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*The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Information Contacts:**

Erica Compton, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or [Erica.compton@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:Erica.compton@libraries.idaho.gov)

Sue Walker, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or [sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov)

Teresa Lipus, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov)

### **Idaho libraries fuse Teen Tech Week and the maker movement**

BOISE, ID – This year libraries are celebrating Teen Tech Week, March 9–15, with a “DIY @ your library” theme. More than 60 Idaho public and school libraries will offer teens an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom—where they can explore, create, and share content. From makerspaces to coding classes to online knitting clubs, libraries are leveraging the do-it-yourself theme to connect in meaningful ways with the teens in their community.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is supporting Teen Tech Week this year by providing participating libraries a “Making in the Library” opportunity that includes ideas for maker activities and the materials to pull it off. ICfL sent 60 Idaho libraries a customized kit from MakerShed containing a soldering station, the *Learn to Solder* book, and 25 Robot Badge making-kits, plus Teen Tech Week posters and manuals from the American Library Association. The public libraries participating in ICfL’s [Make It at the Library project](#) will also incorporate 3D printing, robotic, engineering, and other STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) programming and tools.

Idaho libraries are partnering with businesses, clubs, educators, and other area libraries to give teens an opportunity to innovate and experiment with technology. See a List of Participating Libraries at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/teen-tech-week>.

This project has been made possible in part by funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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Teen Tech Week is a service of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. YALSA is a national association of librarians, library workers, and advocates whose mission is to expand and strengthen library services for teens, aged 12-18. Through its member-driven advocacy, research, and professional development initiatives, YALSA builds the capacity of libraries and librarians to engage, serve and empower teens.



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit <http://www.imls.gov> and follow IMLS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele through support of statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.