

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### New Book Club Follows Summer Reading Success

Young adults met in July to discuss their ideas for a teen book club. Based on their preferences, this group will meet one Sunday afternoon a month. The book club meetings will be led by teens with the young adult librarian moderating the discussion.

Our first book club title is "The Chocolate War" by Robert Cormier. In this young adult novel, the student body at a private high school is manipulated by a secret society of students who are backed by a corrupt faculty member. When Jerry Renault refuses to follow their directions and participate in a school fundraiser, he is bullied and harassed.

Copies of "The Chocolate War" will be available upon request at the circulation desk beginning July 30<sup>th</sup>. The club will discuss this novel on August 26 at 3:00.

Details for each month's book and meeting will be available on the library's website and Facebook page. This group is open to young adults who are in grades 9-12.

Our summer reading program was a hit this year with activities based on the theme, "Own the Night."

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, teens enjoyed a visit from Wildlife Encounters from Gretna, Nebraska. This wildlife rescue and education organization brought several animals for teens to meet, including an alligator, tarantula, and an honest-to-goodness, real, live, black bear.

Marc Beller of Twin Rivers Taekwondo visited one afternoon and taught teens some self-defense tactics. Master Beller and his students gave us a board-breaking demonstration in the Teen Space.

The Columbus Police Department spent an afternoon with teens in the library. Participants were witnesses to a crime in progress, dusted evidence for fingerprints, and looked for DNA in a library bathroom. They took turns wearing goggles that simulate different levels of intoxication and tried walking a straight line.

Teens worked in the kitchen twice this summer, working with the extension office to make pizzas and again with Dynamic Life to make yummy treats using peaches as a key ingredient.

The Columbus Art Gallery helped us tie-dye t-shirts and pillowcases, and the Calico Quilt Club provided materials for our contribution to the Dream Rocket Project. [www.thedreamrocket.com](http://www.thedreamrocket.com)

Summer reading is wrapping up as I write this article and final stats are not available. Participation grew again this year and 106 patrons entering grades 6-12 registered. In June alone, Columbus teens had read more than 364 hours.

For their efforts, summer readers were rewarded with entries in a prize drawing that includes gift certificates to local business, free books, Pawnee Plunge passes, and an iPod Touch.

Thank you to Cornhusker Public Power District, Bank First, Columbus Bank and Trust, Cornerstone Bank, Great Western Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Subway, Pizza Hut, McDonalds, Applebees, Columbus Women's Club, Center 6 Theatre, our guest presenters, library staff, and all the young people who made this summer fun and record-breaking!

If you have questions about the high school book club or are interested in supporting teen programming at the library, stop by or call Rachelle at 402-562-4201.