Teen take-home craft kits
You’ve got it in the bag

By Savannah Kitchens
Director, Parnell Memorial Library

If you work in teen services, you know one thing for sure: it is **tough** to convince a teen to come to a library program. Between extra-curricular activities, homework, and after school jobs, it seems like middle and high school students have less and less time on their hands to do things just for fun. For instance, come to a library program. You might have a few flashes of brilliance with a big, blow-out program that’s packed – or, you could spend just as much money on supplies and advertising, and have two teens show up.

That’s not to say that in-house teen programming isn’t worth it – it absolutely is; but sometimes, your director might need a little convincing that your turnout will be worth your budget. That’s where Teen Take Home Kits come to the rescue! We know that teens need stimulating and fun programming designed just for them. By elevating the "passive craft" concept and tailoring activities specifically for teens, you can dramatically increase your statistics.

The concept is simple; all you need is a craft project, the supplies, directions, and a bag. Crafts and activities can range from the super-simple (think origami paper and directions) to the much more involved, and part of the fun is the ability to push the limit with more difficult activities that will appeal to an older crowd. Each activity has to be broken down into the most minute detail, and every supply (besides basics like scissors or tape) should be purchased and provided in each of the kits. The goal is for any teen to grab a kit at the circulation desk and take it home to enjoy a hands-on craft with no additional purchases needed. This means that you might be doing some complicated calculations – “how many projects can I make out of one roll of copper tape?” – to purchase and create the exact amount of supplies for the number of kits you’re trying to make. Directions should always include a picture of the finished product, and be as clear as possible. I’ve found that although a little time consuming, it’s usually worth it to type and re-format any instructions that come with a craft you’ve sourced from somewhere else. If nothing else, it’s another opportunity to include your library’s website, phone number, and Instagram handle.

See Craft continued on next page
Youth library staff are old hats at finding crafts. The old standards like Pinterest are still valuable, and StarNet (www.starnetlibraries.org) has great STEM crafts, with search results that can be filtered by age group.

Just like any other program, Teen Take Home Craft Kits rely heavily on advertising. A simple post promoting the craft on Facebook and Instagram will work wonders – as does a sign near the circulation desk or the teen area. A lot of kits will be taken home by a parent for their teen, so it pays to hit all your advertising channels. Make sure to keep a count of how many kits you’ve made for the month (or week, etc.), and then deduct the ones remaining to get your program attendance total. Usually, you can get much higher passive attendance numbers per dollars spent, especially if you plan out your kits in advance and purchase supplies at once. Kits are perfect for bulk up a teen program calendar, providing a chance for statistics during a low budget point, or even as an offering during a slow time of year like the holidays. Advertise well and make craft kits available to teens on their own time, and you might even find yourself scrambling to create refills to meet demand – every teen librarian’s dream!

Some particularly successful craft kits from the past include:

- **Circuit Valentines** (a STEM activity including copper tape, batteries, and LED lightbulbs) [https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/light-circuit-valentines/](https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/light-circuit-valentines/)
- **DIY Graphic Novel Kits** (blank paper booklets, a special drawing pen, and printed handouts including prompts and advice can always be found online)
- **Fandom-related Crafts**, like a Bowtruckle from Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

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2019 Summer Library Program Statistics Survey

The 2019 Summer Library Program Statistics Survey is now live! <https://forms.gle/Fyt59xr5BFRTtniN68> When filling out the survey, please follow all directions carefully. There are specific instructions on how to report books read, how to report your address, etc. Also, please include an impact story at the end. We need more to go on than, “Summer reading was great this year.”

There are also some very important things to note before you begin. The statistics form due date is earlier this year: Aug. 31. Also, the order form for next year’s summer materials — posters, bookmarks, etc. — will be sent separately later in the summer. You’ll need to fill out both forms — statistics and the order form — to be able to receive your 2020 Summer Library Program materials. No statistics form? No materials. No order form? No materials. This is due to the fact that each year we (all the consultants) spend a lot of valuable time sending email/telephone reminders for both forms.

Please fill out the forms as soon as possible. Last year, several libraries did not receive materials because they did not order any. We don’t want this to happen again. So please, fill out the statistics survey as soon as possible. Order next year’s materials as soon as you receive that form, as well.

