

Programming/Service Ideas

Using Technology

- Create a pod cast of a battle of the bands, teen poetry readings, and other teen programs.
- Rip and Burn - Allow teens to burn a mix CD with their favorite teen songs. They must use their own CDs.
- Blog Night - Teach teens how to create a blog.
- Subscribe to some free pod casts and allow teens access through the library computers with headphones.
- Purchase iPods for check-out for in-library use that you've preloaded with songs from the library CD collection.
- Computer gaming programs. Teens could bring in their own games to play or the teen council could plan the games before time. OR, the teens could play an online game, like Runescape, Heliattack 3, or World of Warcraft.
- Let your teen council create their own Council blog for their exclusive use. The teen council can also create a blog for teen patrons to access, with event listings, photos, book reviews, cool sites, their own compositions, etc.
- Set up a live chat with a teen author.
- Teach teens how to create a website.
- Create a teen zine; teach teens about layout, story development, graphic design, etc.

Arts and Crafts

- Jewelry making – hemp; beading; earrings; etc.
- Holiday – gingerbread houses; haunted house in the library, etc.
- Air Rocketry – make bottle air rockets and learn a little about aerodynamics
- T-shirt Decorating – fabric paint; tie-dye; glue on ornaments, etc.
- Hemp jewelry
- Make CD clocks
- Origami
- Teen Art Expo
- Duct tape fashion – make sandals, belts, purses, wallets, etc.
- Candle making

Literature Related

- Book clubs
- Genre Nights – movies, activities, booktalks, etc.
- Poetry Slams/Readings
- Writing contests
- Author visits

- Open Mike Nights
- Comic Book Swap
- Storytelling – workshops & performances
- Graphic Novel programs – discussion groups; California Center for the Book program; how to create graphic novels and get into the business
- Battle of the Books – collaborate with local schools

Service

- Movie night for Parents – teen hosts
 - Puppet Shows/Dramatics – for children’s program
- Teens Teaching Tech – teach computer skills to senior citizens
- Have teen representatives at library board meetings, city council meetings, etc., to give them a voice in the community.
 - Choose a sister library (international or across the country). Open dialog through Instant Messaging, chat, or email between teen groups, sharing ideas and feelings. Create banners for the other site that promote understanding, acceptance, and tolerance.
 - Bring creative talents of your teens to senior citizen homes. For example, the teens can put on a talent show, or teens and seniors can learn to do a craft together or learn to knit together, etc.
 - After-school book buddies – pair a teen with a younger child to read together in the library.
 - Fundraisers – let teens earn money to purchase books for the library. Take them on a buying spree at your local book store. (You will need to check with management on any legal restrictions about teens and fundraising.)
 - Peer Homework Helpers
 - Computer assistance - troubleshooting; sign-ups, etc.

Just for Fun

- Survivor Program – play beach towel volleyball and mancala (use small shells instead of marbles); create a scavenger hunt in which teams complete tasks that teach the kids how to use the library. For example, tell the teams that a ship is passing by, but the crew only speaks French. The team must create a sign that says, “Help” in French. The teens must figure out how to find an English-French Dictionary to find the correct word to use. Give out the next task once a team finishes the current one. Teams will finish tasks at different rates. The winning team finishes all the tasks first.
 - Board games – use the library’s board games or have the teens bring in their own.
 - Mystery programs – teens solve mysteries set up in the library.
- Mehndi/Temporary Tattoos – play music from the East, bring in a local East Indian supply shop to do the tattoos, or let the kids try it themselves.
- Teen Video Festival – showcase original teen videos by teens in your community. Provide awards for various categories.

- Sports demos – skateboarding; Tae Kwan Do; etc.
 - Make up demos – either real (for Prom or other) or Monster makeup
 - Chess clubs
 - Skool of Rock –how to get gigs for your band – local teen radio station DJ to emcee; local bands perform; representative from the music industry; offer a free recording session as a door prize.
 - Teen music/choral/dance groups – many schools have groups looking for places to perform.
- Fear Factor Food Challenge – kids eat the grossest stuff!
- Improv

Informational

- CSI – get a local CSI expert from your police dept. to present at your library
- College Info Nights – for teens and family
- Stay Afloat – informational series on various topics, like depression/suicide or substance abuse, with professionals and experts from the community
- Job Exploration – get panels of people from related fields to talk about their careers – daily experience, education requirements, “the real skinny”

Self Defense Demo and Class

Babysitting Clinic – many hospitals offer classes that include CPR training. Bring in one of their teachers. Cover any fees for your teens.

- Money Management – credit cards; car loans; check books
- History Day Help – open your computer lab for teens only and help them with their research
- Star Gazing – contact your local astronomy clubs to share information on reading the sky and then let them star gaze with their telescopes.
- Teen Parent Outreach – go to local schools with programs for teen parents. Share why reading to their babies is important, how to read, what to read, etc. Have an interactive time with the parents and their babies, have the parents make a sample scrapbook page to begin their baby’s own book.
- Teen Town Hall – hold a discussion w/local candidates or politicians on issues of interest to teens.
- Teen yoga
- The Secret Self – take personality quizzes for fun; learn about handwriting analysis, palmistry, numerology, etc.
- Sports – equipment workshop: ask someone from a local sporting goods store to talk about the newest trends, maintaining equipment, and safety tips of a specific sport (ex. snowboarding and skiing).
- Summer Job Seminars – how to find a summer job; interview process
- Teen Job Fairs