

PROGRAM GUIDE

Sept. - Nov.
2026



CRETE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Program Registration

All programs require registration unless marked with a *. Scan the QR code to register for upcoming events or call (708) 672-8017. All programs are in person, unless marked as  for zoom or  for recording.



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Crete Public Library District



[cretepubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/cretepubliclibrary)



Crete Public Library

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Trustee

Library Hours

Monday-

Thursday

9:30 am-8:00 pm

Friday & Saturday

9:30 am-5:00 pm

Closed Sunday

Upcoming Closings

Labor Day:

September 7

Thanksgiving Eve:

November 25 -

Closing at 5 PM

Thanksgiving:

November 26

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! In honor of this, we're highlighting how library cards offer so much more than just books. It gives you access to our Beyond Books collection, free passes to parks, museums, and concerts, online resources, digital collections, and countless opportunities to learn, create, and explore. Therefore, we have decided that our theme for Library Card Sign-Up Month is **Opening Doors!**

To celebrate, we're bringing back our Library Card Sign-Up Month BINGO! Beginning September 1, pick up a BINGO card at the Patron Services Desk and complete fun activities that highlight the many ways you can use your library card. Complete one row to earn Library merchandise, or fill every square to win a Crete Public Library District t-shirt. Whether you're a longtime patron or recently signed up for your first card, we hope you'll join the fun and discover new ways your library card can open doors all month long!

Annual Report

The Library is proud to introduce our first Annual Report! This Annual Report will highlight the many ways the Library has served the Crete community over the past year, including statistics on physical and digital circulation, program attendance, social services, technology usage, library cardholders, and much more.

The Library belongs to the community it serves, and every visit, library card, program attended, and conversation helps shape its future. We are grateful for the trust you place in us and for the opportunity to serve you. We invite you to explore the report and celebrate everything we've accomplished together by visiting our website at cretelibrary.org.

Teen Volunteer Opportunities

Teens, are you looking for volunteer hours? The Library is here to help with that! We are offering volunteer opportunities through our Teen & Youth Services programming!

Within the Program Guide, you will see teen volunteer opportunities, which will be indicated by a "+." These opportunities will include participating in some of our Teen programs and assisting with some of our Youth Services programs. Service hours will vary per volunteer opportunity.

Interested or have questions? You can contact our Teen & Reference Librarian, Cassandra O'Connell, or our Youth Services Manager, Michelle Rarick.

Michelle: mrarick@cretelibrary.org

Cassandra: coconnell@cretelibrary.org



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Passive

All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

+ indicates a community service opportunity for teens.

Costume Swap* +

Opens Tuesday, Sept. 1 | Families

Bring your gently-used costumes to the Library between Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Saturday, Oct. 10. Costumes and accessories must be clean and in wearable condition with no rips, tears, stains, or strong odors. Footwear and makeup of any kind is not accepted. Costume guns of any kind are not accepted. Join us on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm to pick a new-to-you costume! While supplies last, and sizes are not guaranteed.

Haunted House Contest +

Opens Monday, Sept. 21 | Families with children ages 2-12

Sign up in the Youth Services Department for the spookiest contest of the year! Make your haunted house a library, book, movie, or spooky theme! Enter your diorama-sized Haunted house by Saturday, Oct. 10. Voting will take place from Monday, Oct. 12 to Wednesday, Oct. 28, and the winner will be announced on Saturday, Oct. 31!

Macy's Day Float Contest +

Opens Monday, Nov. 2 | Families

Be a part of the most iconic holiday event of the year! Sign up to make your own diorama-sized Macy's Day Parade Float. Voting will take place from Wednesday, Nov. 18 to Tuesday, Nov. 24, and the winner will be announced on Friday, Nov. 27!

StoryWalk: Leave Me Alone*

Sept. 1-Nov. 30 | Families

Take a walk along Crete Park District's Peter Halligan Nature Trail while enjoying our StoryWalk! This quarter's book is *Leave Me Alone* by Vera Brosgol.

Recurring

Babies & Books

Thursdays, Sept. 3-17, Oct. 8-22, & Nov. 5-19 from 10:00-10:30 am | Ages 0-1

Snuggle, bounce, and bond with your little one as we share rhymes, songs, and stories to foster language development and a love of reading.

Toddler Time

Thursdays, Sept. 3-17, Oct. 8-22, & Nov. 5-19 from 11:00-11:45 am | Ages 2-3

Join us for a morning filled with stories, songs, fingerplays, and other hands-on activities while building early literacy skills.

