



Use Youth Volunteers for helping at events and for reading registration & rewards

1. Each year that you host a Youth Volunteer program will be different. Teens pass the word onto their friends and you may have too many kids asking to participate, or you will have a year with low participation. Start out right away by requiring applications, even if you think you will take every kid who applies because you only get three the first year you try it.
2. Set up criteria, such as the age they must be to apply (I recommend at least age 12 to 14), application deadline, number of hours in the summer they will volunteer, etc. I suggest a number of hours per week, however, teens are often at the weekly whim of their parents, available transportation, vacations, etc. Write a schedule.
3. Write up brief bullet points with expectations and responsibilities for each task. For instance, teens might be in charge of taking care of a Guessing Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Bulletin Board, Reader of the Week drawing, etc. Write up a GUIDE for each individual activity and keep a copy in a ringbinder on a cart for Volunteers. Give a copy to the teen responsible for each activity (each teen should have a folder, perhaps that they decorate with the summer theme). Find an adult volunteer to oversee this and check on the teens work.
4. Plan a day for a required 1 to 1.5 hour Training Program. Play an icebreaker game to start. Keep the discussion to the most important aspects of what you want them to remember. Write everything down and require that they and their parent read it, sign it, and return it the first week of summer.



Much Ado About Summer Reading Program 2010

Ideas gathered or created by

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