

Book and Film Discussion

Adult

Length

Prep: 2 hours or more

Project: 3 hours

Number of Attendees

20-25

Materials

LCD Projector with screen and DVD player

Description of Program

For Adult Summer Reading, we have presented 3 Book & Film Discussions (1 in June, July and August) based on NJLA's theme. Patrons read the book in advance and then watched the film tie-in on selected dates. Following the film, there was a book & film discussion. We also served light refreshments. These programs have been very popular and well attended. I usually scheduled an additional special program connected to the theme.

Instructions

The discussion leader will need to select books with a movie tie-in that fit the theme and then prepare questions for the book & film discussions

Cost

\$40 or more

Miscellaneous

Tables and chairs are set up facing the screen and a table is set-up in the back of the room for light refreshments.

Submitted by:

Ethan Galvin, West Caldwell Public Library

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Let's Build!

Elementary (K-5th Grade)

Length

Prep: 20-30 minutes

Project: 30 minutes

Number of Attendees

20-25

Materials

Pool Noodles, Golf Tees, Sharp Knife

Description of Program

Building nearly anything, with pool noodles and golf tees!

Instructions

Using a sharp knife, cut the pool noodle in to various lengths, manageable by little hands. Using the golf tees, stick them in to the noodles in order to make robots, buildings, abstract sculptures! A lot of fun for kids to use the imaginations to create countless creations!

Cost

\$15-\$20

Miscellaneous

Do not need a lot of space, kids can take them home, or be left to display or break down and use again and again!

Submitted by:

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Seed Bombs!

Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 15-20 minutes

Project: 30 minutes

Number of Attendees

10-15

Materials

Wild Flower seed

Potter's clay powder, from any craft shop

Peat-free compost

Water

Bowl

Baking tray

Wax paper

Description of Program

Help beautify your neighborhood by using easily found materials and some wild flower seeds, you can make "bombs" to throw in soil and watch a little patch of flowers grow!

Instructions

Mix the seed, clay, and compost together in a bowl to a ratio of three handfuls of clay, five handfuls of compost and one handful of seed. Then carefully add water slowly and gradually (you don't want it too gloopy), mixing it all together until you get a consistency that you can form into truffle-sized balls. Lay them out to bake dry on a sunny windowsill for at least three hours. Placed on wax paper for teens to bring home.

Cost

\$15-\$20

Miscellaneous

Can easily be modified for smaller children.

Submitted by:

Kate Senedzuk, Hasbrouck Heights

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Brick -a- Book

Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 20-30 minutes

Project: 60 minutes

Number of Attendees

15-20

Materials

Bricks (check craigs list / local consturction, will usually find them to be free!)

Varied sizes of artist's paintbrushes

Acrylic paint, color of your choice for the cover

Acrylic paint, black

Acrylic paint, white

Graphite pencil

Clear sealant spray

Painter's palette or paper plate

Cup of water

Paper towels

Description of Program

Recycle old bricks in to a new masterpiece for your garden!

Instructions

Clean off any dirt or grime that might be on the bricks before painting. Choose books from your "want-to-read" list or your favorite classic novels. Decide on a color for the book cover and apply a thin coat of paint on the "spine" of the book and the front and back "covers." Use one coat of paint if you prefer the books to have a vintage look. For a cleaner look, apply a second coat of paint once the first coat is completely dry.

Cost

\$20-\$25

Miscellaneous

Works best with teens, but can be modified to be a create your own book/brick in a parent child workshop.

Submitted by:

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Digging for Dinosaurs

Elementary (K-5th Grade)

Length

Prep: Must prepare days ahead to ensure that mixture is fully dried.

Project: 45 minutes

Number of Attendees

15-20

Materials

Foil tins, toy dinosaur skeletons from Amazon, cornstarch, water, toothpicks, q-tips, popsicle sticks, leaves and branches from outside.

Description of Program

Students will take home and read a book about dinosaurs, then learn about how paleontologists dug for dinosaurs. During program they will 'dig' for toy dinosaur skeletons using 'tools', and identify what dinosaurs they found.

Instructions

Please see handout

Cost

\$40 or more

Miscellaneous

You will need significant space depending on the amount of children in the program.