All By Myself

Tuesdays, Sept. 1-15, Oct. 6-20, & Nov. 3-10 from 1:00-2:00 pm | Ages 4-5

Join us for reading, songs, and hands-on activities designed for preschoolers to promote early literacy and school readiness.

Love on a Leash

Saturdays, Sept. 19, Oct. 24, & Nov. 28 from 11:00 am-12:00 pm | Families

Snuggle up and read to a pup! The dogs from Love on a Leash will be visiting us to spend one-on-one reading time with you.

Muffins with a Mystery Reader

Saturdays, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, & Nov. 7 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. See if you can guess who this month's Mystery Reader is before their identity is revealed!

Let's LEGO*

Wednesdays, Sept. 2, Oct 7, & Nov. 4 from 6:00-7:00 pm | Families

Each month we have a new LEGO building challenge to complete and put on display in the Library.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

STEAM



All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

+ indicates a community service opportunity for teens.

STEAM Tweens: Plague Hunters

Thursday, Sept. 10 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades 3–5
Throughout time, plagues have been one of humanity's greatest fears, but hard working scientists have always worked to do their best to help keep these diseases under control. Join us as we learn about some of these plagues and the science that helps us stop them.

STEAM Kids: Sick Science

Thursday, Sept. 17 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades K–2
Achoo! As flu season approaches, let's take a look at how the germs that make us sick work!

STEAM Tots: Germs

Thursday, Sept. 24 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Ages 3–5
Achoo! As the weather starts to get colder, our old enemy, the flu, starts to arrive. Join us as we learn how germs spread, how they work, and how to keep ourselves safe from bad germs.

STEAM Tweens: Monster Researchers

Thursday, Oct. 8 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades 3–5
Join our monster research team! Explore the science behind legendary creatures like Frankenstein's creature, Dracula, and the Werewolf.

STEAM Kids: Ghastly Ghosts

Thursday, Oct. 15 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades K–2
BOO! Join us for a bootiful evening filled with ghostly ghost themed science experiments!

STEAM Tots: Pumpkin Pals

Thursday, Oct. 22 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Ages 3–5
Come celebrate pumpkins as we experiment with measurements, learn the parts of a pumpkin, and participate in other pumpkin-themed activities.

STEAM Tweens: Excavation Experts

Thursday, Nov. 5 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades 3–5
Welcome to the Crete Public Library dig site! Here our young paleontologists will work to carefully excavate a dinosaur skeleton and learn about other paleological specimens we can find at dig sites.

STEAM Kids: Dino Diets

Thursday, Nov. 12 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades K–2
Chomp chomp! It's time to take a look at our dino friends' diet. Join us for an evening of dinosaur diet experiments.

STEAM Tots: Paleontologist Pals

Thursday, Nov. 19 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Ages 3–5
Oh no! There's been a mix up at the museum and now our fossils and files are all mixed up! Help us put everything back in order as we measure, excavate, and sort all sorts of dinosaurs and fossils.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Not Recurring

All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

+ indicates a community service opportunity for teens.

Comics & Cookies: Fiddlehead Forest +

Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2

Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss a graphic novel, create a craft, and enjoy cookies!

Kid Creatives: Fidgets +

Monday, Sept. 14 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Sept. 14 from 6:00-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5

Let's get crafty! Join us as we make some DIY fidgets.

EPIC Graphic Novel Club: Measuring Up +

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

Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we discuss a graphic novel, create a craft, and enjoy a snack.

Pizza & Parents: A Night Off (Sort Of)

Wednesday, Sept. 16 or 30 from 5:30-7:00 pm

| Families

Join us for an evening of family activities, crafts, and pizza that will be fun for the whole family. The staff of Building Bright Futures will say a quick hello, then get out of the way and just be part of the conversation.

Ask us anything, vent about the week, or just enjoy a slice in peace.

Saturday Morning Cartoons +

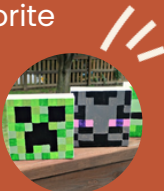
Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10:00-11:00 am | Families

Come in your comfy PJs as we watch some Saturday morning cartoons while snacking on cereal.

Painting Minecraft Mobs +

Monday, Sept. 21 from 6:00-7:00 pm | Grades K-5

Get crafty and paint a portrait of your favorite Minecraft mob!



Miss Jamie's Farm

Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 11:00 am-12:00 pm | Ages 2 & up with caregiver

Miss Jamie's music show is a high energy, audience interactive musical play with farm animal puppets. Kids can sing along, dance, and learn about farm animals and farm foods.

