

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle
January 19-24, 2007**

Topic: Youth Participation Committee Report (Teen Award & Summit)

Background: At the 2006 Annual meeting the Board charged the Youth Participation Committee with surveying members and librarians in order to gauge interest in a Teen Summit and a Teen Award.

Action Required: Discussion

YOUTH PARTICIPATION SURVEY

In September, the YALSA Youth Participation Committee surveyed teen librarians regarding their support for a “Teen Summit” and a “Teen Award” modeled after Suffolk & Nassau County’s B.E.S.T. Award.

The committee distributed the to several electronic discussion lists including PubYac, Tagad-L, LM_NET, YALSA-L, YA-YAAC, as well as several state lists. Although only 22 people responded to this brief survey, it offers some preliminary insight.

After reading the concerns about travel cost and distance, as well as timing by those who answered the survey, the Youth Participation committee recommends that a "Virtual Summit" be investigated. Most of respondents replied very positively to a teleconference or web chat, commenting that teens love this technology.

Another suggestion from the committee, in terms of a traditional “Teen Summit,” is to seek major funding that could send at least two teens and a chaperone to a national summit free of charge. The committee feels strongly that the success of a “Teen Summit” rests on broad participation from all types of libraries and teens involved with libraries. We find that funding can be a hindrance to involvement. The committee also recommends that we investigate regional summits perhaps in conjunction with state library conferences, or PLA.

The other key factor of a successful “Teen Summit” seems to be teen involvement early on in the planning process. The committee recommends that a planning committee of youth and adults be formed to work collaboratively with the YALSA office to plan a Teen Summit that should begin with the development of specific goals. The committee felt that there were several possible goals for a Teen Summit and that the look and feel of a summit might be different depending on the goals chosen.

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The survey also indicates support for a Teen Award honoring a significant contribution to a library by a teen. Again, the committee recommends that we seek teen involvement in the development of the award. Perhaps the Suffolk & Nassau County’s B.E.S.T. Award Winner could be invited to work on a YALSA Teen Award committee.

The YALSA Youth Participation Committee would like to continue studying these two possible projects. We would like to seek teen input before we make a recommendation on these projects. After incorporating this information, we feel that we can make a recommendation regarding the merits of these projects.

1. If there was a Teen Summit, do you feel the teens in your community would be interested in attending?

Yes 63.6 %

No 36.4 %

2. What topics would you and they find attractive in a Teen Summit?	
1.	authors, teen advisory boards, programs
2.	They always seem interested in what other teen councils/libraries are doing. Either programming or fundraising idea, or just the general response to 'what do you guys *do*?'
3.	graphic novels, manga, chick lit
4.	Our teen’s board gets excited about activities where they are involved in the planning and presentation of the program. They have enjoyed an annual murder mystery where they are the characters and other teens in the community sign up to come solve the mystery. This year we also added a talent show. With this in mind, I think topics that help the teen board get other teens into the library would be great.
5.	Program ideas Creating and maintain a Teen Advisory Board Teen Leadership Teen Summer Reading Program Funding of teen programs
6.	Programming information and ideas
7.	Graphic novels Programming Technology/Podcasts Radio-type show through website Web design Volunteer Programs: Using teens
8.	Teen Programming ideas Titles of books, CDs, CD-ROMs, etc. for library to purchase Teen author speaker
9.	Authors, literature, and connecting with those two things. My kids LOVE reading and literature.
10.	Youth Leadership Popular books with authors, especially teen authors
11.	new books, input on what teens want from the library
12.	Author visits/discussions
13.	reaching diverse teen communities, increasing teen involvement and participation, outreach issues, innovative ways that libraries can respond to teen service needs, collections, etc.
14.	Library programming, fundraising, what's next, teen services provided for the library

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15.	Leadership, Authors, Technology, TAGS, etc.
16.	Technology issues such as how to address adult challenges to social networking sites (and how to use them safely, appropriately and effectively). How to get involved in community service activities (now commonly required in schools). Innovative programming ideas for libraries
17.	Gaming How they can help at the library Meeting authors/book discussion TAGs
18.	Popular author presentations and meetings; Genre booktalks; Themed books talks; Book Reviewing; how-to Publishers' forum
19.	Fast Book Talks, Internet usage, Myspace tutorials

3. How far would you and they be willing to travel to attend a Teen Summit?	
1.	300 miles

20.	Not sure that a lot of teens who use my library have access or are old enough to drive yet.
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4. What considerations would limit your and your teens' involvement in a Teen Summit?	
1.	cost, distance, time of year (summer would be better for teens because of school)
2.	Travel considerations and timing.
3.	Cost and time.
4.	Location of summit and scheduling. Teens today are so busy.
5.	Funding -- we'd have to ask their parents or get support from community groups
6.	Funding-we serve a lot of underprivileged teens who wouldn't be able to afford a trip.
7.	Cost, travel, time of year
8.	School and extra-curricular activities coinciding with the Summit.
9.	Travel expenses, timing (with the school year), and interest (theirs).
10.	Topic and obtaining funding from the FRIENDS or other supportive groups.
11.	travel costs, parental permission/liability
12.	Time of year (school restrictions) Cost
13.	Amount of time needed for conference, whether it is during the school year, whether scholarships or stipends for travel can be obtained.
14.	Cost, travel, need for chaperones
15.	Cost of attendance.
16.	Cost and time
17.	Financial issues. I work in a low-income area.
18.	Financial - it's an issue just to send me to the conference, so it would have to be totally free or minimal fee (under \$100) for the whole thing Parental permission Adult supervision
19.	Finances
20.	Registration fee, parental consent, dates.

5. Do you have an established teen group that might attend a Teen Summit?

Yes 66.7%

No 33.7 %

6. Do you support a "Best Teen" award that would identify and honor teens that have made significant contributions in local library services?

Yes 81%, but person said "change the name"

No 19%

7. If there was a "Best Teen award, do you currently have teens that you would nominate for such an honor?

Yes 61.9%

No 38.1 %

8. If your teens were not able to attend a "Teen Summit," would they be willing to participate in a teleconference or an electronic discussion as part of the summit?	
1.	yes
2.	Absolutely-they would love this.
3.	Possibly-could be set up in conjunction with the local Jr Hi/ High school.
4.	Yes, I think this might be the best way for our teens to participate.
5.	Yes! They love stuff like that!
6.	I think they might would be interested.
7.	Yes
8.	No
9.	They might - a webchat or such would be good.
10.	Most likely
11.	possibly
12.	Yes, definitely.
13.	yes
14.	Yes
15.	Possibly.
16.	Possibly
17.	Perhaps.
18.	Probably. Teleconference would be of interest for them...
19.	Absolutely!
20.	Maybe a chat room, or im.