

Second Annual Festival:

Saturday

January 21, 2006

*The Woodlands
College Park High
School*

*The Woodlands,
Texas*

Want to hold a book festival for your teen readers?

Here's how we did it in Montgomery County, Texas.

1. Recruit and Organize a Planning Committee.

Involve parents, teachers, teens, and librarians from as many area schools as possible. Don't forget the public library.

2. Develop a Mission, Set Goals.

Our mission: "To celebrate the joy of teen reading."

3. Plan and Publicize.

This sounds easier than it is.

Establish a format. We used a conference style: keynote speaker, author breakout sessions and autographing.

Sign up book and food vendors. Get a DJ and local music groups.

4. Raise Money, Set a Budget.

This is the hard part.

It takes lots of money to put on a festival free of charge.

5. Invite Authors.

This is the fun part, but remember to budget for travel expenses.

6. Invite Teens.

Let all the teachers and librarians know they are welcome too.

7. Enjoy and Evaluate.

Take lots of photos of happy kids with authors. Use evaluation forms filled out by attendees to start planning and fundraising for next year.



Why a book festival for teenagers?

Numerous studies have pointed to the importance of reading as an essential life skill. Ours is a world where literacy and education are becoming increasingly vital for young people preparing to enter the workforce.

While many programs emphasize childhood reading, let's ensure that our teens continue to read widely both inside and outside the classroom.

For more information about the 2006 Montgomery County Teen Book Festival, go to <http://info.conroeisd.net/senior/collegepark/twcp-library/teenbookfestival/index.htm>