

# Try something new at your local library

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## FULL TEXT

Public libraries offer a place to create and collaborate. Many have equipment and technology that most people wouldn't purchase but want to use every now and then. And many offer craft, cooking, music, writing and gardening classes that offer an opportunity to try something new.

The Appleton Public Library, for example, has computers with Creative Cloud, professional software for video and audio mixing and editing, animation creation, graphic design and more. They also offer programs that provide maker opportunities. For children, they offer a weekly school-age makerspace program called Maker Quest. For teens, APL provides programs featuring items such as Ozobots and 3D printer pens. In addition, teen anime programs at APL offer Japanese-themed maker elements such as creating cosplay costumes or suminigashi (paper marbling). For adults, they offer creative writing classes, a master gardener seminar and a knitting club. Neenah Public Library patrons are invited to become acquainted with 3D printing by creating a small plastic object, something like a popular fidget spinner. The library checks out pans to make cakes in more than 50 shapes, and it checks out ukuleles. Programs include ukulele classes and ukulele jams. Needle crafters are invited each month to knit and crochet together. NPL also has Craft to Go Kits for preschool-age children that include materials to make fun process-based art and Discovery to Go Kits for kids of all ages to design, build, concoct and discover with problem-solving and hands-on experiments.

A class on growing perennials will be offered at the Kimberly –Little Chute Library in April, and it periodically offers STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) programs for kids and Make &Take craft programs for anyone 12 and older. The Kaukauna library will be demonstrating how to make a drop spindle to spin raw wool into yarn in April, and they will have a whole week of crafts for kids who are out of school for spring break when they drop by the library.

The Menasha library has a Media Corner with equipment to convert photographic slides, negatives and photographs to digital images, cassette recordings to digital audio files, and VHS tape, Hi-8 tape, Video 8 tape and 8mm (reel to reel film) to digital video files. The computer in this corner includes photo-, video- and sound-editing software. The corner also has a Cricut maker for cutting out shapes, which are fun additions to scrapbooks and cards. MPL also offers craft programs. And a Menasha library card gives its holder free access to Creativebug, a database of videos, patterns, classes, and ideas for knitting, painting, and crafting.

All Fox Cities libraries offer meeting space for community members to meet, collaborate and create. Explore your creative side at your public library.

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