

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Library Introduces TeensCREATE

#### New Teen-Driven Gathering to Hang Out, Mess Around and Geek Out

**September 9, 2016 (Canton, Ohio)** – Beginning this September, Stark County District Library is introducing TeensCREATE, a new weekly event at the Library just for teens. Budding artists, musicians, makers, tech gurus and writers are welcome to mess around with one of the eleven rotating CREATE crates (themed traveling activity kits); explore the library’s extensive collection of books, magazines, and media; or just hang out and have fun. The “CREATE” in TeensCREATE is shorthand for Craft, Read, Engage, Art, Tech, and Enrich.

This free weekly event is a self-guided opportunity for teens to engage in fun, meaningful experiences at the library as they explore their creative side, connect with others through shared interests and develop new skills and knowledge. The teen-centric format allows teens discover new interests ranging from the arts to STEM.

“We’re thrilled to offer teens a new way to engage with each other, new ideas, and the Library,” said Marianna DiGiacomo, Director of Community Services for the Library. “We want to empower them to take the lead in growing their imaginations and expressing their creativity in a fun and unstructured environment.”

TeensCREATE is one of several innovative new offerings at Stark County District Library as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store where everything is free®. Designed to encourage teens to Stay Smart – pursue lifelong learning – and Share Smart – participate in community engagement – TeensCREATE is uniquely tailored to the interests of this important generation in our community.

Visit [StarkLibrary.org/TeensCREATE](http://StarkLibrary.org/TeensCREATE) for more information and to check the schedule at your local branch. Schedules vary by branch location.

### ABOUT THE LIBRARY

One of the 9 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county’s oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 105,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.85 million items from its 1.4 million item collection and

providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents more than 9,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 260,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its “no overdue fines” policy, the BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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*Stark County District Library: Start Smart. Stay Smart. Share Smart.*