

Carmel Clay Public Library

Teen Library Council Information Sheet

2016

CARMEL CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Teen Library Council (TLC) is a dedicated group of teens in grades 7-12 who meet monthly with Hope Baugh, Manager of the Young Adult Services Department, and other YA staff to:

- Discuss and recommend books, movies, music, and more
- Help plan selected library programs
- Give input on library issues related to teens
- Promote reading
- Promote use of the library
- Assist in selecting print books and eBooks to purchase for the library's Young Adult collections

The Teen Library Council (TLC) is different from the library's Teen Volunteer Corps (TVC) in that it requires more from teens in terms of the commitment and the application process.

The Commitment

- *Attendance* – The TLC usually meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings of every month from September through May. Each member must attend ONE of these meetings each month.
- *Choice Picks* – Every book in the TLC Choice Picks collection at the top of the stairs in the library has been read and highly recommended by three or more TLC members. Each member must be in the habit of reading recreationally enough so that he or she can *nominate at least one book per year*. “Nominate” means ask for The Rat (our version of a speaking stick) in a TLC meeting so that you can explain to the group why you recommend this book. “Nominate” also means writing the title in the Nominations section of the Choice Picks notebook.
- *Events* – The TLC sponsors several events that are open to all teens. For example, last year's events included a Yule Ball and a Pop Festival. *Each member must help with the work to make one of these events a success – i.e., through helping to plan, prepare, set up, clean up, etc.* This usually requires time outside of the monthly meetings.
- *Promotions* – Part of the TLC's mission is to promote reading and increase everyone's awareness of all the library has to offer. Projects for fulfilling this mission vary from year to year but include things like helping to make video book reviews or serving as a “secret shopper” for the library's live online tutoring service. Each member must help with one of these projects during the year. This usually requires time outside of the monthly meetings.

If attendance is good (no more than two missed meetings per year) and all other requirements are met, membership is renewable for the duration of a student's middle school and high school years. Nearly all members remain on the Council until graduation. This provides consistency and continuity and allows the Council to develop as a team. As members graduate, spaces open up for new members, providing a fresh perspective each year.

The Application Process

New TLC members are accepted each year in August based on the results of a written application (due May 31) and an interview conducted by Hope during June and July. Criteria for selection include:

- A desire to promote reading
- A desire to support the library
- The ability to work cooperatively with people of various ages and backgrounds
- The ability to fulfill the requirements

We strive to maintain an age, gender and school balance on the Council and to select enthusiastic members with a good variety of personalities, skills, and interests.

Questions? Please contact Hope Baugh, Young Adult Services Manager, at 317-814-3979 or hbaugh@carmel.lib.in.us.

If you would like to apply to be on the Teen Library Council, please complete the attached written application (or print it out from the Teen section of the library's website at www.carmel.lib.in.us/teens/tlc.cfm) and return it to the YA desk by May 31. After May 31, Hope will email you to set up an interview for approximately 20 minutes sometime in June or July. Hope will send you a letter in early August to notify you about the results of your application.