

Adulting 101

[North Bend Public Library](#)

Young Adult

Adulting 101

Mar 22, 2017

\$101-250

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Byline

Teresa Lucas, Assistant Director of Library Services, North Bend (Ore.) Public Library

You've waited all these years to finally be an adult — no one to tell you to do your homework, clean your room, what time to be home or to eat your peas. Now what?

Adulting 101 is your go-to program to learn the basics of being a responsible grown-up. Monthly programs begin in February and run through the summer. We kicked off the series with a program called Bare Essential Cooking.

Advanced Planning

The idea for Adulting 101 came from two different places. I read a short thread in the [Programming Librarian Interest Group \(PLIG\) Facebook group](#) and began thinking about how and when to present the idea of Adulting 101 to my library director when,

at the same time, a coworker — Clara Piazzola, a library assistant who is an MLS student — came to me to share a program idea she had been discussing with her classmates. We put our heads together and brainstormed topics. It was apparent *Adulting 101* was meant to be offered at our library.

Marketing

We created a flier with six months of program themes, complete with dates (**view the flier under Attachments at right**), and sent it off to our regular advertising venues: the [library's website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, local bulletin boards, [newspaper](#), radio and television stations.

A local news reporter happened upon the library's website and saw the flier. She contacted me to set up an [interview](#), which aired a couple weeks before the first program. She followed up by covering our first program, complete with more interviews. After the [second interview](#) aired *Adulting 101* exploded on social media!

Budgeting

This was a relatively low-cost program, with coffee, tea, lemonade and cookies for each program being the primary expense, as well as some very low-cost supplies for our cooking demonstration.

Day-of-event Activity

We reserved the Big Meeting Room at the library, went to a dollar store for flour tortillas, sliced cheese, non-stick spray and aluminum foil — all for \$4 — and then set up chairs in the meeting room, hooked up the laptop to the projector, found an iron and a clean bath towel, and waited for people to come.

Program Execution

Clara gave several great tips for dorm cooking using atypical appliances, such as using a coffee pot to cook ramen, hot dogs and more. She demonstrated the fine art of quesadilla-making using an iron, bath towel, aluminum foil, flour tortillas and sliced cheese — fresh snacks for our first program! **(View her "25 Essential Dorm Room Cooking Hacks" under Attachments at right.)**

I completed the program with a slideshow about comparison shopping, using photos from the local grocery store, for new adults who might not be living in a dorm.

Subsequent programs will feature experts in their fields giving basic classes on financial know-how, getting a job, finding a place to live, how to decipher fact from fiction on the Internet, and more. **(View a finance program handout under Attachments at right.)**

Advice

This is a great program to offer your community. Tailor your topics to suit the needs of the patrons you serve. A dozen people came to our first program, and 13 to the second. The first program included a small group from a girls detention center who were unable to attend the second program. As far as exposure goes, between the two programs, we've seen 20 new faces. This was a success, since, as you may know, getting people to attend a program is one of our biggest challenges!

"Librarians should be doing things to induce gasps of amazement!" — Eli Neiburger

Supporting Materials

Document

[adulthood_101_series.pdf](#)

Document

[finances_handout.doc](#)

Document

[dorm_cooking_hacks.doc](#)

[Download this Program as a PDF](#)

- Feedback (Coming Soon!)

- [Programming Librarian Facebook Group](#)

More Programs

Feb 23, 2017

+ | \$

[Image](#)



[Free Food: A Friendly Invitation](#)

Audiences:

Feb 23, 2017

Children (9 and under)+ |

[Image](#)



Fake News: A Library Resource Round-Up

Audiences:

Audience

Children (9 and under)

Teens (13-16)

Young Adult (17 - 20)

Adults (21 and up)

Intergenerational

Oct 15, 2015

Young Adult (17 - 20)+ | \$\$

[Image](#)



Teen Cooking Series: Fruit Smoothies

Audiences:

Young Adult (17 - 20)

Jan 5, 2017

Young Adult (17 - 20)+ |

[Image](#)



College & Me

Audiences:

Young Adult (17 - 20)

Adults (21 and up)