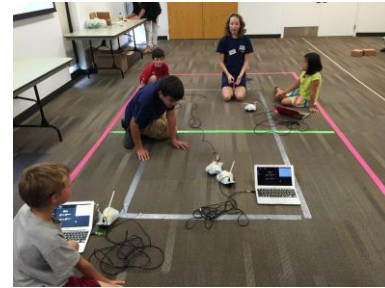


Arlington Heights Memorial Library



Squads

Act Up
Biblio Buddies
Book Buds
<code>breakers
Kids Create
Pee Wee Pollocks
Sprout Squad
STEM Squad
Traditionalists



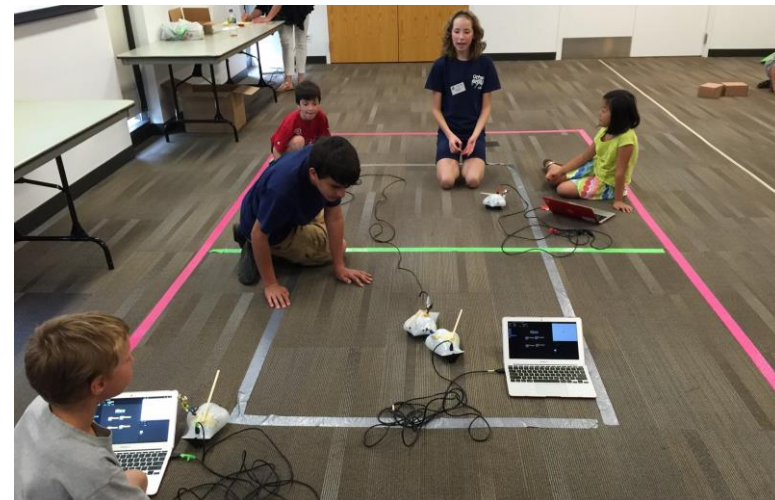
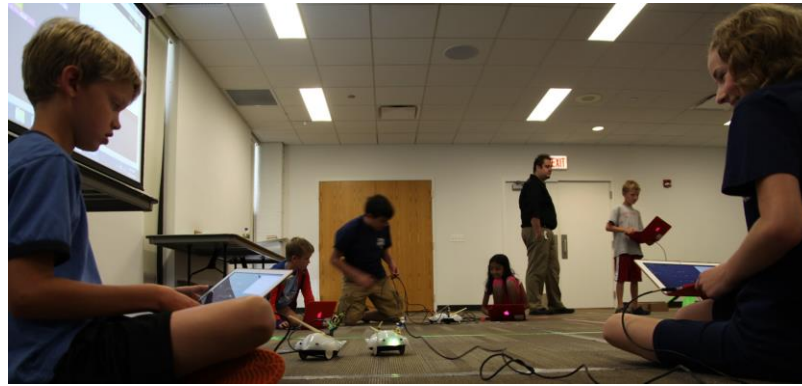
Book Buds Biblio Buddies



Desired Outcome:	Related Projects/Activities:
Engage nontraditional library users	Partner with schools/community organizations
College & career preparedness, leadership development	Developed and presented programs, worked within a set budget and space constraints, mentor youth
Address summer slide	Literacy programming for youth



<code>breakers



Desired Outcome:

Related Projects/Activities:

Engage nontraditional library users

Partner across departments and with schools/community organizations

College & career preparedness, leadership development

Developed and presented programs, mentor youth

Develop interest and skills in computer science

Teen-developed, hands-on projects for all ages

Sprout Squad



Desired Outcome:

Related Projects/Activities:

Apply STEAM-concepts

Companion planting, planning garden layout, build trellises, design garden signs, prep for Farmer's Market

Aware of library resources, information literacy

Plant identification, prep for Farmer's Market booth

Civic duty

Produce donation, Farmer's Market

Understanding of nutrition, where food comes from

Working in garden, prep for Farmer's Market

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS POST



Suburbs / Arlington Heights / Arlington Heights Area News

Arlington Heights library's Sprout Squad youth volunteers reap bountiful harvest



After spending the summer planting, weeding and watering, middle school students volunteering with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library's Sprout Squad, pictured here, are reaping a bountiful harvest of organic vegetables this month. (Karen Ann Cullotta / Pioneer Press)

By **Karen Ann Cullotta** · Contact Reporter
Pioneer Press

AUGUST 17, 2016, 3:32 PM

After spending the summer planting, weeding and watering, middle school students volunteering with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library's Sprout Squad are reaping a bountiful harvest of organic produce this month.

"I garden at home with my dad, but this is more like team growing," said Connor Flynn, 13, who will start eighth grade at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School later this month.

"It's kind of fun, and probably my favorite part has been growing gourds," added Matthew Onischuk, 13, who is also an incoming eighth grader at Wayside.

Connor and Matthew joined forces with their fellow Sprout Squad members on a recent morning, with the middle school students gathering for one last round of gardening at their tidy plot tucked into a sunny field, adjacent to the Olympic Park Pool.

The Sprout Squad, which last year donated its homegrown cucumbers to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry, is just one of the library's 10 summer volunteer youth groups,

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