

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Library Holds First Overnight Event

History was made on Friday, April 20, 2012; when 13 young adults participated in the Columbus Public Library's first ever lock-in.

The event was open to patrons in 6th-8th grade. Parent or guardian permission was required.

After the doors were locked for the night at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, young adults played Wii games in the Children's Room and most of the participants enjoyed access to the library computer lab after hours.

During the event, the library auditorium was transformed into a "Training Center." Crafts inside the auditorium were based on the popular "Hunger Games" trilogy by Suzanne Collins.

At the "Knot Tying" station, patrons made "survival bracelets" with side-releasing clasps and their choice of paracord. Many of our young adults now have a fashionable accessory that can help them survive in extreme conditions.

Our "Weaponry" station was trickier than this Gamemaker anticipated, but the youths enjoyed using craft sticks and dental floss to make bows for cotton swab arrows.

In the story, the rebellion needs a covert way to communicate and later a symbol that unites them. At our "Secret Symbols" station, crafters made marble magnets inspired by the Mockingjay.

Any survivalist needs to know how to breathe underwater and our overnight guests were able to practice their skills bubble painting by using a straw to blow bubbles into a small cup of dishwashing liquid and food coloring. The intent of "Survival Skills" station craft was to decorate plain sheets of paper with the colored bubbles, but most enjoyed making a bubbly, colorful, and lemony-scented mess.

"Camouflage" was the tastiest survival skill to practice. At this table, our tributes mixed up their own icing with powdered sugar, milk, and the food coloring that wasn't being used for blowing pretty bubbles. Their creations looked much tastier than the camouflage Peeta Mellark employs for his survival in the film adaptation of the first book in the trilogy.

Once the training center had been thoroughly put to use, hungry teens enjoyed pizza courtesy of Little Caesars in Columbus. They kept their energy up with drinks and snacks provided by the library and their fellow participants.

After several rousing rounds of "Apples to Apples" and many, many trips up and down the stairs to check Facebook activity and visit other internet haunts in our computer lab, our overnight guests settled into sleeping bags and tucked themselves into bean bags, many vowing not to fall asleep during the early morning movie marathon.

Whether or not they succeeded is classified information.

Each participant left with their choice of book or goodie bag and a donut when the doors reopened at 8:00 on Saturday morning.

Thank you to Little Caesars for the pizza and to all the volunteers and patrons who made this a successful event.

For more information about Columbus Public Library's young adult programs please call me at 402-562-4201. You can find links to our overnighter crafts on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/columbuspubliclibrary.