Keep Them Coming Back: Teen and Tween Clubs at the Library

Teen & Tween Dream Team
St. Charles City-County Library
TAB: Teen & Tween Advisory Boards
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- 8 TABs, endless fun
- Once a month
- Yearly Lock-in
Lock-in

- **Food!**
- **Activities**
  - Smash Brothers
  - Book Walk
  - Pillow Fight
  - Slime and Button Making
  - Group Meeting
  - Nerf Wars!
All-TAB Quarterly Meetings

- Yearly Lock-in
- Winter Holiday Party
- Improv & Theater Night
- Costume Party
TAB Tasks

- Displays
- Brainstorming programs
- Planning events
- Newsletters
- Fundraising
Other Info

- Activities vs. work?
  - 1 hour volunteer credit
- Attendance rules
- T-shirts!
- Snacks
  - Bribery with treats
- Communication
  - Remind app
    - Branch groups
    - All TABs group
Tween Advisory Board

- What we hope to accomplish
  - Capture them at a young age
  - Develop a strong Tween following
  - Ease them into Teen programming

- Meeting Structure
  - Meet for 45 minutes
  - Snacks and chat
  - Ice breaker
  - Work on monthly project

- Tween Advisory Board Tasks
  - Concentration in Children’s area
    - Displays
    - Decorate for seasons
    - Scavenger Hunts
Teens & Tweens Create
Teens & Tweens Create

- Crafting once a month
- Breaker-space
- Sew-It
- Stuffed Animal Taxidermy
LGBTTeens & Allies: How’d you start?

- They asked, we listened!
- Many teen clubs already acted as pseudo-queer social groups
- Some initial hesitation and paperwork from administration
- Meet once/month, hour-long, ages 12-18, all sexualities & genders!
LGBTTeens & Allies: What do you do?

Everything else we do with our other teen groups!

- Hang out & discussion
- Pronoun/LGBT buttons
- Community member chats
- Improv
- Queer pictionary
- Queer Prom
LGBTTeens & Allies: Be fierce & fabulous!

More MLA Presentations:

- Queer Space, Safe Space: Establishing LGBTQIA+ Programming for Teens
  Thursday, 9 am, Windsor III

- Drag Queen Storytime
  Thursday, 1:15 pm, Windsor IV

“When we’re growing up there are all sorts of people telling us what to do when really what we need is space to work out who to be.”

ELLEN PAGE
Fandom Club

Created due to the popularity of our annual Fandom Con. Each month celebrates a different fandom.

Most hour-long programs contain

- craft
- game
- scavenger hunt
Fandom Club

Started with Harry Potter (shocker) which included a sorting, make your own wands with balsa wood and modeling clay, trivia, a scavenger hunt, and Quidditch Pong (no alcohol involved).
Fandom Club

The main Percy Jackson craft was making a shield out of cardboard cake circles. They also threw a pool noodle through a hula hoop, created an ocean bottle with oil/water/food coloring, practiced Nerf archery, and found their favorite characters around the library.
Fandom Club

Most of my crafts were found on Pinterest. (Don’t be fan dumb; be fan smart.) Crafts can be as simple as turning balloons into a Mario Boo to making a Doctor Who Dalek out of Starbucks cups and slushie lids.
Fandom Club

You can do a Fandom Club about anything that’s popular, whether new or old. One of the best received topics was Stranger Things. We ate Eggos, listened to 80s music, played Stranger Things Memory, and found 80s items in the library.
Fandom Club

Never underestimate the educational value of a good scavenger hunt. Each teen gets a sheet of hints, and they have to identify the location of the item.

- I usually give hints, like “Focus on her powers.” Storm from the X-Men was in the 500s by the weather books.
- With the 80s props, a hint was “A popular role playing game in the 80s and now. Find books about how to play me.” The item hidden was a laminated D&D logo.
Fandom Club

Not every program has had a craft/game/scavenger hunt combo. Two of my Fandom Clubs this year were original Escape Rooms--a Harry Potter-themed “Escape from Azkaban” and a Legend of Zelda-themed “Link’s Escapening.”
Dungeons & Dragons
Dungeons & Dragons: How is this a club??

- “Parties” act as clubs
- Cliffhangers bring them back
- Friendships formed
- Open and friendly to new members
Dungeons & Dragons: How does this work?

- Community member DMs, librarian supervision
- 3 - 4 hours, weekends & evenings
- Snacks welcome and provided!
- Dice & player’s manuals

When you’re having fun playing D&D with your friends but secretly don’t understand what anything on your character sheet means.
Dungeons & Dragons: How does this work?

- Age restriction, aging-out
- Finding a committed DM
- Keeping them on task
- Group size
Dungeons & Dragons: DO IT!

And when you play it, it makes you happy... like a... Dragon.
K-Pop!
K-Pop/K-pop/KPOP/kpop Club

- Why kpop? One TAB’s interest and two librarians’ willingness and enthusiasm!
- Two organizers and two different branches
  - We provide the space, food, prizes, and some activities
K-Pop Club

Fundamentally Teen-Led
○ They pick out the songs, video clips they want to share with the others
○ Members will make quizzes...if and when they have time
○ Organizers will usually give them choices, they vote on what they want to do/watch/eat, etc.
K-Pop Club - What do I do?

- No Asian Market near you? You can order snacks from Amazon!
- Quizzes are the way to go or any trivia type game
  - Favorites are usually listen to the clip and name the band/artist and song name
- YouTube and Spotify (bonus if you have premium)
- Show a K-Drama → DramaFever.com
- Have fun!!
K-Pop
Club
Questions & Comments
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a kaleidoscope of discovery