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# WINTER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026



# STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

## Winter Reading Bucket List

December 1 – January 31<sup>^</sup> • All Bookmobile Stops

Get out of your winter blues and into a good book with the Bookmobile's Winter Reading Bucket List! Pick up a Winter Reading Bucket List activity sheet on the Bookmobile. Then return your completed sheet to any Bookmobile stop from December 1 – January 31 to receive a small prize.

Visit [bit.ly/bookmobilesched](http://bit.ly/bookmobilesched) to view the Bookmobile's schedule.

<sup>^</sup>The Bookmobile will be off the road from December 22 – January 2. The Winter Reading Bucket List program will be on hiatus during these dates.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Rosie at [circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## University High School Madrigal Singers

Friday, December 5 • 2pm • Community Room 1

The sounds of the University High School Madrigal Singers signal the start of the holiday season featuring a capella songs in the style of 16th century England. You won't want to miss this stop on their holiday caroling tour!

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Elf Movie Matinee

Saturday, December 20 • 1:30pm • Community Rooms 2 & 3

Come to the library in your most festive attire to kick off the holiday week watching *Elf*, enjoying a popcorn bar, and making hot chocolate. Some items from Elf's favorite food groups may also appear on the menu.

Produced by Jon Favreau, *Elf* (1 hour, 38 minutes; PG) stars Will Ferrell, James Caan, and Bob Newhart. The movie follows Buddy the Elf as he leaves the North Pole to find his father in New York City.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery

Saturday, January 31 • 10am • Community Rooms 1 & 2

Crime may be elementary, dear Watson, but feelings are much more complicated in this radio play adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's short story, *A Scandal in Bohemia*. This fast-paced one-act play presented by Crossroads Area Student Theatre (CAST) captures the magic of radio drama through an intriguing mystery for the audience to enjoy.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

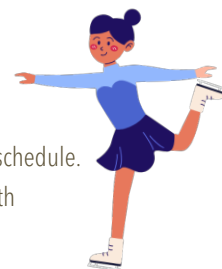
## Winter Olympics Scavenger Hunt

February 2 – 21 • All Bookmobile Stops

From February 2 – 21, skate on over to any of the library's Bookmobile stops for a fun scavenger hunt based on the Winter Olympic Games!

Visit [bit.ly/bookmobilesched](http://bit.ly/bookmobilesched) to view the Bookmobile's schedule.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Meredith at [circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:circulation@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

## D&D for Kids\*

Thursdays • 6pm • December 4 & 18; January 8 & 22; February 5 & 19

Mondays • 4pm • December 8; January 12; February 9

Children's Program Room 2

This Dungeons & Dragons experience for kids in Grades 3 – 5 will include a simplified adventure with pre-generated characters. To accommodate more kids, each child is limited to signing up for ONE session per month.

Registration is required and can be completed at [bit.ly/ddforkids](http://bit.ly/ddforkids).

- Registration for the December sessions will open at 9am on November 20.
- Registration for the January sessions will open at 9am on December 26.
- Registration for the February sessions will open at 9am on January 22.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Jesse at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Super Saturday Story Time

Saturdays • 10am • December 6, January 17, February 21

Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Get ready to dance, sing, and dive into magical stories at our all-ages story time! Perfect for caregivers and kids from birth to 11 years old, this event is packed with music, movement, and read-aloud fun. Come share in the joy and wonder. We can't wait to see you!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Clare at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## After School at BPL

Thursdays • 3:30 – 5:30pm • December 11; January 15 & 29;

February 12 & 26 • Children's Program Room 1

Join us in Children's Program Room 1 for after-school fun. Various activities will be offered depending on the date.

- December 11 - Bingo
- January 15 - Kitchen Art: Create a painted masterpiece using common kitchen items such as forks, foil, and sponges.
- January 29 - Bingo
- February 12 - Bubble Wrap: Use bubble wrap to create a project.
- February 26 - Games: Explore the Children's Game Kits.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Lisa at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

## RC Cars for Kids\*

Saturdays • 2pm • December 13, January 10, February 7  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Kids will work together repurposing cardboard boxes to build obstacles and ramps for Remote Control cars. They'll then take turns at the wheel maneuvering through their creation. Boxes and cars will be provided.



Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at [bit.ly/bplrccars](http://bit.ly/bplrccars).

