

Notes from Unworkshop session: Community Partnerships and School Collaborations/Visits

- Good opportunity to focus on everyday heroes: firemen, policemen, EMT's, veterans, educators, elected officials or others in the community for story times, instruction, special programs, etc.
- Use the Story Corps or "This I Believe" model and invite special patrons in to tell/record their story. Could be podcast.
- Ask kids to invite their own personal hero (parent, teacher, principal, sibling, etc.) for a tea party or special event at the library
- Invite local partners to sit for the ALA READ poster. UHLS has the software
- Use local businesses for prize donations. Consider local sports complexes, gift cards for goods or services, grocery stores, arts or museum passes, mini-golf, restaurants. Let them know you will recognize them in publicity. Follow up with thank you (especially if kids can help create).
- Price Chopper, Shoprite and Hannaford will donate cups and napkins.
- Make efforts to take program to local parks, summer recreation sites, summer lunch sites, farmer's markets, etc. for low-key story times.
- When large summer recreation groups visit the library on program days, it can get crazy. Consider asking them to come on a separate day, so you can devote some time especially for them.
- School visit tips: Be silly. Create a persona with costume, puppets or props. Request combined grades or a large assembly to cut down on time spent. Don't bombard with details, rather leave them with a memory of something exciting or fun that will happen at the library this summer. Have a song, poem or short book/pop-up relating to the theme. Request a table in the lunchroom to reach older kids, rather than visit classrooms. Bring candy!