Trivia Night

West Linn Public Library

Children

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Tweens (10-12)

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Adults

Trivia Night

Nov 30, 2017

$1-50

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Byline
Cheryl Hill, Adult Services Librarian, West Linn (Ore.) Public Library

The West Linn Public Library holds an every-other-month Trivia Night in our Community Room. We do not require registration but ask people to form teams of two to five people and just show up. People who do not come with a team are welcome to join another team as long as it remains five people or less. The program is targeted to adults, but all ages are welcome, and we usually have at least one family with kids that shows up.

With funds from our programming budget we are able to provide pizza, microwave popcorn and prizes. We used to give out prizes ($5 gift cards to places such as Starbucks, Barnes & Noble, Powells and Amazon), but because the same team wins every time we are moving to a "bragging rights" prize.

Advanced Planning

Using a variety of sources (see "Tips and Sources" under Attachments at right), I put together the list of trivia questions. This part can be time-consuming so I chip away at it a little bit at a time. (Good activity for the Reference Desk!)

I do five rounds of ten questions each. Each round is themed (movies, music, animals, science, history, geography, etc.). I try to have a balance of easy, medium and difficult questions.

The questions are printed off for the host to read and are also put into a PowerPoint that is displayed on the screen during the game. The answers are also put into the PowerPoint.

Marketing

Trivia Night is advertised via posters in the library and on community bulletin boards, our social media channels and our monthly e-newsletter.

Budgeting

This is a relatively low-cost program. The only expenses are the microwave popcorn and pizza. Prizes are not necessary if it is not in your budget. I have learned that attendees come for the mere fun of it, not for the prizes (which is good since the same team wins every time).

Day-of-event Activity

We set up the Community Room with tables spread out over the whole room. Each table is provided with pencils, scratch paper, an answer sheet and a copy of the rules. At the front of the room is the screen and the podium for the host. At the back of the room is a table for the pizza and popcorn.

Program Execution

Before the game starts I go around and get everyone's team name and write it down, then announce each team name when we get started. I go over the rules, then the game gets started.

I read all ten questions in the round, displaying each question on the screen as I go along. At the end of the round I repeat any questions that people need to hear again. Then teams exchange answer sheets for scoring.

I read off each answer while displaying it on the screen and points are noted on the answer sheet before being returned to the original team. Each correct answer is worth one point.

Then we move onto the next round and do it all over again. There is a five-minute break after the third round. At the end I go around and get everyone's total score, then read the scores aloud to the entire group. Each person on the winning team used to get a gift card of their choosing, but now they will get bragging rights.

Advice

The first time I tried this program I asked a local pub if we could host it there. The program was very successful and well-attended, but the setting was just too loud. The pub did not have a PA system, and I had to shout; people had a hard time hearing me. I was hoarse for 24 hours after that! The pub was definitely a more fun location, but it has been much easier (and quieter) to hold Trivia Night at the library.

I have learned some pitfalls to avoid when preparing trivia questions. See "Tips and Sources" under Attachments for my thoughts.

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

Supporting Materials

Document
tips_and_sources.pdf
Document
trivia_rules.pdf
Download this Program as a PDF

- Programming Librarian Facebook Group

More Programs

Jul 7, 2015
Children (9 and under)+ | $
Image



'Doctor Who' Trivia Contest

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Adults (21 and up)
Mar 31, 2016
Adults (21 and up)+ | □□
Image



Winter of Reading Kick-Off

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)
Oct 14, 2016
Adults (21 and up)+ | $

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Board Game Battle Royale

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)