Everyone at APLS appreciates the work you put into your Summer Library Program, as does your community. APLS needs your input for our report to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is where our LSTA funding comes from. These funds pay for all the summer materials you receive, so let’s inform them of all the great things happening in Alabama over the summer!
Cape: The League of Secret Heroes
written by Kate Hannigan
illustrated by Patrick Spaziante
Release date: Aug. 6, 2019

Josie's life hasn't been going well. Her father’s off fighting Nazis and the neighborhood bully is being absolutely awful. Still, just like her favorite superheroes, she does her best to help. Superheroes haven’t been seen in years, but she still believes in them and devours tales of prior accomplishments. Josie still wants to do more, and she finds her chance after seeing an ad for a position as a puzzler for the war effort. Creating/cracking codes is something she and her best friend have done for years. This was her chance to make a difference.

Of course, when the examiner throws her and the other girls' exams in the trash, that hope is sunk. That is, until a mysterious woman from Room 12 tells her and the other rejected applicants to return later for a special opportunity. Soon Josie, Akiko, and Mae are thrown into a world they couldn’t have imagined as they’re gifted with powers of their own. The learning curve is steep as villains attack and their lives are threatened and their fates are on the line. Will these three new friends figure out their powers and how to work together in time?

This is one of those books where I’m left wondering if being in the targeted age range would mean I’d have enjoyed it more. It isn’t a bad book. The characters are cute, the concept is solid, and the artwork is adorable. Periodic moments of action are illustrated comic book style - perhaps that’s part of my problem with it. Superhero stories can be told in a purely written format, but I think this one would have been better served by either being a graphic novel, or told in a different point of view. Writing first person is always tricky, and I don’t think this author/novel pulls it off well. The limited comic portions of the book ended up being my favorite parts, and the included homages to over-the-top superhero antics played better visually on the page. Part of the reason for those types of elements is because they’re shorthand. When Robin cries, “Holy ______, Batman!” everyone knows the duo is in trouble, or soon will be, and it’s on to the action. No further explanation needed. The situation’s bad, and they’re about to have to kick butt. And it just takes three words. Now, how would that play in the real world? Imagine yourself at the circ desk when your new coworker suddenly bursts out, “Holy mole, Stacy! Look at the size of that thing!” as a patron enters. Now imagine that same coworker saying something along those lines every single time they were surprised by an unusual patron, situation, or problem.

Not so funny now, is it? (not to mention offensive.) Visual and verbal shorthand is really important, but there’s always a time and a place for it. I think Cape tries too hard to be a classic superhero tale over just being a solid story. Frequently, it was those elements throwing me out of the experience rather than drawing me in. If they’d kept to a graphic novel format, it would have been fine, but the bulk of the story being written made it difficult for me to really enjoy it. The book’s positives lie in the fact that is a story with strong, multicultural heroines, the historical elements (especially those celebrating the real accomplishments of women in WWII), and the artwork. It wouldn’t hurt to add it to your juvenile collection, especially because there is a decided lack of these sorts of stories, but I was hoping for more.

Recommended for: Fans of superheroes and historical novels.

Gather Supplies
- Cardstock apple cutouts (see template on next page)
- Baking soda
- Citric acid
- Food coloring
- Sour apple Fun Dip (optional)

Get crafty
Start by making some baking soda "paint," which is just water mixed with baking soda. Add two tablespoons of baking soda and slowly add water until you get a solution that is not too watery. Next, paint the cardstock apple cutouts with this solution. (You don’t want to completely saturate the cutouts, but just get them damp). Then, make several containers of colored citric acid solution (1 tablespoon of citric acid + 2 ½ tablespoons of water + 1–2 drops of food coloring). With the apple cutouts still wet, dip a paint brush in the colored citric acid and place it on the cutout. It will start to fizz. Experiment with multiple colors. You may also use a Fun Dip solution to make the creations smell like apples. When done, allow the apple cutouts to dry.

Apples love the sun ...
The fizzing solution adds an interesting texture to the paper. Try hanging the apple cutouts in a window and see if they act like suncatchers.

What’s happening?
Well, fun’s happening. But aside from the art and creativity, (the big "A" in the middle of STEAM) there’s also the fun you get when you combine a base with an acid. The citric acid reacts when mixed with baking soda to release carbon dioxide. You can hear this reaction when the art fizzes. This reaction is caused by an exchange of negative and positive hydrogen ions.
Fizzy Apple template
Albert L. Scott: Madeleine Yocom, Bella Stiltner, Patricia Wynn, Gavin Yocom, and Lara Maldonado perform during the drama showcase. The free, six-week workshop was directed by Darrell Revel.

