

Mysterious Teen Programs

1. Clue Tournament or Free Play

Program Description: Set teens up in groups of 3-6 players at each game board. The winner from each game board goes on to play the winners of the other boards, etc. until you have one winner. Alternatively, you can put out the Clue games and just let teens play.

Cost = \$32 for up to 24 players + a prize, if you choose to give one. Games available from Walmart.com for \$8 each.

\$0 if you can borrow games from staff/volunteers/teens.

2. Easier Treasure Rock Hunt

Program Description: On page 119 of the manual, they suggest making treasure rocks by putting a prize in the middle of a ball of plaster of paris. For a simpler program, hide a variety of prizes in Easter eggs aka "treasure rocks" and have a hunt. Prizes can be coupons from local businesses, coupons you create for a free video rental, a dollar (or more you're your Friends group can afford to give you some cash), or small teen-friendly trinkets.

Cost = \$5 for easter eggs. Any additional costs are up to you. If you're budget's small, go with donated coupons and trinkets.

3. Mystery Theater

As mentioned in the manual, you can purchase mystery theater kits from a variety of sources. You can jazz it up by adding props or use it as is. See below for links to companies that sell the kits.

<http://www.merrimysteries.com/tmm/teenp.htm>

www.highsmith.com (search for "Anyone's Guess").

Cost = \$40 for the kit. Additional costs if you decide to purchase props.

Note: as an alternative, you can call Mary Beach (see performer's list) and she will bring all of the props and do a mystery theater at your branch for your teens.

4. Mystery Puzzles (PASSIVE)

Program Description: Teens put these puzzles together then use clues in the completed puzzle to solve a mystery. Leave them out in your teen area all summer long, bring them out once a week or see if your teens can work together to complete in one long program. If you need to put them away when teens aren't working on them, consider purchasing a "Puzzle Roll Up." This mat allows you to roll the puzzle up and store it until you're ready to use it again.

Where to get them: There are several companies that make these puzzles. You can find them at your local board game store or online (www.areyougame.com). See below for a list of puzzles that I thought had teen appeal.

- Map Mysteries: Atlantis

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- Missing Piece brand: This company has several different mysteries, but I thought that Cursed Cargo might particularly appeal to teens.
- Da Vinci Quest Mystery Puzzle (will appeal to teens who liked the Da Vinci Code book and/or movie)
- There are several kits that are based on the CSI television series.
- Various by Mystic Mazes. The mystery here is how to put the puzzle together to get out of the maze. It has hidden clues that are revealed with a decoder disc.
- Lost in a Jigsaw II: Survival of the Fittest. Another maze that you have put together in such a way as will allow you to get out of the maze.

Cost = \$15-25 for the puzzle + \$14 for the Puzzle Roll Up, if needed.

5. Guessing Game (PASSIVE)

Program Description: The manual suggests posting a blank map in your teen area of the world or US and numbering each Country (or State). Place answer sheets next to the map. Teens fill in the answer sheets and turn them in. You can give a prize to each teen that gets all the answers correct. OR Give a small prize to each teen that turns in a form and enter teens who get all answers correct into a larger drawing.

I would recommend making this program a little more exciting, by trying these variations:

- Who am I? - Cut out celebrity faces from magazines and number them. Teens guess who they are.
- Mystery Books - Print out book covers and cover up the title of the book. Can they figure out what the title is? Choose mystery books to fit the theme.
- _____ insert your variation here!

Cost = \$0 to skies the limit. If you choose to purchase a map or celebrity magazines, you might spend a few dollars on supplies. As a non-cost alternative print book covers from the internet or cut celebrity pictures out of donated magazines and just pin directly onto the bulletin board. Your ultimate cost will be determined by what you decide to give as a prize(s). Again, ask for donations or give free video coupon rentals, etc.

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California Summer Reading Program 2007
<http://www.summerreading.cla-net.org>