Scranton Staff Spotlight

Scranton Memorial Library

Adults

|

Intergenerational

Scranton Staff Spotlight

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$51-100

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Byline

Colin Welch, Teen Librarian, Scranton Memorial Library, Madison, Conn.

Staff members at Scranton Memorial Library were given the opportunity to plan an hourlong program on any topic using any format they'd be comfortable with. We had round tables, direct presentations, Q&A sessions, group art sessions and a live demonstration of ancient Greek battle tactics.

Topics have included genealogy, retro video games, and arts and crafts.

This not only gave our staff the opportunity to share their own interests but also demonstrated to our community how talented and knowledgeable our staff is. We also had the opportunity to test what types of programs might be successful with different demographics.

Advanced Planning

Due to the nature of this program, the learning outcomes were different for each session. Most of the advanced prep consisted of recruiting staff members who were willing to be presenters. Each presenter was responsible for planning and acquiring materials for their own session.

Marketing

We promoted the event with flyers set up throughout the library and word of mouth. We had varying degrees of success but averaged five patrons per session.

The wonderful thing about a program series like this one is that each session brought in drastically different demographics from our community.

Budgeting

Most of these presentations had zero cost associated with them. The presenters were responsible for acquiring funds for their presentations if they were necessary. The end cost was about $100 for all seven sessions.

Day-of-event Activity

Set-up was up to the presenter; they were responsible for coordinating with custodial staff for room set-up. The most intense set-up was for our retro video game session, which required various adapters to be compatible with our screens and speakers.

Our ancient warfare session also required a wide-open space and materials to approximate spears and shields (we ended up using poster board, duct tape and pool noodles).

Program Execution

Each session took place on a Saturday. The average attendance was five people per session, with our most heavily attended event bringing in about 12 participants. Feedback for each program was excellent. The only hiccups were when presenters were unable to run their program due to illness or other reasons.

Advice

There are two areas that are necessary for the success of this program. First, make sure that your staff understands that they have complete freedom in how they want to run their session. Second, effective marketing is vital due to the wide variety of topics that will be covered. The best method for advertising this program is word of mouth, so make sure your circulation staff is mentioning this program to as many patrons as possible.

Did you try this program at your library? Share your experience using this form.

Supporting Materials

Document
flyer.pdf
Download this Program as a PDF

- Programming Librarian Facebook Group

More Programs

Apr 16, 2018
Adults (21 and up)+ | $$$
Image



Fake News 101

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)
Intergenerational
Mar 14, 2019
Children (9 and under)+ | □□
Image



Panel Discussion: Starting a Community Garden

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Tweens (10-12)
Adults (21 and up)
Feb 4, 2021
Children (9 and under)+ |
Image



Reimagining Stories in ASL: Wisconsin’s Second Deaf Storyslam

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Tweens (10-12)
Teens (13-16)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Adults (21 and up)
Intergenerational