

Ten Low-Cost Program Ideas for Tweens

1. The Amazing Race: Based on the popular television series. tweens participate in an ice-breaker, then break up into teams. They're then sent on a series of scavenger-hunt type activities similar to the television program.
<https://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home/january-1>
2. Party Like An April Fool! All about pranking and wackiness, this party is a perfect way to celebrate April Fool's Day.
<https://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home/april>
3. Cupcake Decorating/Eating Contest ("Cupcake Cram!") Put out tons of cupcakes, frosting & goodies to decorate with. Think up categories for which you'll award prizes – "Funniest Cupcake," "Grossest Cupcake," "Best Animal," "Most Appetizing" etc. Time the creative process – about 20 minutes is good. Put all finished cupcakes on the judging table, and invite some of your library staff to be the judges. Give out small prizes to the winners, and let everyone EAT. They can frost leftover cupcakes and cram them in, too.
4. Greek Out! Celebrate the origin of the Summer Olympic Games and tie in the Percy Jackson and George O'Connor books at the same time.
<https://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home/may>.
5. Cubeecraft: Print out templates on cardstock to cut and craft into enticing pop characters.
<http://www.cubeecraft.com/>
6. Harry Potter Potions! Make potions and charms as based on HP lore. Combine with HP trivia, wand-making, or other book-based activities.
<https://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home/june>
7. DIY Donut Stuffies: Who doesn't love donuts? Make donuts while you eat donuts.
<https://ontarianlibrarian.com/2019/09/12/diy-donut-stuffies-for-kids/>
8. Hack That Painting! Get leftovers from Paint-and-Sip nights and let kids add to the paintings.
<https://ontarianlibrarian.com/2018/10/27/hack-that-painting-program-outline/>

9. Zombie Barbies: Make Your Own. Some prep, but a creepy and popular Halloween activity!

<https://ontarianlibrarian.com/2017/12/15/tween-club-zombie-barbies/>

10. Embossed Journal: A beautiful result from this two-part process on pp. 18-19. Other ideas here too:

<https://catsig.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/tween-clic-2013-final.pdf>.