Submitted by:

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STEM Challenge with Spaghetti

Elementary (K-5th Grade)

Length

Prep: 15-20 minutes

Project: 45 minutes

Number of Attendees

15-20

Materials

2 packages of spaghetti, blocks, books, 2 styrofoam discs

Description of Program

Test how strong spaghetti is when vertical and when horizontal

Instructions

Start off with seeing how strong spaghetti is when vertical. Children will quickly see that it bends and breaks fairly fast this way and is not very strong. Ask them if they think that multiple pieces of spaghetti could hold more weight than one. Stick about 20 pieces of spaghetti into a styrofoam disc and see if it can hold up a large book. *hint* it should not be able to. Next trying putting a LOT of spaghetti into the styrofoam disc. I am guessing over a hundred pieces. Then place another styrofoam disc on top and start adding books. This will be a balancing act because the spaghetti will sway. Try using different types of books like board books and paperbacks.

For the second part, you will test to see how strong it is horizontally. Lay a handful of spaghetti across two sets of rectangular blocks. The middle of the spaghetti should not be supported by the blocks. Put blocks on top of the spaghetti where it isn't supported to see how many it can hold. You might need to add blocks on the top sides of the spaghetti so that it stays in place. The children will see that it is much stronger when placed horizontal.

Cost

\$10 or less

Miscellaneous

Depending on how many show up, you can either do this as a whole group or you can break up into teams.

Submitted by:

Lauren Magielnicki, Garfield

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Homemade Print Making

Elementary (K-5th Grade), Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 20-30 minutes

Project: 60 minutes, Could go longer or shorter than an hour depending on how detailed you want the prints and how many prints you let them make.

Number of Attendees

10-15

Materials

Foam sheets, washable markers, pens or some other kid friendly item that you can use to draw a design onto the foam sheet, water, paper towels, and whatever paper product you want to stamp your design onto (I recommend card stock or any other similarly heavier paper, because printer paper will curl up horribly when it gets even a little wet).

Description of Program

Learn how to make your own print to stamp on a card, bookmark, notebook, etc.

Instructions

Before the program: Decide on what you will be using the stamp on (ie. bookmark, notebook, card, folder, etc.). I recommend cutting the foam sheets to match the size of the paper you will be working with ahead of time. It will give the kids/teens more time to focus on designing their print during the program. Make sure the markers you are using are washable markers, otherwise the colors may not transfer as well. Librarian should make a tester print before the program and try stamping it onto the bookmark/folder/notebook (it might take a try or two to get the hang of it). Set bowls filled with A LITTLE water and paper towels on the side for when they are ready to stamp their print.

During the program: Everyone should start with the foam sheet and the pen/other carving implement that they will be using to draw the design on their foam sheet. Keep the water and folder/notebook/blank cards on a separate table until they are ready to stamp. I recommend staying away from any designs that are too small or detailed as they will be hard to color in and may not transfer clearly. Start drawing the design onto your foam sheet, making sure not to poke through the foam. You want to feel the grooves when you run your hand over the foam.

Once you have finished drawing your design, the next step is to color it in with the washable markers. You don't have to color the whole stamp, but the more of it you color the better the effect is.

When the stamp is colored it is time to grab your bookmark/notebook/folder/card, a bowl with a little bit of water, and a piece of paper towel. Wet your paper towel and LIGHTLY DAMPEN the paper you will be transferring your stamp onto. If the paper is too wet BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN and the stamp will not come out correctly (it will look like a giant watercolor mess). Once the paper is lightly dampened, place the colored side of the stamp onto the paper, pressing down and massaging the back of the stamp for a few seconds to make sure that the entire stamp has made contact with the paper. Slowly lift the stamp up and marvel at your creation!

Note: I found that you can usually use the stamp a maximum of two times before you have to color over it again (with the SAME COLORED markers as the first time you colored it in) if you want to use it multiple times.

Cost

\$10 or less, \$15-\$20

Miscellaneous

Room set up: If you have the space, keep the kids 3 or 4 to a table. You don't want them squished together.
Extras: I would highly recommend using volunteers to help if you are going to be doing this with a big group and/or younger children.

Helpful Feedback: We did this program with a 1st-6th grade group. After the program, I feel like this is something better geared towards 3rd grade (minimum) or older. We also had about 20 kids, which was a bit hard to handle when everyone needed help. I would recommend no more than 15 participants, unless you can gather a group of volunteers to help (5 kids for every 1 volunteer is probably a good ratio).

