



ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration is required for the following programs, except where noted. Please call 630-773-1699 or visit itascalibrary.org for additional information and registration.



HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Julie Norris from The Mrs Mahoopagee Royal Icing Academy will lead us in a festive holiday cookie decorating class. Learn expert techniques to beautify your sugar cookies and leave with your own hand-decorated treats. All supplies are provided; just bring your creativity! This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Itasca Community Library. Itasca residents only, please.

Chris White Jazz Trio Presents: *A Charlie Brown Christmas* Monday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.

Experience a bit of nostalgia as The Chris White Trio performs Vince Guaraldi's complete *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. This special show will take place in the glow of our 12 holiday trees throughout the library. No registration needed.

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body Monday, January 6, 6:30 p.m.

For centuries, we have known that the health of the brain and the body are connected. Now, science is able to provide insights into how to optimize our physical and cognitive health as we age. Join us for an evening with the Alzheimer's Association to learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity, sleep, and more.

The History of Elvis Presley Thursday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.

Elvis revolutionized popular music when he exploded onto the scene in 1956 with his unique blend of rhythm & blues and country music. Gary Wenstrup returns to share how Elvis' impact was seismic, and why he forever remains: The "King of Rock and Roll."



MAKING WITH CREATIVEBUG

Thursday, February 6 and Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.

We'll follow along with a Creativebug instructor and make our very own stitched envelope journal in this two-part series. Made with pockets for bits of ephemera, spacers for postcards or tickets, and pages for writing, drawing, or gluing in to, this stitched envelope journal is ready to join you on your travels, near or far! Itasca residents only, please.

House Plant Swap

Thursday, January 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Calling all plant parents! Have houseplants you don't want? Drop off your plants and cuttings at the Adult Desk starting Monday, January 20 and return for the exchange on January 23. Bring fresh diversity to your collection and socialize with other plant parents. No registration needed.

Basic Pet First Aid

Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.

Learn how to tend to your pet in a crisis. This presentation will cover preventative care, how to treat wounds, broken bones, choking, and more.

Sweet Treats of the Midwest

Thursday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.

Join author and food enthusiast Amy Gail Hansen as she uncovers the fascinating history of four desserts all originating in the Midwest, from Bertha Palmer's brownie to the invention of the Twinkie, from the birth of Rice Krispie Treats to the creation of the Bundt cake. Amy will also share tricks to making seasonal variations of these treats, perfect for celebrations and holidays.

Navigating the Newest iPhone Update

Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Did you wake up to find your iPhone has updated and looks completely different? Not to fear, this class will cover the latest iOS update, its newest features, and how to find necessary information. iPhones must be updated to at least iOS 18.0 and patrons must know their Apple ID and password.

A Poisoner's Afternoon Tea

Monday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.

Scientist and educator Neil Bradbury uses a unique combination of science, true crime, and murder mystery to discuss the cultural role of teatime favorites (such as scones and Dundee cake) in murder. Expect scandal, deadly doctors, and Vincent van Gogh. You will never look at an invitation to afternoon tea the same way!

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ONGOING PROGRAMS

Knit & Craft Club

1st Thursday of the month: December 5, January 2, February 6, 10:30 a.m.

4th Wednesday of the month: No meeting in December, January 22, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Everyone who does handwork and wants to share time with like-minded people is welcome to join this fun, casual get-together. Bring whatever you're working on! No registration is needed.

English Conversation Group

Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Speaking English doesn't have to be hard. Intermediate English learners can practice their skills in a friendly, casual group. We meet in person and on Zoom. Please register to get the Zoom link.

Trivia Night

2nd Tuesday of the month: December 10, January 14, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Compete with your team of up to six people for a chance to win prizes. A reservation at Fox & Turtle is highly encouraged.

Adult Board Game Night

3rd Wednesday of the month: December 18, January 15, February 19, 7:00 p.m.


For patrons 18 and older. Come learn the rules of a new board game in a non-stressful environment. Groups will play practice rounds to get the hang of it and then spend the remainder of the night playing the new game!

Take & Make Crafts for Adults

A new craft kit for adults will be available on the 15th of each month.

Book Club Assistance

Are you in a book club and in need of multiple books for your discussions? We can help with that, and with book suggestions and tips for your book club. Ask for more details at the Adult Desk.



BOOK A LIBRARIAN

Need a computer lesson or one-on-one tech help? Itasca cardholders can make a one-hour appointment with a librarian to get the help they need at their convenience. Call the library or email adultservices@itascalibrary.org to make an appointment.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Beyond the Library

7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at Fox & Turtle Restaurant, Itasca Country Club

December 9: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

January: No meeting. Happy New Year!

