

Texas Teens Read! 2012

Participant Sharing Compilation

Come and Go Ideas

- we did a wonderful program with sidewalk chalk. they wrote welcome messages for library patrons
- scavenger hunt bulletin board

Crafts

- Popular craft for us is Duck Tape Crafting. We've done wallets and flowers. The best thing is that we have a teen come in to show her peers how to make these crafts. We even had a couple of teachers come to learn how to make the flowers.
- Reverse Tie Dye is a great program we had last summer as well. That program was a bit messy, so it's more of an outside thing. Overall it's cheap and great fun.
- we've had some craft groups; Brazos Valley Stitchers (local affiliate of Embroidery Guild of America) has done tween, teen, and adult programs
- last time I did crafts, I had some pieces of felt that I intended to use to keep beads from rolling off the table, but the teens and pre-teens who wanted to play with fabric paint and hadn't bothered to bring a shirt wound up using the pieces of felt and painting pictures on it; felt's pretty cheap too
- on crafts, I think it helps if you offer lots of different stuff, so the ones that are really into it can do embroidery, make jewelry, etc., but others can paint a t-shirt; bringing washers, etc. from the hardware store also helped get more of the boys and older teens into doing craft stuff (can make jewelry that's not girly); I also bring a buttonmaker to my craft program, and that's huge
- There are the cool bracelets that policemen and firemen are wearing now made out of the nylon cords that are tied to together in a way so that when you cut the ends its one long cord and its supposed to be a survival kind of bracelet. That would be cool to go along with knot tying.

Fear Factor Food Ideas

- anchovies
- worms
- cold spaghetti
- mcdonald's happy meal in a blender
- liver
- jello salad with lots of chunky fruit
- we had a teacher put mini marshmallows on sticks dipped in caramel...looks like ear wax!
- there is a Gross Cake Cook Book that has a recipe of The Bleeding Brain. It is jello, made with milk instead of water, with a raspberry puree filling. when you cut it open...it's bleeding!

Free Local Programming Ideas

- i'm having lowes come in and do a building workshop
- also having people from parks and wildlife coming to show kids how to fish and bring live fish in
- local author. local state park interpreter. college professor to explain science fiction fallacies
- city officials to talk about recycling
- Harley Davidson brought two bikes into the library

- Our teens love ghost stories; our new library was opened up in a renovated yet rather old building. Lots of stories to tell and it being about *their* library, in their town, makes it special
- We had a high school teacher who teaches forensic science to conduct our "CSI" event for teens
- radio controlled aircraft club
- We had Jay Asher come in and before he came in, we had an Anti Bullying/ suicide awareness rally and invited our health department come in to speak to our community
- we did a holistic health fair that included all types of health professions like herbs and midwifery and karate
- in march we are having a local YA Blogger come and speak
- we had yoga for the teens and karate for the children
- Petsmart dog training
- we had a belly dance instructor and Bollywood dance instructors; when I did the tween session, a lot of the moms joined their daughters (note from Dawn: Bollywood was in last year's TTR manual too, so see that if you want to try it this year)
- we did a moulage (special effects make-up program) around Halloween; there are a couple pictures in the slideshow on our main library page, www.bcslibrary.org (think it's slides 7 and 8 of that front page slideshow)

Games

- The using descriptive words only to describe a noun is a fun game called Funglish
- I did something with gamemaking (Gamemaker), and at a recent workshop, they mentioned Scratch (free software from MIT); both seem cool for tweens and teens

Geocaching

- One of our teens put a box at the library for people to find geocaching. I helped a couple of teens to discover it. It was a great way to get them to come to the library!
- **Jennifer Dudley** wrote the chapter in the 2012 manual on geocaching. She welcomes any questions that anyone has about this chapter! (Thanks Jennifer!) jdudley@mcallen.net

Murder Mystery Ideas/Comments

- high school drama team put on the murder mystery at christmas time charles dickens was killed in the library and we needed to find out who did it
- I had a twisted Faiytale Murder mystery last summer. It was great! It was a treasure hunt, type program where the teens had to locate the clues in books.
- You can also go to mymysteryparty.com to order murder mystery kits and scavenger hunt kits
- when we did a murder mystery before, we just had the teens play the characters and try to solve the mystery; as you go, you figure out more stuff, but you or anyone else in the group could be the killer; if we'd had too many people, we could have had two play the same role (and be a team)

Permission Slips

- We've done a permission slip for pictures on if we can post their name or leave them nameless. We have put this in our registration packs so parents can sign at once.
- Why not make a permission slip to go along with the registration. If your teen registers for a program it is implied their picture will be taken etc...
- when I did the Halloween moulage program, I had the teens mark if we could take the picture and then say if it's okay to post it on our website or not (some would be okay having picture taken and emailed to them but don't want it on the website)

RPG / LARP Ideas/Comments

From Shaday Reyes, Stephens Central Library System, San Angelo, TX:

- We did improv last year for a Live Action Roleplay - it turned out really popular and exciting, especially if you get into right along with them. Worth it! :) For the roleplay - LARP for short - we did a scifi future dystopia with a villain to fight and characters played by staff for them to interact with. We had prizes at the end for best costumes, most in character, and so on. I wrote the LARP storyline, rules, and instructions on how to play myself while our YA lead at the time made graphics, arranged costume making days, had theater instructors come in to each improv, and gathered props we put up in rooms here in the library. It took all summer, but aside from prizes and some materials we had to purchase, we could use items from home, library, or donations for the rest.

From Matt Morrison, Burlison Public Library, Burlison, TX:

- Anyone interested in role-playing games would do well to check out: <http://www.theescapist.com/library/>
- A particularly useful document to share with everyone might be <http://www.theescapist.com/facts-and-fictions-world-of-darkness.pdf> . It's a document written by a librarian AND an RPG expert discussing parental concerns regarding Supernatural themed roleplaying. There's also a bibliography of good supernatural teen lit.
- White Wolf Publishing has demos for most of their supernatural themed RPGs on their website... their vampire one is free to download at http://rpg.drivethrustuff.com/product_info.php?products_id=1459
- I ran the first part of it for my teens last Spring Break and it was fairly successful. I was planning to write my own werewolf vs. vampire adventure for this summer, having somehow created a very loyal group of RPGers at my branch.
- One more resource for parents and educators concerned about the "evils" of role-playing? It's a humorous dissection of the "D&D/Harry Potter" will teach you magic myth. - <http://www.theescapist.com/spells/>
- A good one that rather fits the theme is the RPG Hunter, which has a demo available at http://rpg.drivethrustuff.com/product_info.php?products_id=56497
- **I don't mind you giving my e-mail out if anybody has any questions about RPGs in the library - mmorrison@burlisontx.com (Thanks Matt!)**

Other Comments

- The book that is very popular with our kids is *Gross-Out Cakes: Kitty Litter Cake and Other Classics* by Britney Scherselaar. I show the kids this book every year during school tours and this book is on reserve the entire summer!
- I know that author Chris Bradford also does Skype visits but his US representation is Disney; it was going to be beyond my budget and hard to figure out when to do it due to the time difference; if you don't do evening programs, could probably do that (Note from Naomi: Check out <http://skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com/> for more on Skyping with authors!! Many for free!)