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Jesse at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Singing, Swinging Story Time

Mondays • 6pm • December 15, January 19, February 16  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for an evening of stories, laughs, fingerplays, and songs accompanied by guitar! This story time is for people of all ages.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Cody at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Sensory Story Time

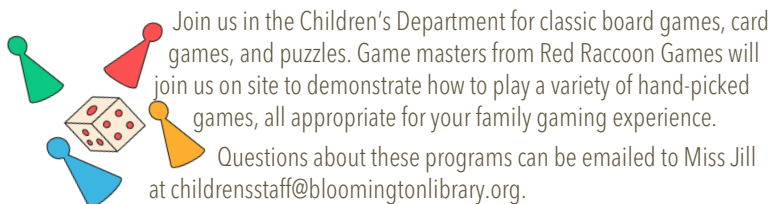
Saturdays • 10am • January 10 & February 7  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

This inclusive story time offers stories, songs, and sensory-focused activities for children of all ages and abilities! After story time, stay for sensory play and socialization. Intended as a safe space for children with autism, this program is also open to siblings, caregivers, and any kids who would like to make friends.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Fun & Games: Family Game Day

Sundays • 2 - 4pm • January 11 & February 8  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2



## Lapsit Story Time

Tuesdays • 10am & 6pm • January 13, 20, 27;  
February 3, 10, 17, 24 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at Lapsit Story Time for stories, music, movement, art, and play which strives to help develop and enhance early literacy skills and your baby's development. This program is intended for children ages 0 - 18 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays • 10am • January 14, 21, 28;  
February 4, 11, 18, 25 • Children's Program Room 2

Help your child build independent listening skills while learning and having fun! This story time – recommended for children age 3-5 years – will feature longer stories, flannel boards, music, puppets, and activities which will help get your pre-readers ready for school.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Jesse at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Tales for Tails\*

Wednesdays • 6pm • January 14, 21, 28;  
February 4, 11, 18, 25 • Children's Department

This program pairs trained and certified therapy dogs with children in Grades K - 5 who want to practice reading aloud. During each session, there will be 4 time slots available for kids to meet and read to a pup in the Children's Department.



Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at [bit.ly/talesfortails](http://bit.ly/talesfortails). Ms. Alex will personally email those who register to assign them a time slot and introduce them to the dog they'll be meeting!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Toddler Story Time

Thursdays • 10am • January 15, 22, 29;  
February 5, 12, 19, 26 • Children's Program Room 2

Toddlers are always on the go! Come to story time to encourage their emerging skills with books, rhymes, music, and lots of movement activities. This program is intended for children ages 18 - 36 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Fun Friday Story Time

Fridays • 10am • January 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us on Fridays for 30 minutes of music, movement, giggles, and great stories! This playful and engaging story time is perfect for kids – from birth to age 11 years – and their grown-ups, too. Whether you're wiggling to a song or diving into a magical tale, there's something for everyone. Come join the fun and make Friday your favorite day of the week!

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Clare at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

# STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## Sew Much Fun!\*

Wednesday, December 3 • 5:30pm • Innovation Lab

Children ages 8 – 11 years are invited to bring their favorite grown-up and join us in the Innovation Lab to make a simple holiday stocking. To stitch up this holiday fun, no sewing experience is necessary, and all supplies will be provided.

Beginning November 19, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/sew1203](http://bit.ly/sew1203). Miss Jill will personally email those who register to assign them a 20-minute time slot during the two-hour program window.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Miss Jill at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Family Art Night

Tuesday, December 9 • 6 – 7pm • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at the library for a relaxing evening of art making and creativity with your family! There will be a variety of art supplies available to create your family's masterpiece. This drop-in program is intended for children ages 3 – 11 years accompanied by their caregivers and families.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Cozy Winter Crafts

Wednesday, December 10 • 6 – 7pm  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Save big money at the library! Join us to make classic low-budget (free to you) decor for the winter season. Kids will learn to make crafts such as decorative spiced oranges, popcorn strings, paper chains, paper ornaments, and paper snowflakes! These crafts are best for kids age 5 – 11 years with their caregiver, but siblings are also welcome.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Winter Solstice Story Time

Sunday, December 21 • 2 – 3pm • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Celebrate the Winter Solstice in this magical all-ages story time! We will share stories, make crafts, and learn about the traditions surrounding the shortest day of the year.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Cozy 3D Mug Painting\*

Monday, December 22 • 10am • Children's Program Room 1

Join us at the library to warm up your creative spirit with this cozy art project brought to you by the Illinois Art Station! Artists will design their very own 3D paper mug, complete with fluffy "steam" rising from the top. Using a magical watercolor and oil pastel resist technique, children will create a colorful, cozy masterpiece that looks like it's ready to sip! This program is intended for kids 5 – 11 years of age.

