



SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM SCKLS 2010 LIBRARY PROGRAMMING GRANT

What is Programming and What Makes a Program Successful?

“Programming is a process by which the informational, educational, and recreational needs of patrons are met by bringing patrons into contact with the human resources best able to meet those needs” p. xv (Lear, Brett W., Adult Programs in the Library. 2002, ALA.)

As you consider your grant application, consider some of these programming ideas from South Central Kansas Library System members:

Poetry & Pizza @ the Public Library

In April 2008, Newton Public Library hosted “Poetry & Pizza @ the Public Library” which celebrated the work of William Stafford by bringing the Newton community together to share their favorite Stafford poems. Poet Steven Hind talked about Stafford’s influence on poets. Kim Stafford, son of William Stafford and a writer/poet himself, spoke about poetry in the family. Everyone was able to sample some pizza to go along with Kim Stafford’s poem “Family Pizza.” The program was organized by Newton Schools, Bethel College, Hutchinson Community College-Newton and the Newton Public Library as part of the William Stafford Memorial Poetry Rendezvous.

Celebrate Library History

Hardtner Public Library celebrated its 95th year in 2008. The library had a series of events that showcased library services. The culmination was a birthday party and open house. This celebration included displays and presentations about the library’s history. Children and youth enjoyed a pizza party and book giveaway.

School library involved the community

St. Mark's Elementary in Colwich started a "Chat & Chew" book discussion group for grades 2-5. Community members who read the books served as facilitators for the book discussions. The adults set a good role model for the students as they promoted an appreciation of books and reading. Adults helped to keep the discussions going. Students enjoyed interacting with the community members.

Remember, a well planned and executed library program:

- Matches the appropriateness of a subject to the target audience. Does your program fit into your library's mission statement or program goal? You might need to do a survey or have a focus group. What does your community need and want?
- Promotes appreciation of books and reading. This can be done in many ways, think outside of the box. Talk to your patrons and library colleagues.
- Introduces a range of library services. Make use of interlibrary loan, technology support people, book repair people, genealogy experts, etc.
- Enhances the use of the library's collection and highlights information you have for that specific audience. Point out what you have in your collection that matches the programming event. Make a display.
- Encourages positive community cooperation and support. You might want to partner with another group or organization in your community.
- Results in changes in attitudes, behaviors, knowledge, or skill levels of program participants. Hopefully your program would encourage community diversity, reading, new computer skill, concern for a special group in the community, etc.
- Always have an evaluation sheet on each chair. How can you know how you are doing if you do not ask? Always ask the participants what they would like to see in the way of future programming.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Tom Taylor, SCKLS CE Coordinator, 800-234-0529 ext. 149 or tom@sckls.info.