



Youth Services Subdivision

Iowa Library Association

Message From Your Chair

Just when you thought your summer reading program was over and you could finally take a breather, you find out it is time to start thinking about next year. I call this time the year the big three- ILA, Performer's Showcase, and the Summer Reading Workshop.

Rick Brammer and Merri Monks recently gave you a chance to preview new programs for your library. Each entertainer had a 15-minute time slot on stage and then were available for additional information throughout the day. Entertainers include a wide variety of acts perfect for summer reading programs and other special event programming. If you missed it (try and get to one next year), you are in luck the showcases were video-recorded and Merri has provided a directory with all of the performers information. You can find them here: <http://tinyurl.com/pyqeu27>

The annual Summer Reading Workshop is one of my favorites and is taking place at six different locations around the state October 27-November 3. Our presenters this year are Molly Garrett, Teen Librarian at the Cedar Rapids Public Library and Erin Silva, Youth Services Librarian at the Kalona Public Library. The overall theme for the 2016 Collaborative Summer Library Program is Wellness, Fitness and Sports.

The individual themes are: **Early Literacy and Children's theme:** On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! **Teens' theme:** Get in the Game: Read! **Adult theme:** Exercise Your Mind—Read!

The day will feature two great presenters, lots of ideas and displays, and the Collaborative Summer Library Program Manual, which will be distributed at the workshops. This is a fantastic time to network and meet other librarians from your area. Please refer to <http://tinyurl.com/prqmxyc> for more info and to register!

This is my last letter to you! At the October meeting at ILA, I will be handing things over to Erin Silva, your new incoming YSS Chair. Make plans to join us at the ILA Youth Services Subdivision Roundtable meeting, and stop by our booth in the exhibit hall! Please feel free to pass on any program ideas you have to Erin, Merri or myself. We are all committed to providing you with the latest and greatest in Youth Services.

I want to thank Merri Monks for all that she does for promoting services to children and teens all over our state. If you haven't met her, have a great idea, or just want to become more involved send her a quick email. Without her there would be no Kids First Conference, continuing education geared specially for children's and teen services librarians, or updates to the YS list serve about new programs or ideas. I also want to thank all of you! It has been fabulous getting to know and meet all of you. You all do fantastic work to inspire and invoke creativity and to advocate for services to the youngest lowans out there. Keep up the great work!

Cheers!

Angie Pilkington, YSS President
Children's Services Coordinator
Iowa City Public Library

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Programming Ideas

From Ellie Krause, Waukon Public Library

I wanted to share our big success this year: Super Hero Training Camp. This was the kick-off of our reading program, it didn't cost a lot of money (our props were very basic) but it was time consuming getting it all set up and ready. But it was sooo much fun-the kids and staff loved it. We took over our five study rooms and the community room to set up 7 different activities to test the kid's skill. For most activities we had an easy and more difficult version to accommodate all ages (toddler thru early middle school.)

Here's what we did:

Balancing Act: Walk across the board w/out falling off. Easy version: 2x6 raised off the floor by an encyclopedia. Difficult version: 2x4 setting on a round object so it tipped as they walked across. (lumber yard loaned the boards for the night)

Decoding Skills: Decode the secret message. Easy version: color coded using only the letters needed. Difficult version: symbol coded using all the alphabet.

Laser Beam Obstacle Course: Make it through the course w/ out touching the laser beams (Tipped two tables on their sides - tops facing, tape yarn to table tops at angles. Easy version: yarn lower to floor and spaced further apart. Difficult version: Yarn higher on table top and closer together.

Bomb Disposal: Toss 6 bombs (Styrofoam balls painted black / paracord) into disposal (box w/ two shoots) one shoot will roll back to tosser the other rolls into the bomb disposal (box)

Villain Bowling: Easy version: Stack cans, knock over w/ Nerf ball

Villain Window Toss: Difficult version: Knock the villain out of the window w/ small balls

Kryptonite Disposal: Put kryptonite (aluminum foil) in disposal (box) using only two pencils...no hands. (mark a square on the floor, toss aluminum foil balls w/in that square, pick up using only two pencils and put into a disposal)

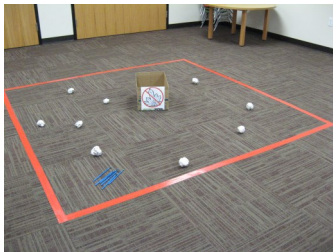
Library Friends Rescue: Search for all the lost library friends (floor covered w/ balloons, toss in small critters-they will sink in around balloons, then search until all are found.)

Children received a sticker when they finished each activity.