Woodville: The Sons of the Confederate Veterans presented on Civil War battles that took place in and near Jackson County.

Albert L. Scott: Kids in Alabaster’s public library examine a snake skin during a presentation by the Alabama 4-H Science School.

Albert L. Scott: (above & below) Young children celebrate National Sugar Cookie Day by decorating cookies to like bugs.

Glencoe’s top reader feeds a carrot to a camel at the summer library program grand finale petting zoo.

Weatherford: Above, Digeridoo Down Under visits the public library in Red Bay. Below, the library was boarded by pirates.

Lawrence County: Oakville Indian Mounds & Museum taught how Native Americans made corn meal.

AUGUST is:
- Family fun month
- National Peach Month
- National Sandwich Month
- Back-to-school month
August 1 — Spiderman Day
August 2 — National Coloring Book Day / National Ice Cream Sandwich Day
August 3 — National Mustard Day / National Watermelon Day
August 4 — Coast Guard Day / National Friendship Day / National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
August 5 — National Underwear Day
August 6 — Wiggle Your Toes Day
August 7 — National Sea Serpent Day
August 8 — National Happines Happens Day / National Dolar Day / World Cat Day
August 9 — Book Lover’s Day
August 10 — National Bowling Day / Lazy Day / National Spoil Your Dog Day
August 11 — Son and Daughter Day / Play in the Sand Day
August 12 — International Youth Day
August 13 — National Left handed’s Day
August 14 — National Creamsicle Day
August 15 — National Relaxation Day
August 16 — National Tell A Joke Day
August 17 — National Honey Bee Day / National Thrift Shop Day
August 18 — National Bad Poetry Day / National Fajita Day
August 19 — World Humanitarian Day / National Potato Day
August 20 — National Lemonade Day / National Radio Day
August 21 — National Senior Citizens Day
August 22 — National Tooth Fairy Day
August 24 — National Waffle Day
August 25 — National Banana Split Day
August 26 — National Dog Day / Women’s Equality Day
August 28 — National Bow Tie Day
August 30 — National Beach Day / National Toasted Marshmallow Day
August 31 — National Trail Mix Day

September 2 — Labor Day
September 4 — National Wildlife Day
September 5 — International Day of Charity / National Cheese Pizza Day
September 7 — National Salami Day
September 8 — National Grandparents Day
September 9 — National Teddy Bear Day
September 10 — World Suicide Prevention Day / National Swap Ideas Day
September 11 — Patriot Day / National Day of Service & Remembrance
September 12 — National Day of Encouragement / National Chocolate Milkshake Day
September 13 — Positive Thinking Day
September 16 — National Stepfamily Day / National Play-doh Day
September 17 — Constitution Day
September 18 — School Backpack Awareness Day / National Cheeseburger Day
September 19 — International Talk Like A Pirate Day
September 20 — National Queso Day / National Pepperoni Pizza Day / National POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 21 — National Dance Day / World Gratitude Day
September 22-28 — Banned Book Week / Tolkien Week
September 22 — Hobbit Day / Ice Cream Cone Day / Elephant Appreciation Day
September 23 — First Day of Autumn
September 24 — National Punctuation Day
September 25 — National Comic Book Day / Women’s Health & Fitness Day
September 26 — National Pancake Day
September 27 — National Crush a Can Day / World Tourism Day
September 28 — National Public Lands Day / National Good Neighbor Day / Ask A Stupid Question Day / Family Health & Fitness Day
September 29 — National Coffee Day
September 30 — International Podcast Day / Safety Pin Day / National Hot Mulled Cider Day
Aug. 6
Getting to Know Generation Z

Born between 1997 and 2012, Generation Z is starting to come of age. Researchers are identifying defining traits of this generation that have a direct impact on library services, instruction, and programming. In this session, the presenter will share research findings on Generation Z and then apply the findings to the work we do in the library so that we meet the needs of this new group of young people. (Utah State Library) https://www.eventbrite.com/o/usl-training-208844751