Registration is required and is limited to 20 young artists. Each child must have their own registration to participate. Beginning December 8, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplmugpainting](http://bit.ly/bplmugpainting).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Reading Land

December 22 – January 7 • Children's Department

During all the library's open hours from December 22 to January 7, you'll be able to visit the Children's Department and play Reading Land!

The object of the game is to roll the die and move along the brightly colored path through the Children's Department until you reach Library Land.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Lisa at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Sign and Sing

Monday, December 29 • 10am • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join Communication Junction at Bloomington Public Library for a 30-minute Sign + Sing Story Time. We will be signing, singing, and reading books all about cookies and jammies! This story time is geared for children ages 0 – 5.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Melissa at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Galactic Guardians:

### An Eco Expedition with Wall-E!

Tuesday, December 30 • 10am • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at the library for an out-of-this-world presentation by the Ecology Action Center! During this program, attendees will be taken through a picture book featuring everyone's favorite galactic guardian Wall-E! We will then discuss the importance of managing trash and caring for planet Earth. Attendees will also have a chance to build recycled pots out of newspaper and take home a trash scavenger hunt.

This program is intended for children age 5 – 11 years who are accompanied by their caregivers. All materials to create recycled pots will be provided.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## New Year's Story Time and Party

Friday, January 2 • 10am • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to attend more story times? If so, that's perfect! The library is hosting a celebratory, all-ages story time with fun books, songs, dancing, and bubbles. Stay for a snack, games, party favors, and crafts, too. Kids from birth to 11 years and their grownups can make new friends (while keeping the old) and start the year off strong!

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Free-Range Rock Painting!\*

Wednesday, January 7 • 6pm • Children's Program Room 1

Attendees will have free range to paint rocks however they would like! The library will provide the supplies and help with assembly, but kids will also need help from their grown-ups.

Beginning December 23, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplpaintrocks](http://bit.ly/bplpaintrocks).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## MLK Day: Self-Portraits!

Monday, January 19 • 10am – 12pm  
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at the library on this non-school day to help celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by creating a self-portrait! Materials will be provided, and pictures will be taken by staff to add to our social media pages and our Diversity Mural (the mural will be displayed in February).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Learn to Quilt\*

Saturday, January 24 • 9:30am • Children's Program Room 1

Children in Grades 3-5 are encouraged to come to the library to learn how to quilt using English Paper Piecing (EPP). EPP is a hand sewing technique that uses paper templates and fabric to create quilt blocks. Participants will learn the basic techniques and work to complete a small project to take home. No previous sewing experience is needed.

Beginning January 10, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/quilt0124](http://bit.ly/quilt0124). Registration is limited to 10 kids.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Carmen at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Diversity Mural

February 1 – 28 • Children's Activity Room

Join us in celebrating Black History Month by visiting the library during the month of February and creating a self-portrait to add to our Diversity Mural. While you're at the library, you're also encouraged to view our displays and check out materials featuring influential African and Black American authors, illustrators, and characters.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Ramadan Story Time

Saturday, February 14 • 10am • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Come celebrate as we prepare for Ramadan with a lively, all-ages story time! We'll read books, sing songs, get creative with crafts, and learn about the significance of this special time of year. Events like this help bring our community together, promoting understanding and connection. Stay after story time if your child would like to receive a henna tattoo! These tattoos last up to two weeks and gradually fade over time.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alex at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Lunar New Year Crafts

Tuesday, February 17 • 9am – 9pm • Children's Department

Happy Lunar New Year! Join us at the library to welcome in a prosperous year as we make crafts in the Children's Department.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Craftivism for Kids: Mental Health Kits\*

Monday, February 23 • 5:30pm • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

A combination of crafts and activism, "craftivism" is a way to explore historical and modern examples of arts and crafts being used to convey a message. In this session, kids in Grades 2 – 5 will design a mental health first aid kit and learn about the importance of self-care.

Beginning February 9, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/kidcraftivism](http://bit.ly/kidcraftivism).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at [childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

# TEEN PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

## Teen Craftivism\*

Mondays • 6pm • December 8, January 5, February 2  
Various BPL Locations

During Teen Craftivism, teens will learn a new craft and the history behind it, focusing on both historical and modern uses of arts and crafts.

Monthly crafts for December through February are as follows:

- December 8: **Sustainable Food: Canning Freezer Jam**  
*Jam will be made in a non-commercial kitchen. Eat at your own discretion. Product may be stored unopened in a freezer for up to one year. Once opened, jam can be refrigerated for up to one month.*
- January 5: **No-Sew Winter Blankets**
- February 2: **Mental Health First Aid Kits**

Registration is required and opens one month before the date of each session at [bit.ly/teencraftivism](http://bit.ly/teencraftivism).

