**Library Volunteer Leaders - Notes**

**3-10-21 1:30 EST**

**Host: Wendy Johnson, Indianapolis Public Library**

[**wjohnson@indypl.org**](mailto:wjohnson@indypl.org)

Hello, Friends –

We took an informal poll this week. The question -”Would you like to have guests/speakers come to our gatherings?” Majority wins with a “Yes”. I’m happy to coordinate 6 or so a year, but I’m going to need help. We’ve all been busy with webinars & conferences so I’m sure you’ve run across a presenter or panelist that resonated. Please send me contact information and I’ll get the ball rolling.

Don’t forget to complete our group “who are we” survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LibraryVolunteerLeaders>.

Please, take care!

Wendy J

Meetings will be held every Wednesday at 1:30 EST for an hour until further notice. We’ll use the same meeting link each week. Please share the link with fellow library volunteer leaders…the more smart people the better.

Zoom:  <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85199850785?pwd=WHorb3h2ckgvZjhZT1BOVWxEMzhlZz09>

Access Code: Volunteer

If you’d like add/check/update your contact information on our shared Google doc: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19blg00lShuMShHK2ab1TGeiK6kYqGfpvxz8qO9F8nnM/edit?usp=sharing>

**Topics Discussed**

* Summer Teen Volunteers
  + Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma has a robust plan for in-person and virtual projects. Don’t miss this! Notes are below.
  + Small squads of teens – virtual or in-person – earn volunteer hours for activities
    - Storytime in the park and creating craft kits for those learning about early childhood development
    - On-line gaming – create a game, lead a game, etc.
    - Reading with young children – promoting reading skills
    - Activist Art
* Project Giving Kids – a platform for volunteer opportunities for kids, teens & families – Limited locations. <https://www.projectgivingkids.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA-aGCBhCwARIsAHDl5x-yW_kFjllUebq5b9H33mTBvleuy5jqqtzDI8eMNNzRHusk0Smn-V0aAqiDEALw_wcB>
* Teen Art Contest – middle school & HS winners – others will be part of a coloring book that’s handed out
  + Partnering with targeted Nonprofits to expand participants – culturally specific
  + Teen program for careers – with speakers from various companies. Companies offer prizes and raffle items.
  + Teen/Tweens – mindfulness series – breathing, yoga, stretching, stress relief
  + Do Something - <https://www.dosomething.org/us> - youth volunteering have a chance for a $1000 scholarship
  + VolunteerMatch – Teens only link - <https://libraries.volunteermatch.org> via GetInvolved
  + 5 Civic Engagement projects for 14+ teen volunteers – here’s 2020’s information: <https://lapl.org/teens/teens-leading-change>
* International Volunteers

Virtual volunteers from outside of the US helping one-on-one with language skills. How do you manage background checks?

* + Reference checks only
  + Excessively expensive
  + What does the HR department do? Mirror this.
  + Some only do checks with volunteer is alone with a minor
  + Set up group setting instead of one-on-one
  + Some background check products are only local or national
  + Example: International college students. They tend to be episodic, so they fill out an app, I check state records to do due diligence, but otherwise they're never alone with patrons, so it's not a pressing issue.
  + Does anyone else do checks through the NCPA? (Rebecca H.)
* Background checks: frequency

Do you redo the background check annually?

* + Girl Scouts every 3 years and volunteers pay for it
  + Pennsylvania requires volunteer and staff with minors to recheck every 5 years
  + Moving gently toward regular rechecks
  + Every 2 years
  + We don’t recheck staff so why would we recheck volunteers?

What’s the gap between inactive and returning that would require a new check?

* + One year
  + After 3 years
  + Don’t recheck if they return
  + The only time this came up was when a community service worker had to come back to complete more hours. We did not recheck because he had only been gone about 6 months.

Background checks on youth under age 18?

* + Yes - if an a 18 year old continues to volunteer after graduation
  + No need – the check wouldn’t show anything
  + I had a HS student who emailed recently about doing hours for school. He was 18 and technically could do the adult roles but I directed him to the teen opportunities.
  + Leadership decided not to
  + I did have to reach out to our police department after a volunteer was overheard discussing some potential legal trouble he was in after passing the back ground check. They didn't have anything on him so either he hadn't been caught or he was misunderstood.
  + Staff under 18 are checked