Seven Contemplative Discipline Steps to Address Challenging Behaviors – Part 1

Problem behaviors exhibited by students interfere with their learning, interactions with peers and adults, and school success. Educators and schools struggling with how best to handle behaviorally challenged students often respond reactively. They frequently pursue a punishment-based approach using time-out or in and out-of-school suspensions even for minor infractions. These punitive consequences do not really work because the challenging behaviors continue. Part 1 will provide step-by-step guidance on how to apply the seven contemplative discipline steps, including how to understand student behavior through data collection, and use the Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence (ABC) method. (AbleNet) https://www.ablenetinc.com/resources/live_webinars/


The 2020 Census is coming! Join us for an overview of the Census and discover how it will be different from prior censuses. Learn how to identify and reach undercounted populations in your community, and get tips for how libraries can leverage or establish programs and partnerships to help support a complete and accurate count. (Washington State Library) https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/libraries/firsttuesdays/default.aspx

Training and Copyright: Do I Always Have to Get Permission? I’ve Heard of Something Called Fair Use…

Through case studies, we’ll explore the process for determining when Fair Use may apply (it’s not a slam dunk) and examine best practices. (Training Magazine Network) https://www.trainingmagnetwork.com/calendar

Aug. 7
Designing Gender Appropriate Experiences for Boys that Guide Positive Behavior

Join this dynamic webinar to learn more about the pedagogical underpinnings that support changing the way we teach young boys. You will learn to identify elements of your program that may be frustrating to young boys, and learning approaches that take advantage of the strengths boys bring to the classroom. (Early Childhood Investigations) https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinars/

Introduction to Proposal Writing

This class will provide you with an overview of how to write a standard project proposal to a foundation. (GrantSpace) https://tinyurl.com/y3vwwjup

Engage & Inspire: Tools for Your Maker Box

Makerspace activities are a great way to promote a growth mindset in your students. Using the right challenges and everyday items, teachers can create a pop-up makerspace in a box for their classroom. We will discuss management ideas and ways to tie activities to curricular objectives. (TeachersFirst) https://tinyurl.com/y3v66euj

Aug. 13
Storytelling 101: Empower Students Through Multimedia Storytelling

Unlock the power of storytelling to support your students to thrive and express themselves, while learning fundamental 21st century skills. Join children’s media and storytelling expert, Kim Wilson, for this edWebinar on how to engage and empower students through media and their own narratives. (edWeb) https://home.edweb.net/webinars/

Aug. 14
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech

New special monthly episodes of NCompass Live! Join the NLC’s Technology Innovation Librarian, Amanda Sweet, as she guides us through the world of library-related Pretty Sweet Tech. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL

Censorship Beyond Books: Library Resources and Services Under Fire

Learn about the wide variety of challenges libraries have faced this past year and how to prepare for them. While the profession is well-versed in protecting the right to read books, many libraries lack policies and experience in protecting the right to access information and services beyond books, often in the form of content created by their staff. You may be surprised at what other types of censoring happens in libraries that don’t include books. (Georgia Library Association) https://gls.georgialibrary.org/cartrette-series-webinars/

Introduction to Project Budgets

Are you ready to start fundraising for your project or idea, but don’t know what and how much to ask for? If preparing a budget for your foundation grant is holding you back, come learn the basic elements of how to draft a project budget with confidence. (GrantSpace) https://tinyurl.com/y3vwwjup

Why Wikipedia Matters for Health and Medical Information

Join the webinar to learn about WikiProject Medicine, an organization of volunteers dedicated to developing, maintaining, and promoting accurate medical information on Wikipedia, and how the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) supports strengthening the ability of public libraries nationwide to find reliable and authoritative medical and health information online for information seekers. Learn about the upcoming online course Wikipedia + Libraries: Health and Medical Information that will empower you to confidently guide your patrons to reliable resources on the internet. (WebJunction) https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction.html

Aug. 15
How to Create Experiences WITH Young Children Rather Than Planning Activities FOR Them

In the field of early childhood education, the focus has often been on planning an activity FOR children that is focused on coming up with a product. This session, presented by author, consultant, and DAP expert, Jacky Howell, will help you and your staff members experience a shift in thinking about classroom experiences. (Early Childhood Investigations) https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinars/

Aug. 20
Seven Contemplative Discipline Steps to Address Challenging Behaviors – Part 2

