

OPEN – SEZ ME!

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These types of programs explore a teen’s widening world and offer new experiences and opportunities to explore their ethnic and gender identities.

Program Ideas

1. Travel – adventure

Travel programs for teens are relatively easy to set up. For example, have someone from the Florida Trail Association speak about the best trails in Florida. You could invite someone to speak about “weird Florida” places or even the best amusement parks in Florida. Invite local teens in to vote on the best vacation or “getaway” places. If possible, contact the Friends group, local businesses, or travel agencies to see if they could sponsor a field trip to a local amusement park or scenic destination for a select group of teens. Adventure programs can be as simple as an Internet Scavenger Hunt, or as complicated as an International Murder Mystery. You could set up a “folk hero” day where teens can come disguised as their favorite folk hero. Even better, have a storytelling session on American folk heroes such as Pecos Bill.

Non-Fiction

Osborne, Mary Pope. *American Tall Tales.*

This book features stories about American folklore characters such as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan.

San Souci, Robert. *Larger than Life: The Adventures of American Legendary Heroes.*

This book features four tales about such legendary American heroes as John Henry, Old Stormalong, Sluefoot Sue, and Paul Bunyan.

Web sites

Florida Trail Association

<http://www.florida-trail.org/>

Lots of good information about the many trails in Florida.

American Society of Travel Agents

<http://www.astanet.com/>

The American Society of Travel Agents is the world's largest association of travel professionals.

Travel and Tourism Links at the Internet Public Library

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/ent87.00.00/>

Many links to travel sources on the Internet.

Rotary Youth Exchange Abroad Program

http://www.rotary.org/programs/youth_ex/index.html

The Rotary Clubs offer a student exchange to other countries.

Amusement Link

<http://members.aol.com/parklinks/parks.htm>

A listing of amusement and theme parks in the United States.

2. International Folk Fair

Plan an International Folk Fair with your teens. Invite various country-based organizations to the library to have a demonstration table. Have the teens research several countries and provide music, dance, or foods related to their country. Have a World Celebration Day each month, where one country is highlighted with books, music, and culture. Canvass the community to get participation from adults or families that are natives of that particular country. Have the teens play games from that country and even sample a dish of some kind.

Non-Fiction Books

Books about countries and different states can be found in the 900s.

Albyn, Carole Lisa. *Multicultural Cookbook for Students.* Recipes from over 120 countries as well as the culture and culinary habits of each country can be found in this useful volume.

Erlbach, Arlene. *Sidewalk Games from Around the World.* This book lists various games played in countries around the world, describing the places where the games are played and the directions and equipment needed for each game.

Web sites

InfoPlease Countries of the World

<http://www.infoplease.com/countries.html>

All kinds of information about countries can be found at this Web site.

Yahoo Directory of International Foods

http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Food_and_Drink/Countries_and_Cultures/

Food and drink from other countries are listed by country and individual Web sites.

Silver Burdett's Making Music

<http://www.sbgmusic.com/html/teacher/reference/cultures.html>

Information, definitions, and history can be found for many countries.

3. Auto program

Contact a local auto dealer and have someone speak about buying a first car. Or have a panel of speakers that includes someone from a bank, a mechanic, and a car dealership salesperson. Invite a teacher from the local technical school or even high school that teaches auto repair speak about keeping the car in good shape (oil changes, check-ups, etc.). An added fun feature would be to have a "Name that part" contest with coupons from local repair shops for an oil change, tune-up, etc.

Non-Fiction Books

Chari, Sheela. *Car Smarts.*

The author provides advice on different factors to consider when deciding to buy or lease a car.

Popular Mechanics Complete Car Care Manual.

Everything you need to know about keeping your car in good working order.

Volpe, Ren. *The Lady Mechanics Total Car Care for the Clueless.*

Another easy to understand manual on keeping your car in shape.

Web sites

National Automobile Dealers Association

<http://www.nada.org/>

Provides information and news on finding new and used vehicles and the suggested prices for each mode of transportation.

Automotive Services Association

<http://www.asashop.org/>

ASA has been the leading organization for owners and managers of automotive service businesses that strive to deliver excellence in service and repairs to consumers.

Internet Public Library Car Sites

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/sci66.61.90/>

A number of vehicle related links can be found here.

4. Jobs/careers

Plan a career or job fair. Invite local and national businesses to participate. Have several areas where teens can learn how to write a résumé, how to fill out a job application, and job interviewing skills. You could go so far as to find a local fashion consultant for a “Dress for Success” clinic. Have representatives from different fields offer information as well as potential interviews with the teens. If you plan a job fair, incorporate the elements from the career fair, but have representatives from local businesses and chains actually

interview the teens on the spot. If you have several computers available, you can plan an “Online Job Clinic,” where teens can learn how to find jobs online and find sites that can be useful for them at home. Have a College Night, where local colleges can supply recruiters or information. Have a local high school guidance counselor come in to speak about college selection, financial aid, Bright Futures, etc.