Once all the activities were completed they received a prize by punching through the tissue paper cover of the Power Punch Board (sheet of cardboard w/ 16 four inch holes cut in it, open a paper lunch bag and tape it to the backside of the holes, put prizes inside bags then cover of the hole on the front side w/ tissue paper. Punch thru tissue paper.)



A



One



From Gayle Anstey, Corning Public Library

A "great idea" I had was to have the kids make a superhero costume, one piece (cuffs, mask, cape, t-shirt with chest logo) per week for four weeks. On the fifth week they would wear the costume and tell about their superhero self. Unfortunately most kids missed one or more weeks. Plus on the fifth week we had a special program and additional kids came and we had to do something other than follow the plan. They still enjoyed it and I had some extra pieces to give out, but I won't do anything that depends on anyone being there each time. Lesson learned.

Programming Ideas, continued

From Stacy Goodhue, Carlisle Public Library

This summer we tried a Kick Off to Summer Reading for the first time. We titled it “Super Hero Training Academy.” We had stations for the kids to complete including feats of strength, superhero crafts, a local artist helped create wire sculptures with the kids, a puppet show from Jester Puppets and photos with Iowa League of Heroes. The feats of strength included the kids trying to lift a boulder, weight lifting with a bar bell, and saving a baby from a pit of lava. It was so cute! The event was 2 hours long and we had attendance of about 170 which is amazing for a community our size and a first time event. The event took 10 volunteers and 3 staff. My biggest mistake was in not confirming cost with the Iowa League of Heroes far in advance of the event. My initial budget for the event was about \$300.00. The heroes cost \$600.00. However, we had already started promoting them by word of mouth and by then people were expecting them. I did receive \$150.00 from local businesses to help.



Our summer reading participation for kids was through the roof for sign-ups (over 120 more than last year) but completion of the reading program was down a bit. Our programming numbers were very high though (we do a performer every Monday). Our question now is do we try a kick off again? The kids loved it but it was a lot of work and ended up being very expensive. I can cut other areas of our summer reading (such as performers). But in the end, what is the priority? And was the summer a success because of the theme of superheroes? Or because we are so awesome (of course we are!) As the program grows, our funding does not. So the tough choice becomes what do you cut? And what works so great one year may not work so well the next.



From Madeline Jarvis, Ely Public Library

What’s a teen group with limited space and unlimited love for a mess to do? Head outside and smash some melons! On Thursday, August 6th, the Ely Public Library teens gathered outside to try their hands at exploding watermelons. The force of dozens of rubber bands around the middle of a watermelon force the fruit to explode in a spectacular splash. This is a popular YouTube trend, so most participants were already familiar with the project. We saved a watermelon from our rubber band attacks for post-explosion snacking. I spaced on bringing a cutting knife, so slicing with a paring knife found in the break room definitely took some time!

Although it was publicized as a teen program, only 2 of the participants were actual teenagers: 7 tweens and 1 parent joined in the fun. Our Teen Advisory Board is new as of this summer, so I was pleased with the turnout. If I were to repeat this event I advertise a 10+ age limit. This could be a reward level or raffle prize for a future summer reading program, kickoff event for the summer season, or a general program for teens and tweens.

It was a smash (ha!) hit with participants – one boy gleefully suggested a pumpkin catapult for a fall program. I appreciate his enthusiasm, but I think one produce bust per year is good for the time being! Attached are some pictures of the process and carnage – check out the Ely Public Library on Facebook for more pictures of the day’s events!





Iowa Library Association

<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/youth-services-subdivision>

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Other News:

Teen Read Week - October 18-24, 2015: Celebrated since 1998, this year's theme is "Get Away @ your library." Libraries are encouraged to spotlight all the great resources and activities available to help teens build literacy skills through reading. Help your local teens escape from the day to day grind of school, homework, part time jobs and so on by reading for the fun of it!

National Friends of Libraries Week - October 18-24, 2015: Friends of Libraries groups now have their very own national week of celebration, courtesy of United for Libraries (Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, a division of ALA). Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. This is also an excellent opportunity for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library.

Picture Book Month - November 2015: The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will celebrate the picture book during the month of November as a partner of the third annual Picture Book Month. Founded by author and storyteller Dianne de Las Casas, Picture Book Month is an international literacy initiative that celebrates the print picture book in an increasingly digital age.

International Games Day - Saturday, November 21, 2015: ALA's National Gaming Day, first celebrated in 2008, focuses on the social and recreational side of gaming. Gaming at the library encourages patrons of all ages to interact with diverse peers, share their expertise and develop new strategies for gaming and learning. At the library, kids can socialize with their friends and play board and video games while surrounded by books, librarians and a real world of knowledge.

