



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TEEN FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY REPORT 2023

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS (1/23/23 8:00-9:00PM) = 19

1. WHAT'S THE VERY FIRST WORD YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE LIBRARY'S TEEN SPACE?



- Colorful
- Comfortable
- Cool Decor (paintings, Dobby 3-D poster)
- Noisy (in a good way)
- Manga
- Plants
- Romance Novels
- Technology
- Video Games

2. WHAT COULD WE DO TO MAKE THE TEEN SPACE MORE WELCOMING?

- **Add Posters (2):** More posters || Create a “Welcome” poster that explains the room and offerings.
- **Enhance Appearance/Décor (2):** Decorate seasonally. || Rotate the art themes quarterly.
- **Misc. Unique Ideas (2):** Install cool lighting (e.g., LEDs). || Offer hardcopy, paper-based activities (e.g., word searches).

3. WHAT TYPES OF RESOURCES SHOULD WE OFFER IN THE TEEN SPACE? WHICH RESOURCES OR MATERIALS COULD WE OFFER THAT YOU AND OTHER TEENS WOULD VALUE?

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES IDEAS (2)

- **Collections Idea:** Increase the quantity of new full series sets of books.
- **Technology Idea:** Provide access to subscription databases for research (e.g., Gale In Context DBs)

MISC. UNRELATED IDEAS (2)

- **Marketing Idea:** Increase and improve the promotion of digital resources.
- **Service Idea:** Offer a volunteer-based peer tutoring program.

4. TELL US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE LIBRARY'S PROGRAMS FOR TEENS.

WHICH OF THE LIBRARY'S CURRENT PROGRAMS DO YOU LIKE THE MOST?

- "Book Madness" Bracket Voting (or other themes)
- Escape Rooms
- Pi Day
- Video Game Competitions

PROGRAM IDEAS (8):

- **Arts and Crafts (3):** Crocheting || Sewing || Shrink Art/Shrinky Dinks
- **Technology (3):** 3D Printer Class || Coding classes, like Scratch || Pokemon Gameplay Tutorial
- **Misc. Unique Ideas (2):** Baking Lessons || Movie Nights

5. HOW DO YOU PREFER TO ATTEND PROGRAMS (E.G., VIRTUAL, VIRTUAL WITH TAKE-IT-AND-MAKE-IT KITS, IN-PERSON)?

- **In-Person:** Getting together in person is definitely the most preferred program format.

COMMENT(S):

- Take-and-Makes are a nice option.
- Would Zoom if it was an opportunity to learn something from someone far away.

6. TELL US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT SERVING ON THE TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB).

- **Positives Regarding Serving:** Can only think of good things about serving || Communicating || Hanging Out || Helping to pick out monthly themes || Socializing
- **Negatives Regarding Serving:** N/A - Participants didn't have any negative feedback; they couldn't think of any bad things related to serving on the TAB.

COMMENT: 8 pm is a good time for conducting TAB meetings.

7. WHAT COULD THE LIBRARY DO TO BETTER SERVE LOCAL TEENS? WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR US?

- **Increase/Improve Marketing (2):** Promote Library offerings through the school, Schoology, etc.. Kids don't look at Facebook. || There's an awareness disconnect with teens. Advertise better to high school students.
- **Misc. Unique Idea:** Organize group projects that benefit the community.

8. WHAT TYPES OF LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT INTEREST YOU?

Help with Library Programs:

- Enable teens to help run and/or create crafts and escape rooms.

- Provide opportunities for teens to lead programs related to topics/skills they excel in.
- Teens would like to assist with children's programming.

9. WHAT CURRENT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- Climate Change/Environment/Global Warming Issues (3)
- Social Justice Issues

PROGRAM IDEAS (2): Sponsor/support fundraisers for local refugees and offer the community education about their home countries.