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Teen Writing Workshops

Wednesdays • 12 – 1pm • December 10; January 14 & 28;  
February 11 & 25 • TeenZone

This writing workshop is for teens in Grades 6-12 and is perfect for homeschooled creative writers!

Drop by the TeenZone for writing tips and tricks and to talk about the art of prose. Essay help and personal creative writing projects are perfect for this program which will focus on creative collaboration and bettering your writing skills. All you need is a writing project to work on (big or small), an open mind, and your thinking cap! Mini lessons may be available upon request.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# TEEN PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

## Teen Genre Book Club

Saturdays • December 13, January 10, February 14  
Conference Room

The Teen Genre Book Club meets monthly to discuss a different genre of book, giving you more choice of what to read. Pick any book that fits the month's genre. The December & February meetings will begin at 11am. The January meeting will begin at 10am.

- December 13: **Mystery**
- January 10: **New Books**
- February 14: **Nonfiction**

Registration for each session is suggested and can be completed at [bit.ly/teencraftivism](http://bit.ly/teencraftivism).

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

# STANDALONE TEEN PROGRAMS

## Teen Tiny Art Show

December 1 – January 2 • TeenZone

Beginning December 1, teens may pick up a mini canvas to take home and transform or use provided supplies in the TeenZone to create a tiny masterpiece! TeenZone supplies will be available to use during after-school hours on days that the library is open. Completed art should be returned to the TeenZone no later than 5pm on Friday, January 2. Each piece will be numbered and displayed for all to enjoy as part of our Teen Tiny Art Show! Each participant is limited to one entry.

Art will remain on display through Sunday, February 1, for public voting. The creators of the three pieces of art which receive the most votes will each win a prize, so give that canvas your all! Artists may retrieve their art beginning Tuesday, February 3.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Cora at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## SuperHot Showdown!

### Teen VR Face Off\*

Saturday, December 6 • 2pm • TeenZone

Get ready for an action-packed showdown in SuperHot VR, where time only moves when you do! Teens will go head-to-head in the Demo mode, seeing how far they can make it without being defeated. This double-elimination tournament will test your reflexes, strategy, and VR skills as you compete for the top spot and a chance to win some awesome prizes.

Beginning November 22, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/vrshowdown1206](http://bit.ly/vrshowdown1206).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Teen DIY Personalized Mugs\*

Tuesday, December 30 • 2pm • Community Room 3

Join us on this day without school to relieve your boredom at home by painting a ceramic mug.

Beginning December 1, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/teenmugs](http://bit.ly/teenmugs).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## D&D: The Warlord's Tomb\*

Saturday, January 10 • 12:45 – 4:45pm • Conference Room

A dark curse has settled over the remote farming village of Creswick. Livestock are vanishing, crops are withering, and ghostly figures roam the night – all pointing toward the long-sealed crypt of a forgotten warlord. Only you can save this village and break the warlord's curse.

Players will need a level 4 character sheet – created either physically with pen and paper, digitally using D&D Beyond, or chosen from the character sheets provided. Writing utensils will also be provided.

Beginning December 20, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/dd0110](http://bit.ly/dd0110). Registration is limited to 5 teens.

Questions about this program can be emailed to DJ at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Zine Scene: Design, Print, Repeat\*

Monday, January 12 • 5:30pm • Innovation Lab

Teens are invited to join us for a hands-on workshop where they'll learn to design, print, and cut their very own 8-page zine! (Zines are small, self-published booklets that can showcase anything from artwork, poetry, stories, and even personal opinions.)

Participants will use Canva.com to design their zines; print using the library's resources; and precisely cut the zine's pages using the library's Cricut cutting machine to give the zine a professional finish.

Beginning December 29, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplzinescene](http://bit.ly/bplzinescene). Registration is limited to 12 teens.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## MLK Jr. Craft: Peace Candle Holder\*

Monday, January 19 • 2pm • Community Room 3

Join us on this day without school to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by creating a DIY votive candle holder featuring quotes from Martin Luther King Jr.

Beginning January 5, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/mlkcandle](http://bit.ly/mlkcandle).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# STANDALONE TEEN PROGRAMS

## Pixel Art\*

Monday, January 26 • 5:30pm • Innovation Lab

During this program teens will learn about and create pixel art. Teens will make pixel art characters (called sprites) and simple animations using provided laptops.

