

# WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## *Board of Trustees*

### YOUNG ADULT SERVICES PROGRAM POLICY

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The Weber County Library provides programs for young adults in order to encourage continued reading and independent learning, provide opportunities to connect, learn, and collaborate with others, and develop an environment of growth for young adults in the community as they transition into adulthood. The primary intent of young adult services programming is to encourage discussion and education around a topic, theme, or experience, and foster the continued use of the library as a free community resource and third space.

#### **It is the intent of young adult services programs to:**

- Develop capable, critical users of information technology.
- Serve as a neutral foundation for the exchange and exploration of a diversity of experiences, opinions, and social and cultural perspectives.
- Support teen development through relationship building and by creating opportunities for teens to learn and contribute.
- Connect with other individuals and youth-serving organizations to support teens' development and strengthen communities.
- Provide resources and skills useful for future planning.
- Create a safe third space where teens can foster self-esteem and identity, and where they are able to explore their interests freely.
- Introduce the community to library resources in order to promote library use.

#### **Programs:**

Programs may showcase library materials in all formats and include some or all of the following: summer reading programs, book discussions, cultural performances, film screenings, technology classes, special one-time or sequenced programs, and a variety of educational, recreational, and informational programs meeting the interests of teens in the community. The library is committed to ensuring that all avenues of information can be explored and discussed without judgment or bias by facilitating and hosting informational and educational teen programming that engages diverse populations.

Young adult programs are developed in support of the library mission and focus on learning and community growth. As programs are specifically designed for the developmental stages and needs of teens, it is encouraged that the age guidelines for these programs be respected so as to provide the best experience for those attending. If a teen becomes disruptive and does not respond to instruction, or they feel ill, they may be asked to leave the program.

The library is one of the primary public institutions offering free access to resources that enable teens to find the information they need to become empowered members of their communities. Through its young adult services programming, the library works closely with all of its communities, emphasizing services to those who have not traditionally been library users.

The library establishes and maintains ties with appropriate agencies and organizations, including schools, in order to coordinate programming resources and form partnerships for the benefit of teens. Youth services staff participate in outreach events throughout the year to support community-wide engagement and publicize library services.

Programs are either planned and administered by trained library staff or co-sponsored with an outside organization or individual. To provide an optimal learning experience, some programs may require registration to attend and will be noted as such. Programs will run as scheduled except in extreme circumstances, and participants are encouraged to arrive on time for the best experience. All programs are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure quality and relevance.

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