Submitted by:

Korine Stopsky, Dixon Homestead Library

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No Sew T-shirt Tote Bag

Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 10-15 minutes

Project: It took me less than 20 minutes to make one bag. It would depend on the teens, their abilities, as well as how many bags they want to make.

Number of Attendees

It can be a timed event or it can be a drop-in. You would just have to advertise the need for the teens to bring their own t-shirts.

Materials

- old t-shirt (the thicker the fabric the stronger the bag).
- fabric scissors.
- big, round bowl.
- marker.

Description of Program

Encourage teens to build a better world by teaching them how to recycle old t-shirts into something useful. This program will teach them how to turn their favorite tees in to a tote bag.

Instructions

- 1) Cut sleeves off. If you'd like to fold the t-shirt in half you can cut both sleeves at once so that they are identical. Or, if your material is too thick to cut them both at once, you can cut one, then fold it in half and use the cut side as a guide for the next sleeve.
- 2) Cut the neckline area. If you'd like, you can turn the shirt inside out and trace the outline of a bowl before cutting. I used both methods and personally, I like free-hand cutting better because I prefer a slightly oval shape to a perfectly round one. I ended up trimming this one a bit to make it more oval.
- 3) Determine how deep you want the bag to be. If you haven't already turned your t-shirt inside out, do it now. Determine where you want the bottom of the bag to be and trace a line across. Keep in mind that depending on the fabric used, your tote is likely stretch and become longer when it's filled with stuff.
- 4) Cut fringe. Now grab your scissors and cut slits from the bottom of the shirt up to the line marking the bottom of your bag. You'll want to cut both the front and back layers together because they need to match up for the next step. I cut my slits about 3/4 to 1 inch apart.
- 5) Tie Fringe. Okay, this is going to sound really complicated, but it's NOT, promise. Take your first pair of fringe and tie it into a knot, then tie two more pairs. Now if you lift your bag you'll see that although the pairs are pulling the bag together, there's a hole between each pair. This next step will close those holes. What I do next is grab one strand from the middle set (the one with the arrow pointing left) and tie it in a knot with one of the strands on the left set. Then I take the other strand from the middle set (the one with the arrow pointing right) and tie it in a knot with one of the strands on the right set. Then I take the remaining strand on the right set and tie it to the next set of strands, and so on and so forth until all the strands are tied. Now turn your t-shirt right side out again and voila, you're done!

Cost

\$10 or less

Miscellaneous

<http://www.mommypotamus.com/no-sew-t-shirt-tote-bag-tutorial/> check this page out to get visuals on how to make one.

Submitted by:

Justin Kontoncolaou, Ridgewood

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Make a Photo Cube

Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 10-15 minutes

Project: 30 minutes

Number of Attendees

DIY Teen Take Out Craft. We create several kits for teens to take in the teen room. Can be easily adapted into a drop-in program

Materials

- Four CD cases

- One container of super glue

*Pictures for photo cube not included

You will need a ruler, a pen/pencil and scissors.

Description of Program

Teach teens to build a better world! Recycle those old CD cases into an awesome Photo Cube

Instructions

- 1) Decide on what photos or images you would like to use. (You can hand draw these images or print them out.)
- 2) After you have your four images, measure and cut each to fit inside the CD case cover. It should be less than 5in x 5in or 12cm by 12 cm.
- 3) Open the cover of the CD case and insert the image face down. Close the case and repeat the process three more times.
- 4) Finally apply glue to the spine of one of the CD case and press firmly against the back of another.
- 5) Continue this process until you have created a cube with your cases.

Cost

\$10 or less

Miscellaneous

<https://youtu.be/YQighPB0e6g> visit to see video instructions.

Submitted by:

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Buildernoon

Elementary (K-5th Grade), Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 10-15 minutes

Project: 45 minutes

Number of Attendees

Drop-in

Materials

This is a great way to de-clutter your storage spaces; if you have any leftovers from other programs, see what the kids can build with it!

LEGOs, play dough, popsicle sticks, cups, paper (including newspaper, magazines, scraps, etc), pipe cleaners, cardboard boxes, connex, Lincoln logs, etc.

Description of Program

Drop in to build with new materials each week! LEGOs, play dough, popsicle sticks, and more! What can you create? All ages are welcome!

