



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO HOST STANFORD SPOKES AMERICA STEM PROGRAM EVENT**

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Public Libraries will host a special STEM program, Stanford Spokes America, for students in grades 6 – 12, on Monday, August 28, 2017, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Main Library, located at 146A Madison Road, Orange, Virginia.

Spokes America is a student-driven project with a mission of getting kids across the country excited about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Since 2013, teams of Harvard and MIT students have set out to bike across the country, conducting learning festivals along the way. This year, Spokes America has grown and now includes a team of Stanford students that will bike from San Francisco to D.C., sharing their love for STEM with middle schoolers and high schoolers across the nation. Along the way, the teams will host over 20 learning festivals, teach 80 workshops, and connect directly with over 2,000 students in communities around the country.

Topics for the Stanford Spokes America event include:

- How to Build a Brain – comparing actual animal and human brain specimens and learning how neurons communicate. The goal of How to Build a Brain is to gain knowledge about the building blocks of your brain and that it has the ability to learn anything.
- Game Theory – will give students strategies and hacks behind simple games, such as Tic-Tac-Toe and Chomp, and how to apply the principles to more complicated games.
- Logic & Cockroaches - students will program an Arduino cockroach to keep it from trying to escape. Students will learn about logical flow, which is an important skill every programmer uses.

All supplies are provided and there is no cost for this event. There is a limit of 40 students. A hot dog dinner will be provided to the participants.

For more information about Spokes America, visit <https://spokes2017.wordpress.com/about/> and <https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/stanford-spokes-biking-to-improve-stem-education>. To register for this event or for more information, please contact Katie Hill, Library Director, at (540) 672-3811 or [khill@orangecountyva.gov](mailto:khill@orangecountyva.gov).

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