

Teen Advisory Boards: Challenges, Benefits and Opportunities

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- Basic principles of Teen Advisory Boards:
 - Teen Advisory Boards give teens a voice
 - Teen Advisory Boards demonstrate that adults care and listen
 - Teen Advisory Boards show teens that they are important and that they can contribute in a meaningful way
 - Teen Advisory Boards address many of the developmental needs of teens
 - Teen Advisory Boards give you the teen Perspective

- How you can Create, Run and Sustain a Teen Advisory Board
 - Baby Steps: Is a Teen Advisory Board Right for my Library?
 - Is it right for your library?
 - Right for your community?
 - Is it right for your teens?
 - Is it right for you?

 - The Care and Feeding of a Teen Advisory Board: A T.A.B. is a Growing Organism
 - Membership is in a constant state of flux
 - New members
 - Changes with current members
 - Increased Workload: Is it worth it?
 - You must train and retrain volunteers
 - Listen to what your teens have to say
 - Encourage them to take ownership of the group
 - Let them tell you what you want to do
 - Be ready to present ideas, but be open to new ones

 - Recruiting: Where to find them
 - Schools
 - In your library
 - Outside organizations
 - Your community dictates how to recruit
 - Use volunteers to find new ones

 - Application Process: Deciding on Criteria for Admission
 - Do you only have enough room for a certain number of volunteers?
 - What is your age limit?
 - Do you have enough work to go around?
 - Do you have space for them to work?
 - Do you have time to show them what to do?

- Communication: E-mail, Phone or Carrier Pigeon
 - Email
 - Phone
 - Blog- shorstab.blogspot.com
 - MySpace- myspace.com/rickobaggins
 - IM/Texting
- Scheduling: Flexible Structure
 - Remind teens to treat this like a job
 - Don't expect them to do so
- Money: Who is paying the bills?
 - Who will be your financial contributor?
 - Money to pay for snacks, prizes, field trips, etc.
- Your Role: Benevolent Dictator
 - Let them speak their minds, be open to what they have to say
 - Guide them when necessary
 - Occasionally must bring the hammer down
 - You are ultimately responsible for what the group does
- Running a Meeting: Pizza, Agendas, Concrete Projects and Time Limits
 - Have food/snacks & Use food to quiet the group and to discuss "big issues"
 - Have an agenda
 - Have something to do
 - Discuss books
 - Work party
 - Review materials
 - Planning programs
 - Allow time for tangents
 - Use tangents to learn about teens and get more teen perspective
- Uses for a Teen Advisory Board: They're not just for shelving anymore
 - Look for opportunities
 - Farm out your volunteers to other staff
 - Be aware of Staff attitudes and workroom policies
 - Establish a community presence
 - What mundane tasks do you have that you could have volunteers do?

Forty Responsibilities, Tasks or Jobs for Teen Advisory Board Members and Volunteers

1. Check booklist for duplicates
2. Check for books needing to be processed
3. Check shelves for the books to display in the book review area
4. Check to make sure pamphlet holders are filled
5. Choose books, magazines, comics, etc. to purchase
6. Create and update a community notebook
7. Distribute, collect and collate questionnaires
8. Dust shelves
9. Dusty shelves list
10. Typing
11. Help with book sale
12. Help with craft programs for children
13. Label books
14. Lead or attend book discussions
15. Maintain young adult area
16. Make flyers or brochures
17. Manage the Teen Advisory Board
18. Mend books
19. Organize and straighten magazines and comics
20. Process comics and magazines
21. Process series books
22. Put security strips in magazines
23. Rearrange or shift books or furniture
24. Shelve and pull holds
25. Roll coins
26. Set up for programs
27. Shelf read books, CDs, videos, tapes, reference, etc.
28. Staff classes at the library
29. Suggest ideas for booklists
30. Suggest programming
31. Tutor
32. Display tax forms
33. Maintain Teen Advisory Board web page, blogs, and podcasts
34. Update use and/or status of items
35. Wash books
36. Weeding
37. Work on book reviews
38. Work on displays
39. Work on newsletter
40. Work on setting up and planning programs

Teen Advisory Board Resources

Websites

How to Organize a Teen Friends of the Library Group:

<http://www.folusa.org/resources/html-versions/fact-sheet-5.php>

Libraries and Teen Advisory Groups :

<http://www.jervislibrary.org/yaweb/TAGs.html>

Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets

<http://www.search-institute.org/assets/>

Virtual Teen Advisory Board from the Haverhill Public Library in MA

<http://www.teencybercenter.org/tab/tab.htm>

The Who, What, Where, When Why and How of Managing a Teen Advisory Board:

<http://www.cplrmh.com/tab.html>

YALSA's Teen Advisory Group Site

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/tags/tags.htm>

Periodicals

Canadee, Amy A. "Ten tips for Starting a teen advisory board." *Voice of Youth Advocates* June (1999): 102.

Chapman, Jan. "The care and feeding of a teen advisory board." *Voice of Youth Advocates* Feb. (2003): 449-450.

Herald, Diana Tixier. "Buy more books! And other bright ideas from teen advisory board." *School Library Journal* July (1996): 26-27.

Wilson, Evie. "The Young Adult Advisory Board: How to make it work." *Voice of Youth Advocates* Feb. (2003): 446-448.

Books

Gillespie, Kellie M. 2004. *Teen Volunteer Services in Libraries* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press VOYA Books

Tuccillo, Diane P. 2005. *Library Teen Advisory Groups* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press VOYA Books

Video

The Merchants of Cool. Barak Goodman and Douglas Rushkoff. PBS, 2001.