February 10: *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield



Evening

7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month

December: No meeting

January 28: *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

February 25: *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes



Friends of the Library

Love the library like we do? Join the Friends of the Itasca Library! All you need to do is check out the sign-up form found on the library's website. It's that easy. We'll keep you updated with what we're doing along with volunteer opportunities. What a perfect time to become an e-member!

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that helps support the work of the library. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every other month, and the next meeting is on January 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Movie Collection

Come check out our special collection of holiday movies! We have all your favorites ready to be checked out and enjoyed. These classic holiday films are available for a one-week checkout only, allowing us to spread the cheer all around. Please note, there are no renewals, and holds are not available, so be sure to grab your favorites before they're gone!



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Registration is required for most programs. A separate registration is needed for programs with multiple sessions. Please call 630-773-1699 or visit itascalibrary.org for additional information and registration.

YOUTH NEWS



Winter Reading Challenge:

There's Snow Better Time to Read!

Monday, December 16 - Friday, January 31

The library encourages you to read this winter by taking our *There's Snow Better Time to Read!* Winter Reading Challenge. Kids and teens in preschool through 12th grade can pick up a challenge sheet at the Youth Desk beginning December 16 to earn cool prizes.

TAKE A STORYWALK® THIS WINTER!

The library has teamed up with the Itasca Park District to present a StoryWalk®, a fun way to combine reading and exercising. A StoryWalk® is a series of signs featuring spreads from a children's picture book. Those signs or pages are spread throughout indoor or outdoor spaces in all seasons allowing a reader to follow along with a story by walking.

The StoryWalk® this winter will feature John Rocco's picture book, *Blizzard*, and it will be at the loop right next to the Springbrook Nature Center building starting in mid-December. This project is sponsored by the library, Itasca Park District, Friends of the Itasca Community Library, Friends of Springbrook Nature Center of Itasca, and the Village of Itasca. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.



SCAVENGER HUNTS

Each month we'll put up a new scavenger hunt in the Youth Services Department. Complete it for a sticker prize or just for fun!

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FOR AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

Registration is required for some programs where noted. A separate registration is needed for programs with multiple sessions. Please call 630-773-1699 or visit itascalibrary.org to register.

Drop-In Family Storytime (Geared to ages 6 & under)

Mondays, December 2-16 & January 6-February 3
10:00-10:30 a.m.

Join us for stories, songs, and more. No registration is needed.

Doodlebugs (Geared to ages 2-5 with a caregiver)

Wednesdays, December 4, January 8, and February 5
10:00-10:30 a.m.

Little fingers will experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, cutting, and creating. Dress for a mess! Registration is required.

Drop-In Baby Time (Geared to ages 6-18 months)

Thursdays, December 5 & 19, January 2, 16, & 30,
and February 13 & 27, 9:30-10:00 a.m.

We'll share stories and songs perfect for little ones! No registration is needed.

STEAM Stories (Ages 4-8 with a caregiver)

Thursdays, December 19, January 16, and February 20
4:15-5:00 p.m.

It's STEM with art! Come listen to a story on a STEM topic and complete a simple art project and activities all around the theme of the day. Registration is required.

Bring the Outside In: Winter Weather (Geared to ages 2-6 with a caregiver)

Tuesday, January 28, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Enjoy activity stations all about winter weather including sensory bins, games, and a craft. Registration is required.

Be Mine Storytime (Geared to ages 6 & under)

Wednesday, February 12, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Join us for stories, songs, and a craft all about love and Valentine's Day. Registration is required.

FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Registration is required for the following programs, except where noted. A separate registration is needed for programs with multiple sessions. Please call 630-773-1699 or visit itascalibrary.org to register.

Homeschool STEAM Meetup (Grades K-8)

Tuesdays, December 10, January 14, and February 11
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us on the second Tuesday of the month for STEAM-based activities geared to all age levels. We'll do an art project and take part in challenges appropriate to your grade. Registration is required.

STEAM Stories (Ages 4-8 with a caregiver)

Thursdays, December 19, January 16, and February 20
4:15-5:00 p.m.

It's STEM with art! Come listen to a story on a STEM topic and complete a simple art project and activities all around the theme of the day! Registration is required.

Local Author Visit (All Ages)

Saturday, December 28, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Meet local author Jeanne Speziale Beauchamp as she reads her new book, *Eddie's Pockets*. You'll also make a craft and enjoy fun activities related to the book. Copies of *Eddie's Pockets* will be available for sale and signing at the end of the program. Registration is required.