Beginning January 12, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplpixelart](http://bit.ly/bplpixelart).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Homemade Valentines

Tuesday, February 10 • 6:30–8pm • Community Room 3

Join us for a teens-only crafty night making Valentines while listening to music and enjoying snacks. We will have a variety of crafting supplies for you to make the perfect Valentine for your friends, family, or that special someone.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## D&D: Breakout at Blackstone Keep\*

Saturday, February 14 • 12:45–4:45pm • Conference Room

During this program, teens will play through an exhilarating Dungeons & Dragons adventure packed with plenty of twists, turns, and unexpected allies!

Players will need a level 1 character sheet without equipment – created either physically with pen and paper, digitally using D&D Beyond, or chosen from the character sheets provided. Writing utensils will also be provided.

Beginning February 1, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/ddbreakout](http://bit.ly/ddbreakout). Registration is limited to 5 teens.

Questions about this program can be emailed to DJ at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Teens Behind the Scenes

Monday, February 16 • 1pm • TeenZone

Have you ever wondered what's going on behind the scenes at the library? Whether you're just curious or investigating a potential career, this teens-only guided tour through the staff areas of the library will answer all your questions! Starting in the Teen Zone, we'll embark on an adventurous tour to see everything that happens behind the book stacks – from Children's programming all the way up to administrative work on the third floor. You're bound to learn a thing or two about how libraries function!

Questions about this program can be emailed to Cora at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Teen Trivia Night

Monday, February 23 • 5:30pm • TeenZone

Join us for a night of trivia in the Teen Zone! You can bring friends to play as a group or play on your own. Teams of 6 people or less can compete to win a prize. The team with the most points wins!

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

## De-Icing and Winter Prep

Tuesday, December 2 • 6pm • Community Room 3

Did you know that the road salt we use to manage ice can harm our streams, lakes, and water supply even during the summer months? Join the Ecology Action Center in exploring how road salt impacts water quality and ecosystems and how you can help reduce that impact.

This program is perfect for concerned community members, gardeners, and curious families alike.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Handmade Holidays

Saturday, December 13 • 12–2pm • Innovation Lab

It's the season of giving! During Handmade Holidays you can create unique handmade gifts for loved ones. Design jewelry with GlowForge-cut pieces, add color to a 3D-printed stained-glass design, or use the sublimation printer to create a custom puzzle!

This event is open to teens and adults. Crafts are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Molly at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Holiday Hits: Musical Bingo\*

Sunday, December 14 • 2pm • Community Room 2

If you can't get enough holiday music, you'll not want to miss the library's first ever Holiday Hits edition of Musical Bingo!

This isn't your usual game of Bingo. Musical Bingo is a fun game where players listen to short snippets of songs and mark off the corresponding titles on their Bingo cards, hoping to be the first to get a winning pattern and shout, "BINGO!"

Registration is required and can be completed at [bit.ly/bplmusicalbingo](http://bit.ly/bplmusicalbingo).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Sourdough Breadmaking Essentials

Wednesday, January 14 • 6pm • Community Room 1

Discover the secrets behind turning simple ingredients – such as flour, water, and salt – into delicious, crusty sourdough bread using wild yeasts and bacteria.

This program, presented by the University of Illinois Extension Office, will guide you in the art and science of sourdough baking and is perfect for beginners.

Participants will receive informational resources, digital handouts, and recipes that will allow them to dive right into the world of sourdough after the program.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



# STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

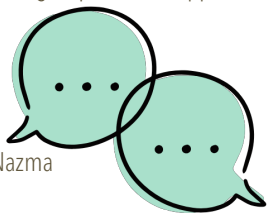
## Language Conversation Group

Monday, February 16 • 5:30pm • Community Room 3

Are you looking to practice your language skills in a friendly and relaxed setting? Come join our Language Conversation Group! Whether you're learning a new language or want to keep your skills sharp, this group offers a supportive space to speak, listen, and connect with others.

Drop in, meet new people, and build confidence in your language abilities! Registration is not required.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Nazma at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Recording Studio Basics\*

Saturday, February 21 • 3pm • Computer Lab & Online

Bloomington Public Library offers two recording studios which are available for public use! If you're leery to reserve time in the studios because you don't know how to use the equipment and software, this is your chance to learn!

Adults and teens are invited to join in person or watch the livestream of this program at [bit.ly/blmlibyoutube](https://bit.ly/blmlibyoutube).

Registration is only required for in-person attendees and can be completed beginning February 7 at [bit.ly/recbasics](https://bit.ly/recbasics).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Understanding Eating Disorders

Thursday, February 26 • 6:30pm • Community Room 1

According to the National Eating Disorders Association, nearly 30 million people in the United States will experience an eating disorder in their lifetime. Staff from One Hope Project will present an educational overview of eating disorders, address common myths, and go over best practices for supporting those who are experiencing eating disorders. The presentation will be followed by a Q & A session.

