

The LaunchPad Makerspace is Even More Awesome!

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In my last column, I wrote about a few of the LaunchPad Makerspace services available at several of the Volusia County Public Libraries. To refresh your memory, or if you missed my last column, LaunchPad Makerspace is a section of the physical library that provides technology not always accessible to residents for no cost. These services include duplication services for audio/visual media formats, 3D printers, virtual reality learning and gaming, precise cut equipment for crafts, sewing machines, culinary equipment and materials, specialty photography equipment, robotics, crafts and games, and a seed library.

LaunchPad Services are available at the Daytona Beach Regional Library, Deltona Regional Library, Ormond Beach Regional Library, and the Lake Helen Public Library.

My last column talked about 3D printers, media transfer services, virtual reality headsets and applications, and the Cricut™, a machine that makes precise cuts on a variety of materials.

Here are a few more of the LaunchPad services available.

Sewing

My wife is an avid seamstress and craft sewer. She has her own very expensive sewing machine, but at times still needs the features of a different machine. The libraries offer Singer Sewing machines that are available during the LaunchPad's hours of operation. After receiving certification training on the machines, visitors can bring along personalized sewing projects to complete anytime the LaunchPad is open. Ages 13+. Trying your hand at sewing before you invest in a sewing machine of your own is smart and sensible. Many times a person interested in sewing will purchase an inexpensive or used machine that doesn't perform very well, and thus the person decides that sewing is not right for them. Using a new, high-end sewing machine could be the difference between pursuing sewing as a new career or hobby, or not. Give yourself the right tools, and training, and the results will be greatly improved.

Recipes and Reads Culinary Lab

Recipes and Reads Culinary Labs are all-age food or cooking demonstrations featuring nutritional literacy, food acquisition methods, food handling, hygiene and safety, culture and history of food, and consumer cost-saving techniques and meal stretching. The program often uses a mobile cooking demonstration cart, called the Charlie Cart™. This project was funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services administer Florida's LSTA program.

Green Screen Photography

Green Screen photography is a process that replaces a solid green background behind the subject with a new background using software images. Staff pose LaunchPad visitors in front of a green screen and let them choose from a variety of appropriate backgrounds. A photo release form and email address are required. Available by appointment or during programs.

Robotics

Robotics is the science of creating intelligent or maneuverable machines to assist humans in a variety of ways. LaunchPad visitors can use a variety of robotic equipment such as: Ozobots, Botley (fully codable robots), Raspberry Pi, Sphero, and Mechanoid (understands verbal commands), as well as a variety of

tools to build robotics such as brush bots. Available during the LaunchPad's hours of operations or programs.

Crafts & Games

A wide range of games (puzzles, card or board games, etc.) and craft supplies (fuse beads, paper crafts, jewelry making, crochet/knit supplies, etc.) are available during the LaunchPad's hours of operation.

Seed Library

Certified, seasonal herb, flower, or vegetable seeds are available for trial at home. Seeds, hydroponic garden displays, and upcycle gardening demonstrations are available during the LaunchPad's hours of operation.

LaunchPad Makerspace is only available to patrons with an active library card. If you don't have a library card, visit one of the 14 library branches nearest you. It only takes a few minutes and there is no cost for the card. To find a branch location, visit www.volusialibrary.org

Barry KuKus is the Marketing Specialist with the Volusia County Public Library. He can be reached at bkukes@volusia.org