

YOUTH ON BOARD:

Young Representatives at Library Board Meetings



Bee Stillar Program Coordinator

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INNOVATION @ BONNECHERE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY



- 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 preteen night activities and fundraising
- : Regularly attend pre-teen nights
- : Actively recruit members:
 - School PA announcements
 - Produce flyers, encourage inclusivity
 - Speeches in the community



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?

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

> - President, Jenna Schison, 12

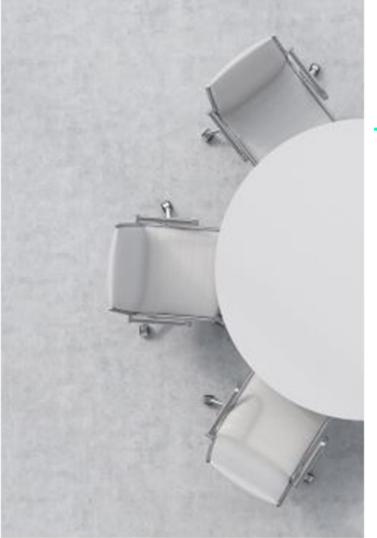
> > "I feel that it's a little scary to go to the board meetings but it helps to keep my favourite thing to do during the week going."

> > > - Treasurer, Jordan Maslowski, 12

The YAC Perspective

"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?



NEED MORE INFO?



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