Attendees may submit anonymous questions in advance of the program using the following link: [bit.ly/onehopequestions](https://bit.ly/onehopequestions).

This program is appropriate for teens and adults interested in learning more about eating disorders, body image, disordered eating, or ways to support someone who may be struggling.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS IN A SERIES

### Midweek Movie

Wednesdays • 1pm • December 3, January 7, February 4  
Community Room 3

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the library while watching a film on our big screen. It's a great way to unwind and enjoy a variety of movies in a comfortable setting. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Best of all, there's no registration required – just come in and enjoy the show!

- December 3: *Die Hard*
- January 7: *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*
- February 4: *Selma*

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Molly at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### Watercolor Snowman Bookmarks\*

Sunday, December 7 • 2pm • Community Room 3

Participants will use watercolor paints to create a seasonal snowman bookmark. Instructions and all supplies will be provided.

Beginning November 24, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/snowman1207](https://bit.ly/snowman1207).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Rhonda at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



### Disability Insurance Workshop\*

Saturday, January 10 • 1pm • Community Room 2

At this free workshop presented by Chestnut Health Systems, participants will learn how to navigate the application processes for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Attendees will learn the differences between these two programs, what qualifies as a disability, and learn tips that may increase the likelihood of application approval.

A free disability starter kit will be provided to each attendee. This program is intended for adults who are interested in applying for SSI/SSDI for themselves or an adult family member.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/disability0110](https://bit.ly/disability0110).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

# STANDALONE PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

## Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig\*

Tuesday, January 13 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Jonathan Eig is the bestselling author of six books, including his most recent, Pulitzer Prize-winning *King: A Life*. Vividly written and exhaustively researched, it is the first major biography in decades of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr., and the first to include recently declassified FBI files. Eig gives us an intimate view of King, who masterfully employed peaceful protest in the streets but was rarely at peace with himself.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/ILPJonathanEig](https://bit.ly/ILPJonathanEig). Registration will close at 5pm on January 13. Late registrations will be processed after the live event and will be allowed access to the event recording.

*This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Estate Planning & Wills\*

Tuesday, January 20 • 1:30pm • Community Rooms 2 & 3

Learn how wills, trusts, and powers of attorney work, and why they matter in protecting your family and your future. This class also explores five key areas that shape financial life in retirement, offering clarity around common risks and practical strategies to help avoid them.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/estate0120](https://bit.ly/estate0120).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## STOP THE BLEED®\*

Sunday, January 25 • 2pm • Community Rooms 1 & 2

The leading cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. Learning to STOP THE BLEED® is a lifesaving skill. With three quick actions, you can be trained and empowered to save a life. The person next to a bleeding victim may very well be the one who's most likely to save him or her from bleeding to death. By learning how to STOP THE BLEED®, you'll gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and act quickly and effectively to control bleeding.

This class will be presented by Carle BroMenn Emergency Department Staff and will combine lecture with hands-on practice to teach you how to be an effective first responder and to help stop the bleeding of a severely injured person.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/stop0125](https://bit.ly/stop0125).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Crafting With Action\*

Tuesday, January 27 • 6pm • Community Rooms 1 & 2

Join us to create cozy, no-sew throw blankets to donate to someone in need. While crafting, you'll also make handwarmers to take home for yourself.

This program is a fun way to give back to the community while making something warm and meaningful.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/crafting0127](https://bit.ly/crafting0127).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Molly at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Valentine's Day Cards

Wednesday, February 11 • 4:30 – 6:30pm • Innovation Lab

Make Valentine's Day cards to share with friends, family, loved ones, even yourself! Materials, pre-cut by staff using the Innovation Lab's Cricut machine, will be available to participants to assemble and create their own special design.

Materials will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Molly at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).



## Sew a Book Pillow\*

Wednesday, February 18 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

Adults will explore sewing by using the Bernette B05 Academy Sewing Machine in the library's Innovation Lab as they create book pillows. Before using the machine, adults will be shown a demonstration of how to thread the machine and the bobbin.

Finished book pillows will be 18" x 18", will include a handle to carry the pillow, and will have a sleeve sewn into the side which will hold a book. All supplies will be provided, and all fabric will be pre-cut so everyone has time to use the machines.

