**Library Volunteer Leaders - Notes**

**3-17-21 1:30 EST**

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

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Hello, Friends –

And welcome to our newest attendees! I’ll be closing out the survey next Tuesday, March 23rd, so there’s still time to add your organization’s information…no matter how long you’ve been hanging out with the group. Just remember, this is a far cry from a scientific study, but a chance to get a better feel for what our libraries look like for discussion purposes.

Please let me know if you have any topics that you’d like added to the agenda.

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 Zoom 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

**Topics Discussed**

* College students and teen programming. Semester/summer long?
  + DEI Apprenticeship open to anyone HS Senior or recent grad

Originally paid, but last year and this will be unpaid ($15-22/hr 20hr/wk)

Capstone project

Bridge into employment with library or department with apprenticeship

Paired with a staff member

Non library and messenger clerk roles

12-15 participants in LA area

Funded by LA City and Foundation

* College to County – internships throughout the county

12 weeks, together as a cohort

Sample of opportunities within county to expose to county jobs

Potential hiring

<https://multco.us/college-county>

* + Internship with IT to quickly roll out new technology
* Volunteer recognition/Volunteer Week
  + Branded facemask. Even if we can’t be together, you can be an ambassador for the library before you return. “Volunteer at The Library!” Also sending these to partner organizations with a different message. And using masks for Summer Reading youth volunteers.

Possible source: <https://www.customink.com/products/health-wellness/face-masks/205>

* + Mailing seed paper puzzles with “You’re the missing piece and we’re looking forward to growing with you”.
  + I am doing a mix of in person and virtual. Volunteers can do contactless pick up of their gifts (a branded lunch bag with snacks and an "at home fun kit" with puzzle book, coloring book, etc.) in the library. Virtual programs are a sneak-peak with the assistant branch manager for our soon-to-open Makerspace, guided meditation, and Bingo night.
  + Notepads with library logo are a favorite and easy to mail
  + Logoed coffee or tea bags
  + Wooden bookmarks

<https://www.bright-ideas.org/>

Bright Ideas is a promotions company we use often

* + National Pi Day: RSVP event, volunteers stopped by for individually packaged slices of pie, a travel knife/fork and lunch cooler. Coloring and puzzle pages were also included. 2 time slots to limit numbers for “to go” pie.
  + No swag this year (or last) but offering to purchase note cards for the staff to send a personal note. Also adding to the volunteer newsletter a look back on the volunteer contribution for the past 5 years, during covid, and looking to the future.
  + Events are trending toward smaller gatherings at various times/days with different topics.
  + Combining staff and volunteer through the staff association
  + More ideas: <https://blog.volunteer.ca/20-ways-to-safely-celebrate-national-volunteer-week-2021/>
* Court ordered volunteers
  + From the survey our group is split almost 50/50, yes/no.
    - We do, but only if the offense wouldn't prohibit them from volunteering under "normal" circumstances. I've only had 2 actually qualify and they both completed their hours. One even continued to volunteer for a few months after.
    - I use them sometimes in virtual settings working on special projects. The responsibility is on them to complete the work to get the hours and requires minimal staff interaction and training.
    - We get a lot of court ordered teens through restorative justice programs, and it sounds like it was closer to 50% hit/miss - some success stories, some horror stories (I'm new, so this is just what I've been learning on my information gathering campaign)
    - We only had one regular role they could help with - fronting books and cleaning - and I told them if they did not show up once, they will not be able to continue. Otherwise, we only had them when we had a need like cleaning, moving boxes ...
    - In my two years here, our community service workers have worked out well for the most part. My predecessor complained about them but that has not been my experience
    - We did a study of all the court ordered volunteers over a year. Only 2% of them completed their hours with us. This generated bad will with staff about ALL volunteers.
* Group Survey
  + Summary is attached to email. If you’d like the spreadsheet format, let me know.
  + We did a quick overview of the results from the 22 responses. We’ll be spending the next few gatherings chatting about our challenges.
  + This is by far a casual/informal look at who we are.
  + The survey is still open for another week. If you haven’t contributed and would like to, here’s the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LibraryVolunteerLeaders>

**Resources and Training Opportunities**

* Thursday, Apr 1 – 8 Strategies for Creating a More Inclusive Volunteer Program

10 -11 am Pacific time, free

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7440538535174096653>

* Thursday, May 6 – Crafting Inclusive Volunteer Recruitment Messages –

10:00 – 11:30 am Pacific time, free

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtcOqgrzkrHddh5b6xysm3dUy4Q6t76sVh>

* Thursday, June 3 – No “One Right Way:” Creating New Systems for Volunteer

Engagement -- 10 am – 11 am Pacific time, free

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2124039175063372557>

* “[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.
* 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.

**Future Topics**

* Our leadership role
* Teen Advisories / Summer Program
* Circle Back for updates:
  + University of North Carolina – Charlotte (UNCC) Class Project Update – Chauna
  + Reinventing volunteer engagement in our libraries – removing barriers