DIY Obstacle Course (Grades K-5)

Monday, December 30, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Get out of the house and get active! Drop in any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. to design and test out your own obstacle course and other kids' as well. No registration is required.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

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WINTER CARNIVAL

FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, January 25, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Drop by the library for some cozy indoor fun at our Winter Carnival! Enjoy games, crafts, prize drawings, and snacks, along with an Elsa Meet & Greet from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and a balloon show featuring Smarty Pants from 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Registration is not required, but you can register if you'd like a reminder email.



Cricut Creations (For families)

Thursday, January 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Did you know we have a Cricut and that you can design all kinds of things? Come see what the Cricut can make and how it works while decorating with pre-printed stickers, participating in Cricut challenges, and designing your own sticker. Bring your own water bottle or other item to decorate. Registration is required.

Painting Pop-In (All Ages)

Friday, January 3, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Drop in anytime between 1:00-4:00 p.m. to paint your own trinket box. No registration required, and while supplies last.

Family LEGO Build: Outer Space (For families)

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Calling all LEGO enthusiasts! Join us for a fun night of building space-themed creations that will be displayed in the library. Registration is required.

Curious Kids: Authors and Illustrators (Grades 1-4)

Wednesday, January 22, 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Are you curious about the world around you? Have questions you want answers to? Join other kids at this quarterly program, and get your questions answered while also improving your research skills. This quarter bring your questions about authors and illustrators. We'll also have activities and a snack. Registration is required.

Family BINGO (For families)

Tuesday, January 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a night of BINGO, prizes, and fun. Registration is required.

Animals Rock! (Grades K-5)

Tuesday, February 4, 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Bring your creativity to this program where you'll be painting your own animal rocks. Registration is required.

Valentine Surprise (For families)

Friday, February 14, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

It's Valentine's Day, and we'd love you to make a surprise craft with us! Registration is required.

Pizza Day Party (Grades K-5)

Monday, February 24, 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Celebrate National Pizza Day by making your own bagel and dessert pizzas and drawing your own dream pizza while listening to a pizza story. Registration is required.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Registration is required for the following programs. A separate registration is needed for programs with multiple sessions. Please call 630-773-1699 or visit itascalibrary.org for additional information and registration.

TEEN BOOK BOXES GRADES 6-12

December 8, January 8, and February 8

Finding your next great read just got easier! Teens can subscribe to our monthly book boxes to get a book customized to their reading interests. Register by the 8th of each month, fill out a survey, and pick your box up beginning on the 15th of the month. Each box will include one book from our teen collection, candy, and other fun stuff. Registration is required.



VolunTeen Program (Grades 6-12)

Students in grades 6-12 may volunteer to work up to six hours in the Youth Department this fall as a VolunTeen. After you register, you'll receive instructions on how to choose the specific days during the session you'd like to volunteer. Registration is required.

Winter Session 1: December 30-January 26

Winter Session 2: February 3-March 2

HOT CHOCOLATE STIX AND GIFTS GRADES 6-12

Thursday, December 12, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Make edible stir sticks to melt into hot chocolate with a variety of toppings. They work great as gifts! Decorate gift bags as well. Registration is required.



Take & Make Crafts for Teens (Grades 6-12)

December 15, January 15, and February 15

Pick up a Take & Make craft just for teens! Crafts will be available at the Youth Desk beginning on the 15th of each month. While supplies last. No registration is required.



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Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
(Closed Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.)

Dates of Closing:

December 24, 2024 – Christmas Eve:
Closed all day
December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day:
Closed all day
December 31, 2024 – New Year’s Eve:
Closed all day
January 1, 2025 – New Year’s Day:
Closed all day

Library Board of Trustees:

Paul Nelson, President
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Sharon Laughlin
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The board meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Photo Policy:

Photographs will be taken during some library programs and may be used by the library for promotional purposes. If you do not want to be photographed, please be sure to inform the librarian.

LIBRARY NEWS

LICENSE PLATE RENEWAL SERVICES

Illinois residents are able to renew their license plate stickers at the library and leave with their sticker the same day. To renew your sticker, you will need to bring your Illinois vehicle registration renewal notice or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), driver’s license number, and license plate number. Please see itascalibrary.org/services/license-plate-renewal for more details.



DIGITAL LIBRARY

Get ebooks, audiobooks, movies, and more right on your devices! The library offers Hoopla, Libby, and Kanopy services that can be accessed using your library card. Visit itascalibrary.org/for-book-lovers/elibrary/ for more information. For help setting up accounts, call or visit the Adult Desk for assistance.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST

The library is celebrating the season with specially decorated trees! Tour the library in December to see the Christmas trees beautifully decorated by local schools and organizations. We hope you will participate by casting your vote for the best decorated tree based on creativity and originality. Winners will be decided by popular vote; voting can be done either in person or online at itascalibrary.org starting December 1.

Winners will be announced January 2. Sponsored generously by Itasca Bank & Trust.



Connect with us!