Beginning February 9, registration can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplbookpillow](https://bit.ly/bplbookpillow).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine\*

Tuesday, February 24 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

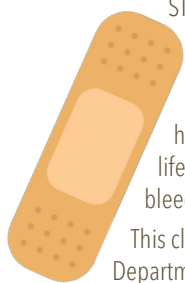
Witty, creepy, and compulsively readable, bestselling author R.L. Stine defined horror for a generation of young readers. The generation that grew up with the Goosebumps franchise may be grown but Stine keeps finding ways to keep us afraid of the dark! Join us with *The Guinness Book of World Records* "most prolific author of children's horror novels," R.L. Stine, to discuss his illustrious and still-expanding body of work.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/ILPStine](https://bit.ly/ILPStine).

Registration will close at 5pm on February 24. Late registrations will be processed after the live event and will be allowed access to the event recording.

*This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).





# BOOK CLUBS

## Books On Tap Book Club\*

Monday, December 1 & Thursday, February 5 • 6pm

Lil Beaver Brewery

- **December 1** - *Starter Villain* by John Scalzi
- **February 5** - *You Are Fatally Invited* by Andre Pliego

Learn more or register online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Molly at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Let's Dish! A Cookbook Club\*

Mondays • 6:30pm • December 8 & February 9

Community Room 3

Participants are asked to prepare and share a dish from the month's chosen cookbook/theme. Those who bring a dish can sample dishes brought by others as food and cooking are discussed.

- **December 8** - (cookbook) *Preppy Kitchen Super Easy* by John Kanell
- **February 9** - (theme) Soul Food

Learn more or register online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Nazma at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Silent Book Club

Thursday, December 11 • 6pm • Quiet Reading Room

Do you need to spend a peaceful hour with a book? The Silent Book Club offers this! Bring a book with you or find a new favorite in the stacks to enjoy reading in our Quiet Reading Room from 6 – 7pm. After 7pm, you have the option to socialize with other readers in our Conference Room until 7:30pm.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## True Colors Book Club\*

Thursday, December 11 • 6:30pm • Unitarian Universalist Church

The True Colors Book Club – hosted by Bloomington Library, PFLAG Bloomington-Normal, and Prairie Pride Coalition – meets quarterly to discuss books with themes relevant to the LGBTQ+ community.

Meetings are held in person at the Unitarian Church (1613 East Emerson Street). The December 11 meeting will discuss *Bi: The Hidden Culture, History, and Science of Bisexuality* by Julia Shaw.

Learn more or register online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club\*

Mondays • 7pm • December 15 & February 23

Conference Room & Online

Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club meets quarterly and is for all fans of true crime – whether you're a devotee or you just discovered the genre.

- **December 15** - *League of Lady Poisoners: Illustrated True Stories of Dangerous Women* by Lisa Perrin
- **February 23** - ^ *In Light of All Darkness: Inside the Polly Klaas Kidnapping and the Search for America's Child* by Kim Cross

^ Author Kim Cross will join the February 23 meeting via Zoom.

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Mystery Book Club\*

Tuesdays • 7pm • January 13 & February 10

Conference Room & Online

- **January 13** - *Just Another Missing Person* by Gillian McAllister
- **February 10** - *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Marcie at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Fiction Book Club\*

Tuesdays • 7pm • January 20 & February 17

Conference Room & Online

- **January 20** - *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn
- **February 17** - *Get a Life, Chloe Brown* by Talia Hibbert

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## Book Brunch Club\*

Thursdays • 10am • January 22 & February 26,

Conference Room & Online

Start your day right with Book Brunch Club, a cozy book club where you bring your coffee and snacks, we provide the books, and together we dive into lively discussions! Participants have the option to meet either in-person at Bloomington Public Library or online via Zoom.

- **January 22** - *The Inheritance* by Trisha Sakhlecha
- **February 26** - *Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World* by Christian Cooper

Registration is required and can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Molly at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

## History Reads Book Club\*

Tuesday, February 3 • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

In partnership with the McLean County Museum of History, the History Reads Book Club meets quarterly and focuses on books about Illinois history.

The February 3 meeting will discuss *Fifty-Nine in '84: Old Hoss Radbourn, Barehanded Baseball, and the Greatest Season a Pitcher Ever Had* by Edward Achorn.

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at [bit.ly/bplbookclubs](http://bit.ly/bplbookclubs).

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Sara at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).

# Call for Proposals: Artist in Residence

*Deadline for Proposals: January 15, 2026*

The Artist in Residence program at Bloomington Public Library welcomes creative individuals from many different backgrounds, such as painters, photographers, illustrators, digital sculptors, sewists, embroiderers, graphic designers, and any other type of artist who has a talent they would like to share. Over an eight-week period during the spring of 2026 (any eight-week period between March 1 – May 31), the chosen artist will share their skills and creative processes with small groups of teens and adults in the library's Innovation Lab, inspiring our community to explore new forms of art and expression.