Instructions

This is a drop-in program, so it doesn't require a lot of instructions.

Cost

\$10 or less

Miscellaneous

I have not done this program yet, but I anticipate that it will be a hit; kids are super creative and often make awesome things out of the simplest supplies.

Submitted by:

Caitlin, Mahwah Public Library

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Cook with a Book Reading Club / How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell

Elementary (K-5th Grade)

Length

Prep: 30-60 minutes

Project: 1 hour 15 minutes

Number of Attendees

10-15

Materials

Books

Discussion Questions

Dirt Cups (makes 12):

24 Gummy Worms

12 Chocolate Pudding Cups

2 Packages Oreo Cookies

2 Containers of Cool Whip Cream

Clear plastic cups

12 zip-lock food bags

12 bowls

1. Give each student a clear, plastic zip-lock food bag. Split up oreo cookies among students and have them crush the cookies in their personal bag until they become crumbs.
2. Give each student a bowl and pudding cup. In each bowl, have the students add their chocolate pudding cup, half the bag of just crumbled oreo cookies, and a few spoonfuls of whip cream. Mix well.
3. Give each student a clear plastic cup. Have each student add their pudding mixture to the cup. Add two gummy worms into the pudding and sticking out the side of the cup. Then, fill the top of the pudding cup with the remaining Oreo cookie crumbs to create a layer of dirt.
4. Enjoy the treat!

Description of Program

Students, grades 4-6, cook a snack related to the collective book read, "How to Eat Fried Worms" by Thomas Rockwell

Instructions

Prior to the meeting, each student should read the book. Librarian has questions ready to be discussed. We spend 15 minutes discussing the book and 45 minutes making a food item related to the book.

Cost

\$20-\$25

Miscellaneous

Room set up requires table and chairs. I had a few students who preferred vanilla over chocolate, so I provide some vanilla pudding and vanilla Oreo cookies as an alternative. Allergies were not an issue with this group of children. I have held many other Cook with Book Reading Club meetings. A few others included The

Candymakers/Candy Sushi, Lemonade War/Fresh Lemonade, The Potato Chip Puzzles/Potato Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Pie/Mini Fresh Fruit Pie Cups.

Submitted by:

Michelle Albert, Nutley Public Library

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Build a Better Community

Elementary (K-5th Grade)

Length

Prep: 15-20 minutes

Project: 60 minutes

Number of Attendees

Drop-in

Materials

How this program goes depends on what you want to do each week; some things like the community garden need a lot of prep work, but something like cards for troops requires laying out paper and craft supplies.

Description of Program

Drop in every week for a new project! Make cards for troops, help plant a community garden, decorate placemats for Meals on Wheels, or make blankets for Project Linus! These events are fun for the whole family.

Instructions

Contact local non-profits and community centers to see if there are any projects the kids can help with!

Cost

\$40 or more

Miscellaneous

We plan on asking local businesses to donate materials for this program; for example, plants from a nursery, fleece from Michael's, etc. It's a great program to get the whole community involved in.

Submitted by:

Caitlin, Mahwah Public Library

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Pokemon Launcher

Babies, Teen (6th-12 Grade)

Length

Prep: 15-20 minutes

Project: 45 minutes Checking Off

Number of Attendees

15-20

Materials

PVC Pipe, Colorful Tape, Rubber Bands, Plastic Spoons, Mini Pokemon Toys

Description of Program

Create a Pokemon Launcher to Release Your Pokemon Into the World!!

Instructions

Cover your PVC pipe in colorful tape. Using the plastic spoon and rubber-band, wrap the plastic spoon around the PVC pipe. Place your Pokemon on the top of spoon, pull back, and LAUNCH!!

Cost

\$15-\$20 Checking Off

Miscellaneous

No extra setup required

Submitted by:

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Lego Marble Maze

Teen (6th-12 Grade), Pre-K

Length

Prep: 10-15 minutes

Project: 45 minutes Checking Off

Number of Attendees

10-15 Checking Off

Materials

Lego's and Marbles

Description of Program

Using Lego boards, Lego's and a marble create your own Lego maze!

Instructions

Using the Lego Boards and pieces, create a maze. Then put your maze to the test by moving your marble through!

Cost

\$10 or less

Miscellaneous

No room set up needed

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