

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Switching Gears @ your library™

This summer was busy and fun for our young adult patrons. Eighty-seven patrons entering 7th – 12th grade had participated in at least one of the many hands-on and self-directed activities offered during our teen summer reading program. In addition to enjoying crafts and presenters, teen summer readers diligently logged their reading hours for chances to win prizes that included movie theater passes, Columbus Bucks, and an iPod Touch. Teen summer readers logged 935 hours of reading in June and July!

Now that another successful summer reading program is on the books, I'm switching gears to plan school year activities for patrons in 6th-12th grade. This is a good time to remind everyone 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 valuable resource 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 can do in order to help maintain a pleasant atmosphere for all library visitors.

- 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.
- Read our conduct policy and share it with your child. Our policy applies to patrons of all ages and can be found on our website at <http://www.columbusne.us/library>.

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

Throughout the year, 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 young adult 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: the Friends of the Columbus Public Library, Cornhusker Public Power District, Ernst Auto Center, Mike's Auto Sales, Columbus Bank & Trust, First National Bank, First Nebraska Bank, Great Western Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Center 7 Theatres, City of Columbus Parks Department, and the Pawnee Plunge.