

The YAC

*A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children
Brought to You by Iowa Library Services*



November-December 2014

Upcoming Events:

November is Picture Book Month

[<http://picturebookmonth.com/>]

November 15 - International Games Day

[<http://igd.ala.org/>]

February 2 - Youth Media Awards will be announced

[<http://www.ala.org/yma>]

March 8-14 - Teen Tech Week

[<http://teentechweek.ning.com/>]

*See the Continuing Education Catalog at <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> for registration information.

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in January:

- 3 - Birthday of J. R. R. Tolkien
- 4 - National Trivia Day

- 7 - Birthday of Kay Choro
- 17 - Birthday of John C. Bellairs & Robert Cormier
- 18 - Winnie the Pooh Day (Birthday of A. A. Milne)
- 19 - Birthday of Pat Mora
- 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Birthday is January 15)
- 27 - Birthday of Lewis Carroll
- 29 - National Puzzle Day & Birthday of Rosemary Wells



Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in February:

- Black History Month
- 2 - Groundhog Day & Birthday of Judith Viorst
- 7 - Birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 9-15 - Random Acts of Kindness Week
(<http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>)
- 12 - Birthday of Judy Blume & Abraham Lincoln
- 16 - Presidents' Day
- 19 - Chinese New Year (Year of the Sheep)
- 28 - Birthday of Daniel Handler



Getting Started with Teens

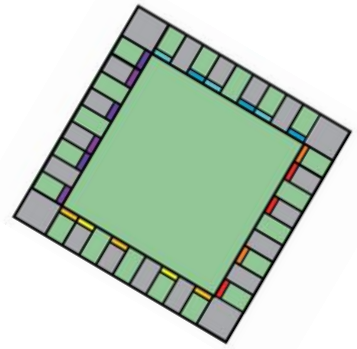


Maryann Mori, Consultant, at Iowa Library Services' Central District Office notes "I started out with only 5 teens when I assumed the role of teen specialist librarian. Within just a few months, I had 50-70 teens regularly visiting the library and attending programs, and YA circulations jumped by 18%. And I had ZERO budget...zilch! So...it CAN be done!"

Below are Maryann's tips for getting a teen group going:

- Get the small group of teens you've still got to help decide and lead the programming. You'll be amazed at what ideas they'll come up with, and under your guidance, they can make great presenters!
- See if the teens are willing to bring in their own gaming equipment to have a gaming party at the library if you don't have such equipment available yourself.

- Board games can be a hit with this age...Apples to Apples is a fun game for teens, and you can likely find a cheap set of the game at a yard sale or discount store.
- Arts & crafts from recyclables are always fun for this group. Collect a hodgepodge of stuff, set it out with some glue, duct tape, markers...and voila! Let the teens create!
- There was talk on the IowaLib email list recently about bubble festivals for young kids, but I did that kind of program for my teens (at their request), and they LOVED it! Cost is nominal.
- Partner with a local arts store to get some tempera paints, and have the teens decorate the library's windows for autumn/Halloween. (Have them draw their designs first for your approval.)
- The State Library has a book titled *Cool Teen Programs for under \$100*. Many (if not most) of the ideas are WAY under 100 bucks (think free or almost free!). You can get the book via SILO interlibrary loan.
- Some ideas for YA programs are available on our IaLS website at this link: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/k-p/ttls-ideas/ttls-ideasd>
- YALSA also has some teen program ideas available here: http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Calendar_of_Teen_Programming_Ideas
- Do a Google search for [cheap teen library programs] and you'll get some good ideas that you can borrow from other libraries.



More Ideas and Resources:

Books:

- *Tattoo a Banana: And Other Ways to Turn Anything and Everything Into Art* by Phil Hansen
- *87 Ways to Throw a Killer Party* by Melissa Daly
- *Create, Relate and Pop @ the Library: Services and Programs for Teens & Tweens* by Erin Helmrich.

Web Resources:

- "TPiB (Teen Programs in a Box)" from Teen Librarian Toolbox: <http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/p/tpib-programs.html>
- Search Pinterest (www.pinterest.com) for "teen library programs" for an assortment of games, crafts, and activities.
- A "Photo Booth" set up could be a fun part of many teen programs. Here are some printable "props" (mustaches, glasses, etc.) to use: <http://www.bespoke-bride.com/2012/12/11/10-free-photo-booth-prop-printables/>
- "The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A call to Action" from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and YALSA: http://www.ala.org/yaforum/sites/ala.org.yaforum/files/content/YALSA_nationalforum_final.pdf
- Ready-Made YA Reading BINGO: <http://ebookfriendly.com/reading-bingo-2014-pictures/>
- "20 Programs Under \$20" from ALA 2013: <http://ala13.ala.org/node/10082>

Final Thoughts:

- Most teens love to help - find ways that they can! (One Iowa librarian makes a game of shelf-reading by purposely placing a few items in the wrong spots. The teen helper must find and return the items to the librarian for a small reward such as a candy bar.)
- Teens are motivated to learn! If their desire to learn seems dampened, try to provide a space where young people can pursue their interests in a "risk-free" way. You might call it "tinkering" or "drop-in DIY" - whether it is using a computer or assembling cardboard scraps into an art piece. Remember "Play = Learning."
- Some additional **program themes** gathered from various library websites: Chocolate Olympics (Relay Races, Speed-Sorting M & M's, etc. - any games that can involve chocolate); Cupcake Wars (decorate cupcakes); Balloon Ping Pong (using paddles made from paper plates and paint stirring sticks); and any method of T-shirt decorating (sharpies, bleach, tie-die, etc.).
- As Maryann noted, sometimes teens like activities usually reserved for younger children such as giant bubbles, making marshmallow animals, room-size concentration/memory games (large enough to require walking around to turn the "cards"), and coloring (search for "advanced coloring pages").

Last Minute Winter Holiday Ideas:

Read & Make Christmas - 25 Christmas Books With Crafts To Match:

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2013/12/read-make-christmas-25-christmas-books-crafts-match.html>

Reindeer Stacking Game/Craft: This could be a paper craft or flannel board activity. Just start with 3 sizes of squares and circles. Preschoolers can match the correct size combinations. I started with squares 3.5 x 4", 4.5 x 6" and 5.5 x 7". (Your District Office can supply the circles to help with cutting!)



Easy Puzzle Tree: Just start with a large triangle. Cut it into 3 or 4 pieces using a zig-zag pattern. Each child puts their tree back together (and adds ornaments?).

Stencils: Many of our die cut shapes make good stencils! We can cut them from old file folders or the usual cardstock. I used inexpensive pigment ink pads as stampers for those shown here.



Reindeer Games:

Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt (Make this a season-long event -allowing at least a couple of weeks to collect cell phone photos of outdoor holiday decorations. Share results at a teen holiday party or print and post on a bulletin board.) See: <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/155092780889470943/> or <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/209558188884947728/>

Crazy Holiday Sock Swap: Have teens or tweens bring a pair of wild (new, cheap) socks. Each participant keeps one to wear and places the other in a drawing box. Everyone then draws a sock from the box to make wacky mis-matched combinations. Finding the person who has the sock mate would work as an ice breaker.



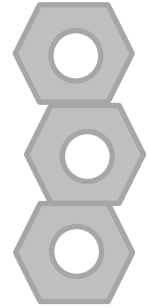
Mitten Matching for Charity: Ask patrons to contribute inexpensive mittens that will go to a local charity after the holidays. Hang one mitten from each pair on a clothesline in the Children's area. Toddlers and preschoolers can make a game of finding matching mittens from a tub or basket.

Build a Christmas Tree by Stacking Green Plastic Cups: All you need is a supply of green plastic drinking cups. This activity could be a timed race between two or more groups.

Candy Cane Pick-Up: Using the hook end of one candy cane held in the mouth, pick up as many more candy canes as possible from a pile on the table. The person who moves the most canes from the large pile to their own pile wins!

Rudolph Red Nose Game: For each participant, attach a 6-8" string to a red pom-pom (about 1" size). Place one end of the string in the mouth and put a blob of Vaseline on the end of the nose. The goal is to get the pom-pom to stick to the Vaseline without using hands! (Appoint a judge to decide when the pom-pom has stuck long enough!)

Nut-Stacker Game: Place about 5 nuts (hardware store kind) on candy canes. The goal is to transfer the nuts from the candy cane to the table surface in a vertical stack (on edge!) without touching the nuts.



Odds & Ends

***Webinar!** -- New Books and Programming Ideas for Tweens

When: Thursday, November 20, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Where: Online

To register: <http://tinyurl.com/qh47s62>

This 90-minute webinar will expand material presented by Angie Pilkington, Erin Silva and Zach Stier in a 50-minute session at the 2014 Iowa Library Association conference. They will present new books and other media for children in grades 3-6 and will also offer suggestions for effective programming for this age group.

*Just a reminder: **ABCmouse.com** Early Learning Academy - an online educational resource for young children - is now FREE for public libraries! Setting up a free account is easy and the registration process explains how to add shortcuts to your public computers. The Home Page for Librarians is: www.abcmouse.com/libraries

*News from **Wonderland:** July 4, 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. You might wish to include this event in your summer plans! Macmillan is planning a special website and will be re-releasing several "Alice" titles:



<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/macmillan-marks-anniversary-date-alice-relaunch>

*You will find the wonderful "**Every Hero Has a Story**" website created by your Summer Library Program workshop presenters Kelly Stern and Rachel Loutsch at:

<http://rachelloutsch.wix.com/cslp2015>

***Teen Area Update at Whiting** -- Just in Time for Teen Read Week: Meg Polly at Whiting Public Library shared the photos below of their new teen room. The library used funds donated by a couple who sponsors a homemade ice cream social each year. The wire shelving was a garage sale find.



Even the books grew mustaches for the November teen theme - designed by Meg's assistant Dawn.



Notice that the bookmarks say "Shave My Place!"