Non-Fiction Books

Weiss, Jodi. *145 Things to Be When You Grow Up.*

The Princeton Review offers a complete profile of 145 different professions as well as information on high school activities, college majors, and work experience that will help one achieve their career goals.

O’Neill, Lucy. *Job Smarts.*

This is a guide to determining one's own skills and career goals, finding helpful resources, writing a cover letter and résumé, and interviewing for what could be – or lead to – a dream job.

Hassell, Meagan. *Real U Guide to Your First Job.*

This is a step-by-step guide to finding a job, from résumé writing to the interview and beyond.

Web sites

Prince George’s County Teen Job Page

<http://www.pgcmis.info/TeenCenter/TeenJobs.html>

Prince George’s County in Maryland has a good Web site for links to jobs and careers.

Internet Public Library Teen Space

<http://www.ipl.org/div/teen/browse/mw3000/>

Teen Space at the Internet Public Library with job sites.

Skokie Public Library Teen Scene’s Jobs Page

http://www.skokie.lib.il.us/s_teens/tn_jobs/

Skokie Public Library (IL) has a terrific job Web site.

5. NASA/Into the Wild Blue Yonder

Contact NASA and get a speaker to talk about being an astronaut/scientist. This usually doesn't cost a great deal. You could combine this program with a career fair and have the astronaut as a main speaker. Invite someone from a local military base to speak about being a pilot or special ops person. Hold a paper airplane clinic and have teens make and fly their creations outside the library.

Non-Fiction Books

Blackburn, Ken. *Aviation Legends Paper Airplane Book.*

This book provides a history of airplanes as well as patterns for 12 models and stands.

Taylor, Robert. *Life Aboard the Space Shuttle.*

This book discusses the early years of the space shuttle with information about its construction and the training of the crews.

Yang, Thay. *Exotic Paper Airplanes.*

This book provides information on making origami paper airplanes.

Web sites

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Web site

<http://www.nasa.gov/>

Everything you need to know about our space program, from its history to shuttle launches and even factual information on the solar system.

U.S. Military Units Database Research

<http://www.globemaster.de/units.html>

This Web-based database contains U.S. military aircraft and helicopter operating units, the corresponding aircraft, air bases, tail codes, and links to the official Web sites. A cool site to use for potential speakers.

Ken Blackburn's Paper Airplane Web site

<http://www.paperplane.org/>

Ken Blackburn holds the Guinness record for time aloft for paper airplanes.

Fiction List for Open – Sez Me!

Allen, M. E. *Gotta Get Some Bish Bash Bosh.*

After getting dumped by his girlfriend, a 14-year-old English boy attempts to change his image.

Cabot, Meg. *The Princess Diaries.*

Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.

Cooney, Caroline B. *The Face on the Milk Carton.*

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk.*

TJ – a gifted, multiracial, adopted teenager – shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Dessen, Sarah. *Dreamland.*

After her older sister runs away, Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

Desai Hidier, Tanuja. *Born Confused.*

Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes.

Dickinson, Peter. *Eva.*

After a terrible accident, a young girl wakes up to discover that she has been given the body of a chimpanzee.

Goobie, Beth. *Flux.*

Deep in another reality, while using her ability to travel to parallel worlds, Nellie uncovers a conspiracy to abduct children for an experimental laboratory.

Hite, Sid. *The King of Slippery Falls.*

While on a single-minded quest to catch an elusive giant trout, Lewis Hinton's life in a small Idaho town is turned upside-down when he learns that he is adopted and might be a descendant of French royalty.

Ketchum, Liza. *Blue Coyote.*

While searching for his lost friend, Alex not only learns the reasons behind Tito's disappearance but also comes to accept some hidden truths about himself.

Mazer, Harry. *A Boy No More.*

After his father is killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Adam and his family are evacuated from Hawaii to California, where he must deal with his feelings about the war, Japanese internment camps, his father, and his own identity.

Tashjian, Janet. *The Gospel According to Larry.*

Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a Web site that is receiving national attention.

Udiale, Eleanor. *Montmorency.*

In Victorian London, a thief uses the knowledge he has gained to create a new, highly successful double life for himself.

Winston, Sherri. *Acting: A Novel.*

Longing to escape from her small Michigan town, Eve, an aspiring actress, is forced to confront both her family's and her own expectations when her twin sister announces her pregnancy.