## **Residency Expectations:**

### **· Public Workshops/Classes (4 Sessions):**

- Artist-in-Residence will offer a total of four (4) hands-on public classes or workshops in the Innovation Lab at Bloomington Public Library.
- Each class will be 2 hours in length.
- Classes should relate to the artist's specific discipline and be designed to engage a diverse public audience.

### **· Drop-in Consultation/Q&A Sessions (4 Sessions):**

- Artist-in-Residence will be available for a total of four (4) "Ask the Artist" drop-in sessions.
- Each Q&A session will last 1 hour.
- Q&A sessions will allow class participants to ask questions about their projects, receive help, and discuss general ideas.

### **· Final Project/Presentation:**

- Artist-in-Residence will produce a final, public-facing component to conclude the residency. This may include an exhibit, reading, performance, or demonstration of the work created during the residency.

### **· Programs should maintain standards set forth in the Library's Mission Statement:**

- Mission Statement: Bloomington Public Library provides its diverse community with a helpful and welcoming place that offers equitable access to the world of ideas and information and supports lifelong learning.

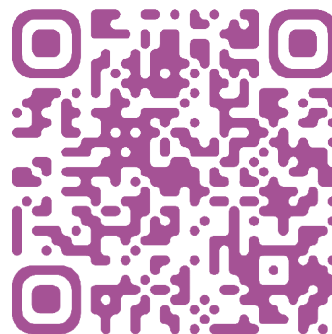


## **Compensation/Stipend:**

- Stipend: \$400
- Upon approval, the library will purchase all necessary supplies and materials as recommended by the artist.

No later than January 15, 2026, interested parties should submit the following via email to [techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org):

- A short description of your program proposal
- Work examples - include either a link to a page that showcases your work or attach multiple photographs of your work
- A copy of your resume attached to the email (please make sure that the resume includes your current contact information)



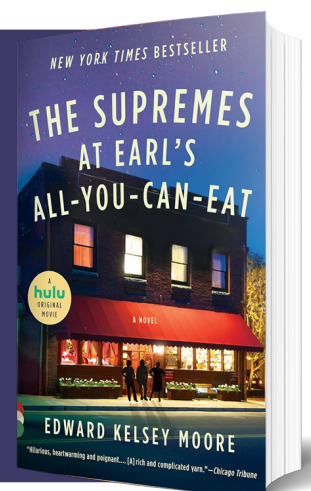
*For more information – including details about compensation & how to apply – visit [bit.ly/bplartist](https://bit.ly/bplartist) or scan the QR code.*

All Artist in Residence programs will take place in Bloomington Public Library's Innovation Lab. To learn more about BPL's Innovation Lab, visit [bit.ly/bplinnovationlab](https://bit.ly/bplinnovationlab).

## **BLOOMINGTON READS 2026 COMING THIS SPRING!**

*The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat* by Edward Kelsey Moore has been chosen as the spotlight title for the 2026 Bloomington Reads Programming Series. During Bloomington Reads, the library provides many copies of the featured title in multiple formats. Area residents are encouraged to read the title, discuss it with their peers, and attend corresponding programs which will focus on themes found in the book. The series will culminate with an April 23 author presentation at the library. **Stay tuned! Additional details will become available in mid-to-late February.**

Synopsis: Set in Plainview, Indiana, *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat* revolves around three lifelong friends – Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean – who've been affectionately dubbed "The Supremes" since their high school days in the 1960s. The novel captures the ladies' enduring friendship as they navigate life's challenges: Clarice grapples with her husband's infidelities; Barbara Jean confronts the aftermath of a youthful love affair; and Odette faces a daunting health crisis.





A photograph of a smiling man wearing a yellow beanie and a grey jacket with a white fur collar. He is looking towards a person in a penguin costume, which has a black head with white eyes and a large white fur collar. They are outdoors, with a brick wall and trees in the background.

## ADDRESS:

205 E. Olive Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701

## WEBSITE:

[BloomingtonLibrary.org](http://BloomingtonLibrary.org)

## PHONE:

309.828.6091

## HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm

Friday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Sunday: 1 - 5pm

## LIBRARY CLOSURES:

December 24, 25, 31 - All Day

January 1 - All Day

*Bloomington Public Library is ADA compliant and strives to serve all patrons of varying abilities and needs. Patrons in need of special accommodations should call 309.828.6091 or email [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org).*

**Bloomington Public Library**

