



# CITY of BEAVERTON

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## NEWS RELEASE

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*The Best of Oregon*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BEAVERTON CITY LIBRARY SCREENING OF “SCREENAGERS: GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE”**

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw her kids scrolling through life with rapid-fire thumbs and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time, and created a documentary with her findings.

Join Beaverton City Library (12375 SW 5<sup>th</sup> St) on Tuesday, Mar. 13 at 6 p.m. for a screening of “Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age,” an exploration of technology and adolescent development. The film (running time: 68 minutes) will be followed by an opportunity for discussion with other community members.

This program is free and open to the public; no registration is required. Seating in Meeting Room A is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit [www.BeavertonLibrary.org](http://www.BeavertonLibrary.org) or call 503-644-2197.

Twenty years ago, *Wired* Magazine predicted the rise of what they termed “push media.” “Push media,” *Wired* contended, “will penetrate environments that have, in the past, been media-free - work, school, church and the solitude of a country walk. Through cheap wireless technologies, push media are already colonizing the world’s last quiet nooks and crannies.”

Media theorist Douglas Rushkoff coined the term “screenagers” in a 1997 book with the same title. He asserted that kids who have used computers since infancy would be able to participate more actively in a participatory media space. Rushkoff is now critical of the hunger for profits that has driven digital control into our lives.

Today, in K-12 classrooms, adoption of tablets as teaching tools moves at a fast clip, with fierce competition among manufacturers to connect each child individually with app-based learning. Kids continue at home with smartphones and gaming. The development of academic aptitude and self control are impacted by such technology. These subjects are explored, as well as anecdotes about some ways to regain control and reach agreement in personal lives. This is a time to examine the saturation of screens into children’s lives. A timely topic that we hope will allow for a community discussion.

Beaverton City Library is one of fifteen member libraries in Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS), which works to provide responsive and efficient library service countywide through centralized catalog, courier and other services.

The city of Beaverton is home to more than 95,000 residents and is Oregon’s sixth largest city. We are a friendly, active and responsive city well-known for our exceptional community

services and amenities, helping Beaverton residents enjoy a high quality of life. Ranked in *Money* magazine's Best Places to Live, Beaverton truly is "The Best of Oregon."

For more information, reminders and community news, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

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