Other thoughts

* + Not doing any checks
  + Only checking when alone with kids
  + Keep paperwork for 2 years from last date of activity
  + We do fingerprinting for volunteers who delivery Homebound since they have access to the patron's home. (Previous to Covid, they'd go in and visit.)
* Will you continue curbside after you’re fully open?
  + Group agrees that it’s likely, patrons like the convenience
  + Yes, but maybe not all locations and fewer hours
  + We have 2 new book-o-mats so we might be able to have volunteers stock those (book lockers like Amazon lockers). <https://lyngsoesystems.com/book-o-mat/>
  + We have a drive-up window so we don't do curbside service
  + Position description – “Take out Ambassador”
* Miscellaneous
  + Look for fun library themed TikToks, they’re out there
  + Material Quarantine is being lifted or reduced
    - Moving from 96 to 24 hour over 4 weeks
    - Ending quarantining all together on March 22
    - Moved to 24 hrs. 2 weeks ago
  + If we aren't able to provide training/support/PPE, etc. to volunteers then they're not covered by workers comp

**Resources and Training Opportunities**

* “[2021 Texas Volunteer Management Conference, Shaping the Future of Volunteerism](https://www.texasvmc.org/)”, 100% Virtual, May 13 & 14. $20 for Student/AmeriCorps, $35 General Admission. Our friend Liza is a speaker!
* Texas Volunteer Management Conference 2020 Past Webinar recordings – FREE – <https://www.texasvmc.org/webinars/>
* Volgistics National Peer Group – on-line – 2nd Tuesday of the Month – free!

FMI contact Jessica Link, [linkj@crlibrary.org](mailto:linkj@crlibrary.org). Recordings are available after you sign a release.

* Join the GetInvolved list serve by emailing Carla, [clehn@califa.org](mailto:clehn@califa.org). Fabulous resource with samples, current news & updates.
* Association for Rural & Small Libraries: <https://www.arsl.org/>

**Future Topics**

* Staff training for volunteer engagement – MLS programs
* Survey Says: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LibraryVolunteerLeaders>.
* Circle Back for updates:
  + University of North Carolina – Charlotte (UNCC) Class Project Update – Chauna
  + Reinventing volunteer engagement in our libraries – removing barriers
  + Diversity

**TITLE: “How To” Expert**

Metropolitan Library System (MLS)

A teen engagement project

Description: Be an MLS “How to” Expert by sharing on video a skill or giving a demonstration of something you do well. These videos will be paired with library resources (feel free to suggest some) and will encourage others to try a new craft, fix something broken, or learn something new.

Be an MLS Coloring/Activity Sheet Creator by drawing or compiling Library, program or book related worksheets for children, teens or adults. These may be shared in curbside bags, available at the library or as library downloads.

Be an MLS Take and Make Kit Assembler by connecting our communities with Take and Make kits to educate and enrich lives! You'll pick up supplies at the library to put together bags and return the completed kits to the library for quarantining and distribution.

Be an MLS Material Reviewer by encouraging other teens to read the same fun books and materials from our library catalog that you're reading or watching! You will check out material, complete a review and write a post that may be used on the library’s social media accounts.

Be an MLS Bookstagram Influencer by exploring the connections of your favorite media. You will research, create connections, and complete a video review, picture or playlist that may be used on the library’s social media accounts.

Be an MLS Reels Content Creator by sharing your love of books and materials from our library catalog! You research, complete and submit a 15 second video that may be used on the library’s social media accounts.

Be an MLS Guerilla Marketer by sharing your support of your library! Complete and document your posts of 3 of the 8 activities below:

* + Use the Library’s Summer Reading Facebook Frame on your profile photo for June and July
  + Use the Library’s Summer Reading effect in Instagram and share on your stories. Be sure to tag the library in your stories.
  + Book spine poetry post - use the titles of books in a stack to make a free verse poem with the spines
  + #Bookface post - find a book cover with half a face and take a selfie to make a whole face
  + Favorite book-related selfie/shelfie or pet post
  + Favorite reading spot post (nook at home, park, etc.)
  + Share 10 favorite MLS posts on the platform of your choice
  + Fill in and share a Summer Reading fillable story on your Instagram stories

Be an MLS School Liaison by encouraging fellow students to participate in Summer Reading! Activities must be coordinated and approved by school officials prior to participation and be completed before school is out. Complete three of the five activities below:

* + Connect with your school librarian – make sure they know about Summer Reading, offer to talk to staff and students in the library about the program, leave flyers or rack cards in the library for other students
* Hang flyers about Summer Reading around school
* Sidewalk chalk drawings and slogans outside school to promote Summer Reading.
  + Examples: Summer Reading June 1 – July 31 Tails and Tales (animal theme and drawings) For all ages! Free! Earn prizes for reading this summer
* Distribute rack cards and other marketing materials
* Make morning/lunch/afternoon PA announcements or speak during school assembly promoting Summer Reading