

**Youth Services User Group
Discussion Notes
September 18, 2024**

FY24/25 Chairperson selected – Stacy Brigman

Attendees discussed the purpose of the Youth Services Group and what they would like this group to accomplish working together. Some of the topics mentioned that will be focused on in future meetings are:

- Best Practices for Youth Programming
- Special cataloging needs/training for items like serials (ie Dogman)
- Sharing resources
 - Escape rooms created by each library
 - Scavenger hunts
 - Character costumes
 - Holiday books
 - Battle of the Books
- Trainings
 - Building Equity Based Summers
 - Brazelton
 - Masterclass – ex. Lompoc Library Programming Basics for Teens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BEbQz8DrOg>

Members think that discussion items and opportunities to cooperate with one another warrant meeting four times per year – September, November, January, and March/April. Stacy Brigman will establish the best meeting time for November.

A meeting will be scheduled with Teresa VanDoren to discuss and assist in the cataloging needs for Youth Services.

Summer Reading programs – highlights and challenges

Santa Maria – Used a Claw machine for prizes this summer which was wildly popular. SM had a 9% increase in Summer Reading signups and a 19% increase in participants completing the program. They used online signups, but next year they plan to also reach out to the kids in schools. The look of the reading logs was changed this year to make the reading seem less intimidating. Library noted that Bluey is a very successful program

Goleta – Teen volunteer program was very successful. The library had outreach to the schools. There were challenges booking performers. Programs might be even more successful if they were more hands-on and interactive.

Santa Paula - The summer theme was Adventure at Your Library. Outreach was done at every school where over 2000 books were handed out to the school kids. Program attendance was up this year. Teens and Adult programs used ReadSquared, and Paper record-keeping was used for the kids. Branded book bags were distributed.

Carpinteria – There were 250 participants this summer. A different prize was handed out each week. The library tries to avoid any plastic prizes. This summer the programs which were held in the afternoon had low participation. The programming theme was Nature/bugs and in different weeks the programs included the Zoo, Natural history and a ladybug release. The theme planned for next year is the Moon landing/Astronomy. Jody would like the library to promote “Screen Free” for parents and caregivers – ask them not to use their phone while programming is active. Libraries discussed this idea.

Lompoc -- does a lot of outreach using their Bookmobile. They do signups and hand out paper calendars. Some of the programs included Books and Bubbles where the bookmobile is at Ryon Park every Friday doing bilingual storytime. They get community partners involved like the Fire Department, Police and soon the Waste Management Department. The partners show up with their vehicle and the kids love it. There are about 100 people at each of these events. They had 25 teen volunteers who have been trained through Lompoc’s masterclass on how to plan and run events. Six teens created their own programs. The summer program had 429 youth and 191 adult participants. Programs started at 2pm right after Lunch at the Library. Programs included STEM, crafts from recycled items, Giant Lego blocks, puppet show, master gardeners class and zoo animals. Lompoc used Beanstack- participants got a fee book for signing up and they had Bingo weekly. For those who completed the program, there was a grand prize drawing for each group: iPad for adults, Stanley for teens, Kindle tablet for children and Magnetic block set for early learners. Considered a big success was that there were 2 paid teen interns hired by the City. Teens had to go through an interview process; a background check and TB test was required. The library maintains a Story Walk at Beattie Park where teen volunteers post a new story every month.

Paso Robles – The Lunch at the Library Grant focused on Wellness this year and worked with the recreation department. They had two locations – Oak Park (self-help housing) and Centennial Park. They served over 1500 meals and 500 breakfast bags. This program involved cooking where 30 teens participated and six even earned CA Food Handler cards. \$11,500 in scholarships went to teen volunteers and they each received a cookbook containing all the recipes made this summer. Programming increased from 30 sessions last year to 79 this year.

Scavenger hunts –

- Santa Maria library holds monthly scavenger hunts – some themes include Pokemon and a Banned Book scavenger hunt. They have found that it is a good idea to use laminated pages and whiteboard markers for hunts that plan to repeat again.
- Lompoc Library does scavenger hunts by using images for young kids and riddles for the older kids.

Any winter programs? – Paso and Santa Maria do Dinovember and Lompoc is doing a Who Dunit in October.

Black Gold has established a group email for members of the Youth Services User Group ys@blackgold.org. Members are invited to use this email to communicate with the group throughout the year between meetings. If you think anyone else at your library should be added to this email distribution, please email the information to ys@blackgold.org or directly to Glynis Fitzgerald at gfitzgerald@blackgold.org

Don't forget that there is an interactive worksheet on the Black Gold website <https://ats.blackgold.org> under Committees & User Groups for members to use to post program information along with contact information and programming comments. This is accessible by all libraries as a resource for new ideas or sharing ideas. This is your worksheet and is a valuable tool if it is maintained. Remember that it is interactive and yours to add to.

The next scheduled Youth Services Group meeting will be virtual and held on January 15, 2025. We will however set up an additional meeting for a date in November. Stacy Brigman is working on this task.