

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

CPL Welcomes Back Students

This summer was busy and fun for our young adult patrons. Eighty-six patrons in 6th – 12th grade participated in at least one of the 20 activities held during our teen summer reading program. In addition to the crafts and presenters, teen summer readers logged 873 hours of reading time this summer. That is 108 hours more than last summer's total!

As the new school year begins, it is a good time to remember that the library is an excellent place for young adults to spend time. Whether they are talking with their friends in a relaxed environment or reading and studying on their own, the library can be a safe haven for tweens and teens.

Daily interaction with library staff provides children an opportunity for positive relationships with adults other than their parents. These relationships can make young adults feel valued in the community. It can also teach our youth how to be responsible community members.

If your child will be spending time at the library after school, here are some things you should know in order to assist in maintaining a pleasant atmosphere for everyone's use of the library.

- Please come in and meet the staff who will be interacting with your child. Young adults typically demonstrate better behavior if library staff has met a parent.
- Whenever possible, please park and come into the library to pick up your child. Students who wait outside to watch for rides can cause traffic jams at the front door.
- Encourage your child to use the library's services. Services include board games, books, magazines, computers, and special activities and events just for young adults.
- Our behavior policy applies to patrons of all ages and can be found on our website at <http://www.columbusne.us/library>. In most cases, CPL staff will offer assistance and make an attempt to redirect misbehavior. When redirection isn't successful, one verbal warning may be issued. If the behavior continues, the patron is asked to leave the area or the building.
- Behavior that is violent or criminal will result in a call to the Columbus Police Department.

We enjoy getting to know after school visitors throughout the school year. Columbus youth are humorous, creative, and thoughtful. If your child spends time at the library after school, please stop in and meet our staff and see what we're up to at your library.

Young adult patrons should check out the marker boards in and near the teen space. Library events and community happenings that will be of interest to them are posted in those locations.

Watch the Teen Space, Facebook, and our website calendar at <http://columbusne.us/library> for upcoming teen events. If you have any questions or want to know how you can support young adult programming, please contact Rachelle at 402-562-4201.

Thank you to the following for their support of teen summer reading at CPL: UNL Extension office, the Friends of the Columbus Public Library, Nebraska author Jo Peterson, Cornhusker Public Power District, Columbus Bank & Trust, Cornerstone Bank, First National Bank, First Nebraska Bank, musicians Danielle and Cory Waite, Repair the Alps, Center 7 Theatres, City of Columbus Parks Department, and the Pawnee Plunge.