Color Wheel Lion Paintings

Monday, Sept. 28 from 5:00-6:00 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Sept. 28 from 6:00-7:00 pm | Grades 3-5

Inspired by the artwork of Eric Carle, attendees will create their own color wheels shaped like lions.

Comics & Cookies: Narwhal and Jelly: A Super Scary Narwhalloween +

Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2

Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss a graphic novel, create a craft, and enjoy cookies!

EPIC Graphic Novel Club: The Ghoul Next Door +

Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades 3-5

Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we discuss a graphic novel, create a craft, and enjoy a snack.

Kid Creatives: GHOOOOSTSSS +

Monday, Oct. 19 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Oct. 19 from 6:00-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5

Make your own spooky ghost lamps and portraits to decorate your home this spooky season.

Caregiver Connections: Reel Talk & Relaxation

Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 5:30-7:00 pm | Families

Kids get pizza and a movie. You get time with other adults and the staff of Building Bright Futures, with some pizza. We will be watching *Monsters, Inc.*

Mexican Folk Art: Alebrije Building

Monday, Oct. 26 from 5:00-6:00 pm | Grades K-2

Monday, Oct. 26 from 6:00-7:00 pm | Grades 3-5

Attendees will learn the dreamlike folklore of Mexican alebrijes, then combine animal elements (wings, tails, ears, patterns) to build their own!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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Incredible Bats: Animals Around the World

Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Families
Join us at the Library to learn all about some of the amazing animals that live all around our world!

Decorate Your Treat Bags +

Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 4:00–5:00 pm, 5:00–6:00 pm, or 6:00–7:00 pm | Families
Decorate your own tote bag for holiday treats or Library books! Choose one session to attend.

Tales or Treats: A Halloween Storytime

Thursday, Oct. 29 from 10:30–11:45 am | Ages 0–5
Celebrate Halloween early with a Halloween-themed storytime! Costumes are encouraged.

Goosebumps After Hours

Friday, Oct. 30 from 4:00–6:45 pm | Families
Join us for some ghoulish activities during the Library's open hours, then get locked in the Library for a showing of the movie, *Goosebumps*.

Trick-or-Treat at the Library*

Saturday, Oct. 31 from 9:30 am–4:30 pm | Families
Drop in to the Youth Services Department wearing your Halloween costume to get a piece of candy! Candy will be available while supplies lasts.

Comics & Cookies: Dinosaurs Before Dark +

Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 4:30–5:15 pm | Grades K–2
Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss a graphic novel, create a craft, and enjoy cookies!

Family Holiday Photos +

Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10:00 am–4:00 pm | Families
Get that perfect picture for your family holiday cards! A deposit of \$20 is required to hold your spot.

EPIC Graphic Novel Club: Two Tribes +

Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 4:30–5:15 pm | Grades 3–5
Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we discuss a graphic novel, create a craft, and enjoy a snack.

Caregiver Connections: Reel Talk & Relaxation

Wednesday, Nov. 11 from 5:30–7:00 pm | Families
Kids get pizza and a movie. You get time with other adults and the staff of Building Bright Futures, some pizza and zero pressure. We will be watching *Sing*.

Kid Creatives: Giant Fall Leaves +

Monday, Nov. 16 from 4:30–5:15 pm | Grades K–2
Monday, Nov. 16 from 6:00–6:45 pm | Grades 3–5
Make giant fall leaves using butcher paper and paint to hang from your ceiling!

Pre-K Turkey Tales & Trot

Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 1:00–2:00 pm | Ages 3–5
Join us for a storytime full of turkey tales, activities, and crafts. At the end, we will have a "race" with some of the Library's stuffed animals in the Acorn Room and then everyone can trot through the upstairs of the Library for our own parade.

Tot Turkey Tales & Trot

Thursday, Nov. 19 from 10:30–11:30 am | Ages 0–2
Join us for a storytime full of turkey tales, songs, and activities. We will have a "race" for crawlers and walkers in the Acorn Room and then everyone can trot through the upstairs of the Library for our own parade.

Tea Time with T-Rex +

Saturday, Nov. 21 from 1:00–2:30 pm | Families
Come dressed in your finest and practice your best manners as we enjoy this dino-themed tea party.

Golden Tree of Life Painting

Monday, Nov. 23 from 5:00–6:00 pm | Grades K–2
Monday, Nov. 23 from 6:00–7:00 pm | Grades 3–5
Explore Gustav Klimt's style in this mixed media class as you paint spirals and add symbols to a golden "Tree of Life" masterpiece.

TEENS, TECH, & MORE!

Teens

All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

+ indicates a community service opportunity for teens.

