

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Rachelle McPhillips

"You Are Here" This Summer @ your library

Columbus area teens are encouraged to participate in “You Are Here,” the Columbus Public Library’s teen summer reading program from June 6 to July 29. Area youths entering 6th through 12th grade are invited to come to the library and read for prizes as well as to take part in special events offered throughout the summer.

Special events this summer will include making yummy snacks, watching anime and enjoying a morning at the Pawnee Plunge. Participants will also be able to do projects with the Columbus Art Gallery, Columbus Area Artists, and the UNL Extension office. Beginning May 31st, youths in junior high and high school can register at the library to attend these free events. Participants will receive forms for tracking summer reading and participation. They will also pick up a summer reading program calendar to keep track of all our Wednesday and Thursday afternoon events, as well as our weekly Anytime Activities.

Starting June 6th, a new craft or activity will be available each week in the teen space. These “Anytime Activities” can be done anytime participants visit the library. While they are waiting for a ride or for a program to start, they can make paper flowers, explore the Seven Wonders of the World, and write their story in six words. Some of the projects from the Anytime Activities will be used to decorate the teen space throughout the summer.

On Wednesday, June 8th, our weekly events will officially kick off with a party. We will play games, meet other summer readers and enjoy snacks. June 9th we’ll make our own journals and do some silly and serious writing activities. Throughout the rest of the summer, we will explore Columbus, the Americas, Australia, Japan, Mexico, India, and take a peek at our solar system.

Summer reading isn’t the only thing happening for young adults at the library this summer. Area teens have met twice to discuss plans for the new teen space on the second floor of the library. They have chosen a fun color scheme and selected cool furniture. They’ve made some fun and thoughtful suggestions for making the teen space inviting and useful.

There is a lot to do to get the space ready before school starts again in August, so we will keep meeting to hammer out the details and create the best teen space we can. Watch the CPL Facebook page for “Teen Advisory Board” meeting announcements. It’s not too late to be a part of this change! Young adults entering 6th through 12th grade are eligible to attend these meetings.

If you have questions about the summer reading program, or if you're interested in supporting teen programming, please call me at 402/562-4201 or stop by the library.