



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HENRICO LIBRARIES BRING STEM EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO CENTRAL AND EASTERN HENRICO

Henrico County Public Library (HCPL) will offer STEM programs for children, tweens, and teens this August as part of the NASA @ My Library program. Due to popular demand, HCPL is releasing additional information about obtaining free Eclipse Viewing Safety Glasses and the Eclipse Viewing Parties on August 21.

This August, the NASA @ My Library program at Henrico County Public Libraries is ramping up with robotics workshops for youth planned at Fairfield, Libbie Mill, and Varina libraries. Complete robotics event listings are below. On August 9, Libbie Mill will host a program for children to learn to code with Ozobots. Varina and Fairfield Libraries will host Robot Programming workshops, August 10 at Varina for Kids, and August 24 at Fairfield for teens.

NASA @ My Library programming continues in August with Eclipse Parties happening at libraries across the county. On August 21 from 2-3:30pm, Glen Allen, Libbie Mill, North Park, Twin Hickory, and Varina Libraries will host Eclipse Parties where Henrico residents of all ages can learn about the science behind eclipses, and pick up a pair of glasses to safely view the eclipse while supplies last, courtesy of the Space Science Institute and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Due to a high volume of requests for glasses, Eclipse Glasses will be distributed on August 21 beginning at 1:30pm at all Henrico Libraries.

Eclipse-related programming is expanding to accommodate demand as well.

- On August 10th, Tuckahoe library will host University of Richmond Physics professor Henry Nebel for “Get Ready for the Great American Eclipse,” a discussion of the science of solar eclipses, including what causes a solar eclipse, what can be observed during an eclipse & how often they occur. These events will provide educational activities for all ages to give context to the solar eclipse and the scientific principles behind it.
- At the Libbie Mill library’s Eclipse Party, librarians are planning to make a giant solar pinhole viewer, which will project an enlarged image of the eclipse, as well as hosting a personal pinhole viewer making activity, a livestream of the eclipse from the NASA feed, a UV bead bracelet making activity using supplies from NASA @ My Library, and various other activities for younger children.
- Varina Library is planning to host STEM crafts for children and teens at their eclipse party, including creating sundials for children, and making solar ovens and spectrosopes, for teens. Varina’s adult patrons can enjoy a display of astronomy books related to the eclipse, and patrons of all ages are welcome to view the NASA live stream of the eclipse, plus space-themed movie screenings, and a large-scale, wall-mounted map of the eclipse path.
- At Twin Hickory library, patrons will be able to view the NASA live stream of the eclipse, and children and teens can create constellations out of marshmallows and tooth picks, make a sky

wheel, and make a planetary orbit craft. Patrons will also be able to use a NASA @ My Library-provided scale model of the eclipse made from yardsticks and rubber balls to understand the science behind eclipses.

- Glen Allen and North Park Libraries are also planning family-friendly activities for the eclipse, and will live stream the NASA eclipse coverage as well.

The Henrico County Public Library is thrilled to be able to further our mission to enrich community life, promote lifelong learning, and connect people with the information they need, with the resources provided by NASA @ My Library, our local programming partners, and our endlessly curious community. Henrico County Public Library is one of 75 recipients nationwide, and the only recipient in Virginia, of funding from the NASA @ My Library program, which seeks to increase participation in STEM education for groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. Resources from the NASA @ My Library grant will be focused on Eastern and Central Henrico libraries, though all Henrico County Public Libraries will have access to resources and programming stemming from the grant.

Robotics Workshops

- Build a Robot at Twin Hickory, August 3 at 7pm for adults and teens
- Fun with Ozobots at Libbie Mill, August 9 at 3:30pm for tweens
- Robot Programming Workshop for Kids at Varina, August 10 at 2:30pm for kids
- Robot Programming Workshop for Teens at Fairfield, August 24 at 2:30pm for teens

Eclipse Programming

- Get Ready for the Great American Eclipse at Tuckahoe, August 10 at 2pm recommended for grade 4-adult
- Eclipse Parties at Glen Allen, Libbie Mill, North Park, Twin Hickory, and Varina Libraries, August 21 at 2pm for all ages
 - Eclipse glasses available at all HCPL locations in limited quantities on August 21, beginning at 1:30pm.

Please check henricolibrary.org for additional details.

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