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PRESS RELEASE

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Wylie's Smith Library Hosts Anime, Manga Event

Wylie, TX, Feb. 17, 2016 – Fans of anime and manga are invited to Wylie's Smith Library Saturday, March 19, from 10 am to 4:30 pm, for Tosho-Kon@SPL, a micro convention held each spring. The event includes panels, cosplay and animated music video contests, an anime and manga swap and other activities and is for fourth-graders through adults. Admission is free, and lunch is included. Those registering by March 5 may choose between sushi and pizza; those registering after will have pizza. Attendees may also bring their own lunch. Register by calling 972-516-6250.

The deadline to enter the animated music video contest is March 5. Contest rules and links to instructional video websites can be found at [facebook.com/smithpublic library](https://facebook.com/smithpubliclibrary).

Cosplay contest categories include Best Handmade (new this year), Best Cosplay and Best Costume. The top winner in each category receives a free pass to AnimeFest, one of the oldest anime conventions in the country, held in Dallas in August. Rules for this contest are also on the library's Facebook page.

This year's event will offer a choice of panels in the morning: Intro to K- and J-Pop and Intro to Ball-Jointed Dolls. The K- and J-pop panel will discuss these two musical landscapes, their top acts and how the two cross over. It's presented by Kpop Dallas. Intro to Ball-Jointed Dolls explores these highly customizable collectibles that have become popular with doll collectors and anime fans alike. It's presented by North Texas collector group DFW BJD Dreams.

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The topic of the afternoon's featured panel is Japanese Mythology in Anime. Panelists will discuss the abundance of mythology in today's popular and lesser-known titles. Making up the panel will be Debbie Smith, artist and adjunct faculty member at Richland College, who teaches the course Art and Anime; Debbie Scally, Ph.D., who has taught English and writing at many North Texas colleges and is a self-professed Japanophile and anime junkie; and Angela Drummond-Mathews, Ph.D., who teaches college English and composition classes, often using pop culture to aid in learning.

For more information, call 972-516-6250. Smith Public Library is located at 300 Country Club Rd., Bldg. 300, Wylie.

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About Wylie – Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 48,000) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas with a 220-percent increase since 2000. Wylie was named the 25th Best Place to Live in the Country by Money Magazine.