Mimic the Masters: Teen Art Club

Mondays, Sept. 21 & Nov. 16 from 6:00–7:30 pm

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

Activities:

- *Sept. 21:* Learn about embroidery as an art form. Create an embroidery masterpiece on paper.
- *Nov. 16:* Learn about famous self-portraits and how they were made. Create your own self portrait using the technique from one of the featured artists.

Teen Volunteer Thursday +

Thursdays, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 from 3:00–5:00 pm

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

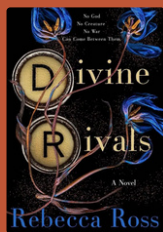
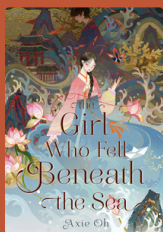
Activities:

- *Sept. 10:* Make book themed pins.
- *Oct. 8:* Write letters to Honor Flight Chicago veterans.
- *Nov. 12:* Decorate rocks for the children's dept.

Teen Lincoln Award Book Club (Grades 9–12) +

Thursdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 from 4:00–5:00 pm

Are you a teen who loves to read? Do you need community service hours for school? Discuss a different Lincoln Award winning book each month and earn community service hours.



Teen Crochet for a Cause +

Tuesdays, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 from 4:00–5:00 pm

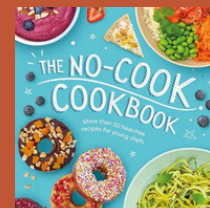
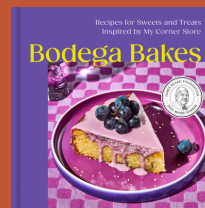
Join Teen Librarian Cassandra to crochet projects for local organizations. Attend three consecutive sessions to earn 3 service hours.

Teens & Adults

Book Appétit Cookbook Book Club

Mondays, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, & Nov. 30 from 6:00–7:30 pm

Bring a dish from the book to share and discuss.



Knot Just for Knitters*

Thursdays, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, & Nov. 5 from 1:00–4:00 pm

Join us to socialize while working on knitting, crocheting, or any other type of needlework project.

Book Edge Painting

Saturday, Sept. 19 from 2:00–4:00 pm

Sprayed edges have taken over new books, but old favorites can be just as beautiful! Bring your favorite book from home, and we'll provide the supplies to decorate its page edges with a design inspired by the story inside.



Technology

Technology programs are for adults.

Beginner's Guide to Conversational A.I.

Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 10:00–11:30 am

Step into the world of conversational artificial intelligence in this practical, beginner-friendly computer class.

Organizing Your Digital Life

Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 10:00–11:30 am

Feeling overwhelmed by digital files or old USB drives? Learn how to organize your files and digitize vinyl records, cassettes, VHS tapes, and photos.

RECURRING ADULT PROGRAMS

Activities & Resources

All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

Adult Writing Group*

Mondays, Oct. 5 & Nov. 2 from 6:00–7:30 pm

Trivia Nights at Evil Horse*

Thursdays, Sept. 10 & Nov. 12 from 7:00–9:00 pm

Knot Just for Knitters*

Thursdays, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, & Nov. 5 from 1:00–4:00 pm

Thursdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, & Nov. 19 from 6:00–7:30 pm

Loom Knitting

Saturdays, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, & Nov. 14 from 10:00 am–12:00 pm

SNAP Help*

Thursdays, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, & Nov. 5 from 10:30 am–12:30 pm

Monthly Meditation Group

Saturdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 31, & Nov. 21 from 10:00–11:00 am

Virtual Cooking Class



Wednesdays, Sept. 16, Oct. 14, & Nov. 18 from 6:30–8:00 pm

Movies

Film Club*

- Thursday, Sept. 24 from 5:30–8:00 pm: *My Dinner With Andre*
- Wednesday & Thursday, Oct. 28–29 from 4:00–8:00 pm: *Horror Fest – Longlegs & Oddity / Cuckoo & Bring Her Back*
- Thursday, Nov. 19 from 5:00–8:00 pm: *Fury*

Retro Movie Friday*

Fridays at 2:30 pm



Scan the QR code for our fall schedule.



Book Clubs

Dead Reckoning True Crime Book Club

Thursdays, Sept. 17 & Oct. 15 from 7:00–8:00 pm



CPLD Book Discussion Group*

Mondays, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, & Nov. 9 from 6:30–7:30 pm



Sci-Fi Book Club*

Wednesdays, Sept. 2 & 30, Nov. 4 from 6:00–7:30 pm



Young Adult (for Adults) Book Club*

Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 from 6:00–7:00 pm



Silent Book Club*

Wednesdays, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, & Nov. 4 from 6:00–7:30 pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

Tai Chi: Gentle Fitness

Friday, Sept. 4 from 11:00 am-12:30 pm
Improve balance, flexibility, and reduce stress with gentle, flowing movements in this relaxing, low impact class for all fitness levels.

