Youth on Board:
Young Representatives at Library Board Meetings

Bee Stillar
Program Coordinator

Nikolina Likarević
CEO

#BUPLRocks
@bonnechereUPL
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!)
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

BUT, HOW OW Ow?

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https://www.pembroketoday.ca/2019/09/30/12-year-old-eganville-girl-implores-municipal-councils-to-protect-libraries/?fbclid=IwAR0Mx1MtxuUntEX2eEd0837Y7XgSNN456iS1PwryVnmVwwLwz8z7zOxiz3OW4#
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 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

“I like that it exposes me to talking to adults, and prepares me for when I am older.”
– President, Jenna Schison, 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?
Need more info?

Bee Stillar
bee@bonnechereupl.com

Nikolina Likarević
ceo@bonnechereupl.com