Problem behaviors exhibited by students interfere with their learning, interactions with peers and adults, and school success. Educators and schools struggling with how best to handle behaviorally challenged students often respond reactively. They frequently pursue a punishment-based approach using time-out or in and out-of-school suspensions even for minor infractions. These punitive consequences do not really work because the challenging behaviors continue. This 2-part webinar series will present an astematic and coordinated framework of seven contemplative discipline steps to address challenging behaviors, drawing from sound research-based best-practices. Participants will learn proactive ways to enable the student to practice appropriate and constructive behaviors and achieve longer-term positive outcomes. (AbleNet) https://www.ablenetinc.com/resources/live_webinars/

Aug. 21
Storytime Starters

Whether you’re a seasoned veteran looking to refresh your offerings or a rookie not sure where to start, you’ll find something to love in this webinar packed full of storytime outlines, plans, booklists, and resources to pump fresh air into one of the longest running programs in Children’s services. (Utah State Library) https://www.eventbrite.com/o/usl-training-208844751

Unconscious Bias: Perceptions of Self & Others

Take some time to notice how you perceive yourself and others. The role of perception is directly linked to all that we are conscious of as well as all of the stuff we aren’t! We must learn our habits to be able to open to understand something we don’t understand. Part of the webinar series, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Nine Conversations that Matter to Health Sciences Librarians with Jessica Pettit.” [National Network of Libraries of Medicine] https://nnlm.gov/class/unconscious-bias-perceptions-self-others/13118
Up and Away with Fall Series Nonfiction

We’re reaching new heights this fall with amazing new series nonfiction titles from Reference Point Press, DK, Amicus Publishing, Black Rabbit Books and The Creative Company. Join us Aug. 22 at 1 pm Central for this can’t-miss webinar that will turn your TBR pile into a mountain of irresistible reads! (Booklist) https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars

Aug. 27

Hittin’ the Books: Back to School Titles for Your Students

Going back to school can be tough. Luckily, we have a team of experts to help soften the blow with some amazing back to school titles that will get readers excited for the new year! Join us Aug. 27 at 1 PM Central to hear from representatives at Books on Tape, Scholastic Library and Penguin Random House Canada about new books that will keep students reading outside of the classroom! (Booklist) https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars

Aug. 28

Finding Your Way as a New Supervisor

Congratulations, you’re a new supervisor! But, now what? You have so much to learn. The facility, policies, not to mention the staff… it seems so overwhelming. How can you possibly get your head around all of it? This session will provide a good roadmap for managing the learning curve of what you need to know in your new position. You will also be given plenty of encouraging tips to help you along your journey. (Indiana State Library) https://continguized.isi.in.gov/find-training/online-training-series/

NCompass Live: Eliminating Late Fines is a Win-Win for Your Library and Community

In this session, Beth and Meg will review the research and results from the growing number of libraries across the country that have ditched late fines and the endless tide of what’s new in kidlit and young adult literature. (State Library of Iowa) https://cslinsession.cvlsites.org/

Check It Out! New Books for Ages 0-18

Join us on the last Thursday of each month for a review of brand new titles published for ages 0-18. You’ll hear short booktalks of new titles (and new entries in ongoing series) from major and indie publishers and get ideas on how to keep up with the endless tide of what’s new in kidlit and young adult literature. (State Library of Iowa) https://zoom.us/j/903977869

Support Positive Literacy Outcomes with Large Print

In this edWebinar we will be sharing results from a Project Tomorrow efficacy and feedback study to evaluate the impact of using Thorndike Press large print books on Fourth – 11th graders at 15 schools representing a diverse set of communities. Learn the benefits associated with the effective usage of large print from the perspectives of students, teachers, librarians, and administrators, including relationships with academic outcomes, as well as a regular print comparison. (edWeb) https://home.edweb.net/webinars/

Aug. 29

Danger in the Comfort Zone: How to change when change isn’t coming naturally

Rationally we know that change is imminent and to stay relevant we must adapt quickly, but emotionally we want to stay in our “comfort zone.” In this session you will learn how to change when change doesn’t come naturally by mastering new habits and skills. After all, for things to change, somebody has to start acting differently. Maybe it’s you, maybe it’s your team. (Colorado State Library) https://cslinsession.cvlsites.org/

Two Resources, One Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed

LearningExpress Library & Homework Alabama
- Online tutoring for grades K-12
- College placement resources
- Help for all ages and skill levels
- Certification testing & GED preparation
- Career resources

Find both on our Resources & Research Links Page