Jewelry Upcycle

Saturday, Sept. 12 from 2:00-4:00 pm
Bring jewelry in need of a refresh or repair. Recreate earrings, necklaces, or bracelets using provided beads, stretch cord, or wire cord, and give treasured pieces a beautiful new life.

Rethinking Retirement

Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 6:00-7:00 pm
Rethink retirement as an opportunity to turn passions, skills, and experience into purpose and income.

AARP Safe Driver Course

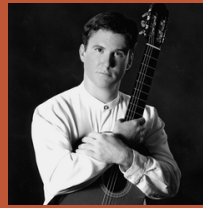
Thursday, Sept. 17 & Friday, Sept. 18 from 9:30 am-1:00 pm
Take the AARP Smart Driver™ classroom course and save on auto insurance! Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers, due on day one.

Author Talk - "In the Belly of the Blues" with Terry Abrahamson

Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 6:00-7:30 pm
Terry shares how growing up on Chicago's West Side led him to discover the blues legends who inspired the British rock icons he admired.

Crafting Herbal Mocktails

Saturday, Sept. 26 from 2:00-4:00 pm
Discover how to craft herbal mocktails with simple syrups, infusions, and bitters.



Peter Fletcher Classical Guitar

Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 6:00-7:30 pm
Classical Guitarist Peter Fletcher is stopping by on a national tour to promote his new all-Bach album.

Quilt Program Part 1 & 2

Thursdays, Oct. 1 & Nov. 5 from 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us for this two-part quilting program to create a 16-square sampler quilt. Attend both sessions to complete the project and earn 3 raffle entries to win the finished quilt (1 entry for attending one session). Sewing experience is strongly recommended.

Garage Sale Days

Friday, Oct. 9 & Saturday, Oct. 10 from 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Not enough items for your own garage sale? Rent a space at the Library during Garage Sale Days! We typically host 20+ vendors inside the Library, plus a few in the Heideman Pavilion, weather permitting. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Craft Swap*

Friday, Oct. 9 & Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Have extra craft supplies? Donate them to the Library's Craft Swap! Want to try a new craft without spending a lot? Shop the swap for free materials. Donors receive early shopping access on Friday morning. Donations begin Thursday, Oct. 1.

Heart and Soul: Music's Role in Cinema

Friday, Oct. 23 from 2:30-4:00 pm
Please join us for a delightful afternoon as we relive some of the most iconic songs and dances in the history of film, celebrating the music, magic, and moments that have captivated audiences through the years.



ADULT PROGRAMS

All programs require registration unless marked with a *.

I Wrote a Book: Now, What Do I Do?

Saturday, Oct. 24 from 2:00-4:00 pm
Congratulations on completing your manuscript! Now what? Should you self-publish it or go the traditional route? This workshop breaks down the pros and cons of each path to help you make an active, informed decision.



Flu Shot Clinic

Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 2:00-4:00 pm
Osco Pharmacy will administer flu shots, including the high-dose shot recommended for age 65+. Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment to allow time to complete the consent form. Bring your photo ID and insurance card with you.



Strictly Self Defense

Saturday, Nov. 14 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Join Lindsey Daehnke of Strictly Self Defense for a trauma-informed program focused on empowerment and personal safety. Learn simple, effective techniques, plus strategies for awareness, decision-making, and knowing when to act.



Route 66: From Chicago to St. Louis

Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 6:30-7:30 pm
You don't have to drive all the way to California to enjoy Route 66 during its 100th anniversary year! Take a long weekend to explore the cool towns, great food, interesting history, and quirky roadside attractions that line the Mother Road from here to The Lou.





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Family Holiday Photos

Get a head start on your holiday cards with our Family Holiday Photo Shoot! We're partnering once again with photographer Joseph Przybylski to help you capture the perfect family photo. Families will enjoy a winter-themed backdrop and a professional photography session. Each family will have a 7-minute session for family group shot photos only (no individual photos). A \$20 deposit is required to reserve your spot. This deposit must be paid in-person with cash or card (please note: cards have a non-refundable service fee).

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 7, with appointment times available between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Reserve your preferred time by visiting our Events Calendar at crete.librarycalendar.com or by scanning the QR code. We look forward to helping you create a holiday memory you'll cherish for years to come!



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