



BONNECHERE
UNION
**PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

#BUPLRocks
@bonnechereUPL

YOUTH ON BOARD:

Young Representatives at Library Board Meetings



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INNOVATION @



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- ⋮ Since 2010, our youth committee has been in conversation with library decision makers.
- ⋮ **Library Board members hear directly from young patrons.**
- ⋮ Provides valuable life experience and skills for our youth

IT ALL STARTED WITH . . . a desire to stay relevant!

CEO hosted party & library
card drive geared towards
kids and teens

A TAC group was
formed; started
attending board
meetings

Wednesday
organically became
pre/teen night
(and has remained!)



BUT, HOW OW OW?



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- ⋮ Attend monthly YAC meetings
- ⋮ Attend Board meetings
 - Report on events, fundraising
 - Voice concerns and desires
- ⋮ Plan, promote and advocate pre-teen night activities and fundraising
- ⋮ Regularly attend pre-teen nights
- ⋮ Actively recruit members:
 - School PA announcements
 - Produce flyers, encourage inclusivity
 - Speeches in the community

<https://www.pembroketoday.ca/2019/09/30/12-year-old-eganville-girl-implores-municipal-councils-to-protect-libraries/?fbclid=IwAR0Mx1MxttuutEX2pEd083.IYtXaSN456iSIPwrVinVwwlIwz8z7zQxiz3QW4#>



ERROR !!!

TROUBLESHOOTING

Pay attention to trends:

- ⋮ Who's the most active in the group?
- ⋮ Get them talking about their interests
- ⋮ Modify the age range of your target audience
- ⋮ What are the needs of the Board/CEO?
 - Communicate with CEO and Board and build an attendance schedule that works.
- ⋮ Which families are already close to the library?

The YAC Perspective

“I like that it exposes me to talking to adults, and prepares me for when I am older.”

– President, Jenna Schison, 12

“I feel that it’s a little scary to go to the board meetings but it helps to keep my favourite thing to do during the week going.”

– Treasurer, Jordan Maslowski, 12

“It feels great to be at meetings because it makes me feel important.”

– Secretary, Jaxson West, 12



BENEFITS OF INVOLVEMENT

- ⋮ Civic engagement
 - Democratic process (voting, etc.)
 - Local community/library engagement
 - Community hours
- ⋮ Preparation for the work force
 - resume prep
 - learn about professional behaviour
 - fundraising
- ⋮ Board members see who they are impacting
- ⋮ To have long term patrons, you have to start young



HOW MIGHT THIS WORK AT YOUR LIBRARY?



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NEED MORE INFO?



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