

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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ESSEX LIBRARY

TEEN SUMMER CHALLENGE



HOW IT WORKS

Sign Up!



Students aged 12 - 18 can participate
June 22nd, 2026 - August 25th, 2026.

Once you have completed **any 5 challenges**, come to the library to collect your prize package:

certificates for free pizza and ice cream and a free book.

For every **extra challenge** that you complete, get a raffle ticket put into the running for our grand prize.

GRAND PRIZE:

a raffle basket filled with gift cards to local shops, snacks, books, and other small prizes.

(Raffle drawn on August 25th.)

TEEN EVENTS



Teen Cooking Workshop – Sushi Style Bowls

Saturday, 7/11 @ 11 a.m.

Ages 13 – 18

Learn to create handmade sushi rolls and bowls using simple ingredients and take your cooking skills to the next level. Snacking encouraged! Registration is required to ensure that we have enough materials for this event. Please leave a note with any food allergies during registration.



Level Up! With Ms. Sarah Minor, John Winthrop Middle School Media Specialist Essex Library - Saturday, July 11th at 1 p.m. - Students in grades 7 – 8

Hey middle school students – this one's for you! Join JW Teacher Librarian and gaming expert Ms. Minor for an introductory session to JW Clubs and activities in the Media Center. Are you a genre obsessed reader? Do you love Magic the Gathering or D&D? Learn about upcoming book and gaming clubs throughout the community at our schools, through Tri Town Youth Services and here at the Essex Library. We'll have the scoop on the most popular reads and gaming events for you this summer and into the fall.



Teen Snack & Chat: *Once Upon a Broken Heart*

Thursday, 7/16 @ 3:30 p.m.

Students in grades 9 – 12

Get a jump on your summer reading with our Snack & Chat Book Club. At this session, we'll discuss *Once Upon a Broken Heart* by Stephanie Garber. The library will have copies of the book available all summer. Registration is encouraged to help us to arrange for snacks. We will host three additional Snack & Chat sessions based on the VRHS Summer Reading List.



Teen Escape Room

Thursday, 7/23 @ 4 p.m.

Teen Department

Ages 12 – 18

Can you escape? Bring a few friends or go it alone. Use your detective skills to discover clues, solve puzzles and accomplish an exit. Winners receive fame, glory and a tasty prize. Registration is encouraged to help us arrange for prizes!



Digging for Good with the Essex Historical Society

Saturday, 8/22 @ 2 – 4 p.m.

Pratt House - Essex, CT

Essex Library Association and Essex Historical Society invite children and young adults to join the team from Digging for Good to dig on Pratt House grounds, using metal detectors to find buried objects. This program will be held at Pratt House, 19 West Ave. In the event of rain, this program will not be held. Registration is required.

TEEN EVENTS



Grow a Rare Plant with Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
Thursday, 6/25 @ 3:30 p.m.

Ages 12+

We asked and Baker Creek delivered! Thanks to a generous contribution by the rare seed company, you can join us to plant your choice of white strawberries, six inch tomato plants, purple carrots, rainbow corn, pink dandelions and more. All planting materials for this event will be provided by the Essex Library. Registration is encouraged as space is limited.



Teen After Hours

Friday, 6/26 @ 5 – 7 p.m.

Grades 7 – 12

Join us on Friday night after we close the library doors. Teens only! We'll have a retro video game competition on the big screen and will vote for our next book to film title. Find some games in the teen area or just hang with your friends. The library is yours! Snacks will be provided. This program is designed for teens to attend after the library is closed.



Sewing Workshop with Instructor Andrea Buka

Tuesday, 6/30 @ 2 p.m.

Ages 10 – 18

Have you ever wanted to create your own sewn clothing or supplies? Join us to learn the basics of machine sewing with an emphasis on sustainability. Participants will leave this beginner's course with a completed project. All supplies and tools will be provided, including the use of sewing machines. Personal sewing machines are welcome.



Take & Make – Mini Tin Art Kit

Month of July

Ages 12+

Create the viral trinket tin with our provided art supplies and tutorial. The Teen Department creates a monthly series of free take and make art projects for our crew. Ages 12+ please. First come, first served. Send a photo to jbranciforte@essexlib.org or show us your finished project for a chance to be honored in our crafty D.I.Y. hall of fame.



Teen Music Club

Thursday, 7/2 @ 4 p.m.

Ages 13 – 18

Welcome to Music Club! Here we celebrate quality music of all genres. Join for music video and documentary watch parties and vinyl nights. We'll also organize playlist swaps and take part in music challenges. As our club grows, we will host guest speakers from the music industry and watch live bands perform.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES

Check out our changing Teen Department!

Make a playlist inspired by a book.

Complete a Teen Dept. Scavenger Hunt.

Follow [essexlibraryct](https://www.instagram.com/essexlibraryct) on Instagram.

Grab a "Take and Make" bag from the Teen Dept.

Read a graphic novel.

Write a line of book spine poetry.

Wave to a librarian.

Watch a virtual author talk on our website.

Fill out a Teen Services Survey.

Get or renew a library card.

Sign up for a Book Box.

Play a game in the Teen Department.

Write a book review on our website.

Volunteer at the Essex Library.

Check out a digital item on Hoopla or Libby.

Visit the teen tab on our website.

Attend a teen event.

Grab a Book Tracker from the Teen Dept.

Join the Essex Library Teen Advisory Board.

ACTIVITY LINKS



Use this QR Code to:
visit the Teen Tab on our website,
complete a Book Review form,
fill out a Volunteer Application and/or
fill out a Teen Services Survey.

https://www.youressexlibrary.org/teens/teens_volunteer/



Use this QR Code to:
watch a virtual author talk.
<https://libraryc.org/essexlib>



Android



iOS Apple

Use these QR Codes to:
download our mobile app and
check out a digital item.

TEEN EVENTS



Take & Make – Mini Mandrakes

Month of June

Ages 12+

Create a clay mandrake plant and add instant personality to your space. Grab a kit and design away! The Teen Department creates a monthly series of free take and make art projects for our crew. Ages 12+ please.



Teen Department Display - Creativity Sparks

Month of June

Age 12+

Pick one, pick two, or try them all! Visit the Teen Department throughout the month of June and find a Creativity Sparks display with 50+ ideas to inspire your creative side, with takeaways from CreativeBug. Our DIY resources will be at the ready for you to find a new summer hobby and produce new art.



Drop-In DIY

Tuesdays, June - August @ 3:30 p.m. Essex Library Teen Department
Ages 12 - 18

In the mood to make something? Drop in on Tuesday afternoons this summer to create something new and get out of the heat. Our offerings will include: retro fortune tellers, tiny desk aquariums, Perler bead video game characters, sketching, stitching, junk journaling, machine sewing, button making, sticker by number, magazine collage and more.



Tiny Worlds – Terrarium Class

Saturday, 6/13 @ 1 p.m.

Ages 12 - 18

Learn about the terrarium ecosystem and build your own living world. The library will provide moss, plants, rocks, soil, and a unique glass container. Bring your tiny world to life by including miniature animals and characters. Care instructions and water droppers will be included. Registration is encouraged to be sure that we have enough supplies for this event.



Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Saturday, 6/13 (Pizza Party) 7/11, & 8/8 @ 3 p.m.

Grades 8 - 12

Join our new Teen Advisory crew! We're recruiting teens of all ages to help us make the library a better place for young adults. Help us choose books, plan programs, design the teen department and mentor young readers, all the while earning volunteer service hours. Tell us how to best serve your community and help us follow through. Snacks provided!