

Teen motivation/Programs/Involvement

Has anyone been successful?

East Greenbush

- A community of 15,000. In walking distance to the school. Started out with 10 participants – now they have about 150 (176 in last year's SRP).
- Teen advisory group.....ask teens what prizes they would read for. They also have “volunteens”.
- Raffles prizes - \$20.00 value - cash, iTunes gift cards, movie passes, etc.
- They may not have more reading done but they have more kids involved.
- This year they are doing “fan Raffle” – themed around a book or series. You get tickets by logging your minutes on line (1 ticket /60 minutes of reading, come to program, book review, etc).
- Works on donations and money from “Friends”.
- Do a kids party, teen party and adult.
- During the school year, the library gets mostly middle school kids. SRP gets more of a mix – kids going into 6th – going into 12th.
- Meets with all of the 6th graders at the school to promote the library and programs.
- Trying something new this year – setting up a table in the high school during lunch periods. Free candy if you sign up for SRP.
- Participants can get tickets any time during SRP.
- Have an average of 10 teens at programs.
- Volunteens don't do any of the administrative part of SRP.
- At NYLA, Trevor learned how to make video games for Teen Tech Week, using Scratch. She has challenged teens to do something better than she did.
- Does their book discussions with all teens and tweens together. Kids talk about individual books. She tells the kids “no spoilers” and to keep their discussion broad (no details).

Fort Plain

- Science and technology – had a “You Tube” Day in which kids came in and viewed videos and shared videos they liked. They used a big screen and showed different experiments (mentos and soda, etc).
- Had science themed programs each week in the SRP (example – small pool in the library with pennies).
- At the end, the videos were a culmination of the SRP.

Westerlo

- The school is in Berne – about 1000 kids in the district. Parents need to transport the kids to the library. The library is very far away from everything.
- A very small library. Prizes don't get teens in – FOOD DOES!
- A very conservative group/people. They would not be cool with costumes and such.
- Average about 5 teens at programs.
- Most of the teens in her catchment either work or are farmers.
- Prizes have been advanced reader copies of books, donations.
- Had an issue with a 10 year old in a group who had a bad experience. The parents wanted the kid in with the teens (and they screamed to let their feelings known). Kids are put in the group that they fit it.
- Gives parents a project for themselves while they are there with their kids. It diverts them away from the kids and their projects.

Gloversville

- The most depressed city in NY but an incredible community.
- “Biblio-maniacs” were created about 3 years ago after she corralled some teens. Five people met and decided what they wanted to do. They didn't want to dissect a book. Each member talked about a book they read. About a year and a half ago, she asked if anyone would like to write. Writers will ask for help from the group. They now have 2 hour meetings that are either about a book or something they wrote. The stories these kids write are unreal, some are horrific. There are sign-up sheets – this way, everyone gets to share.
- This week will be the 71st meeting! They meet every week, by choice, and usually have 10-12 kids in attendance. They even want to meet during vacation weeks. They have bylaws that they read at each meeting.
- Two kids in the group come from different school districts.
- Kids say they can be themselves there – it is beautiful. They are very respectful. They value what each other says.
- If middle school kids are there, they will tone down the content of the discussions so that they are age-appropriate. There are mostly high school students there at this time.
- We keep everything separate from school – they need a refuge from the real world.
- “Comic's Connect” – George O'Connor is coming on Friday during their group.
- Technology – had a masquerade ball – kids put together a play list. Everyone was dressed up and it was wonderful.

Stephentown

- Trouble distinguishing between teens and tweens. High school students don't want to come to something that middle school students (especially 6th graders) are at.
- Had a poetry jam. Kids could either read a poem they wrote or read from books. After the kids read once, they kept going back to find more poetry books so they could read more poems.
- 15 and older is a hard age group. At this age, kids are involved in so much and are so busy. May only come in to the library to use the computer – this is a good thing. They are coming to the library!
- Has sat down with kids and asked them what they wanted and when she planned programs according to their requests, no one came.
- There was a group of kids that came in and played Magic. When she asked them one day about the game, they stopped coming in.

Miscellaneous

- Some libraries have coloring sheets on hand. They find that the older kids like to use them – not just for the young kids.
- Problems with parents who attend the groups/programs for the older teens/tweens. Some of the parents wind up doing the project for the kids. It occurred when a kid was doing an Eagle Scout Project. The dad was doing the work and asking all the questions. Had to steer the project away from the dad and towards the kids.
- Some libraries have made it their rule – no parents are allowed in the teen/tween programs and they tell the parents so.
- We have to evaluate the types of teens/tweens that use our libraries and participate in the SRP. Each library is different and what works at one library may not work at another library.