
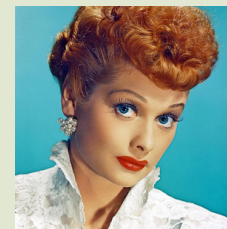
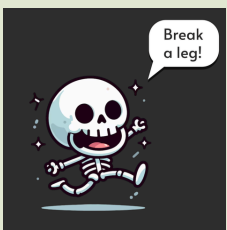
Saturday, Apr. 4 from 2:30-3:30 pm

Join Samuel Homer for an Introduction to Macro Photography, a hands-on look at capturing the hidden details of the world up close.

## Travel the Upper Mississippi\*

Tuesday, Apr. 7 from 6:30-7:30 pm

In Travel the Upper Mississippi, John Kokoris guides audiences along one of America's most storied waterways, blending history, place, and discovery.



# ADULT PROGRAMS



## **Weather and Storm Chasing 101\*** **Weather and Storm Chasing 201\***

*Monday, Apr. 13 & 20 from 6-7 pm*

Session 1: An introduction to severe weather, storm structure, and the fundamentals of storm chasing with Nick Bartholomew.

Session 2: A deeper dive into advanced storm dynamics, forecasting, and real-world chase strategies.



## **Artisan Bead Bracelet Workshop\***

*Tuesday, Apr. 14 from 6-7:30 pm*

*\*For teens & adults\**

Create your own one-of-a-kind bracelet using a variety of beautiful artisan beads! All materials provided. Perfect for beginners and jewelry lovers alike.

## **Morbid History\***

*Monday, May 4 from 6-7:30 pm*

From grand corpse larceny in medieval Venice to the iron coffins popping up in Lincoln Park, this light-hearted presentation takes you around the world with spine-tingling true tales you never learned in history class.



## **Lake Michigan's Lighthouses\***

*Tuesday, May 5 from 6-7 pm*

In the 1800's more than fifty lighthouses were built to guide ships through Lake Michigan's treacherous waters. Join us as we travel the lake's Michigan and Wisconsin coasts to learn the history and legends of these fascinating and romantic navigation aids.



## **Day Trips on a Dime\***

*Thursday, May 7 from 6-7 pm*

If you crave the open road on a budget, this talk is for you. Author Melanie Holmes shares free or low-cost Illinois day trips—adventure awaits!



## **Macro Photography Part 2\***

*Saturday, May 16 from 2:30-3:30 pm*

In Macro Photography Part 2, Samuel Homer builds on the basics with a hands-on field trip to photograph the Library's butterfly garden.



## **Paint in Place\***

*Monday, May 18 from 5:30-7:30 pm*

Paint in Place with Betty Postma is a relaxed, hands-on session celebrating observation, creativity, and painting on location.



## **Parenting Programs**

### **Homeschool Huddle\***

*Fridays: Mar. 13 & April 10 from 2:30-3:30 pm*

Come to the Library to hang out with other homeschool families. Children will have activities in the room set up while parents gather to learn about Library resources and exchange ideas.

### **Heart Smart\***

*Wednesday, Apr. 8 from 6-7 pm*

Explore the fundamental concepts of emotional intelligence, understand its significance in child development, and learn practical strategies to foster these skills for your family.

### **Screen Sense\***

*Tuesday, May 12 from 6-7 pm*

Gain awareness of the impact of technology on a child's development as well as age-appropriate usage and feel empowered about setting limits for your kids.

## **Crete Creative**

### **The Diversified Art Visionaries - DAVE**

*Friday, Mar. 13 to Saturday, May 2*

DAVE is a group of artists from Dyer, Indiana, who have a mission to enrich their community by developing an enthusiastic environment that supports the arts. Their members will be sharing a wide range of artistic mediums in this exclusive show.

### **Opening Reception**

*Saturday, Mar. 14 from 11 am-1 pm*





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## ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER



### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Crete Public Library will be hosting their Book Sale on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25! The sale will take place in the Large Meeting Room upstairs and will feature books, movies, audiobooks, and more. Hours are 10:00 am–4:30 pm on both days.

Please note: On Friday, April 24, from 10:00 am–12:00 pm, the sale will be open to Friends members only, or to non-members for a \$20 entry fee.

#### Library Staff

**David Sieffert**  
Library Director

#### Tiffany Amschl

Assistant Director / Adult Services  
Manager

#### Samantha Wilhoyt

Patron Services Manager

#### Keely VerHaar

Business Manager

#### Michelle Rarick

Youth Services Manager

#### Elise Tarrant

Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator

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**Judi Boehner**  
Trustee

**Debbie Casserly**  
Trustee

#### Upcoming Closings

**Memorial Day: May 25**

#### Donations, Gifts, and Memorials

- Lisbet O Temple
- In Memory of Thomas Krischunas

