Get Teens Involved!
Top 30 Ideas for Teen Involvement

1. Talk to teens! Get to know them and let get to know you. Don’t be afraid to ask for their help.

2. Create a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and/or a Junior Friends of the Library

3. Have teen representative(s) serve as representatives on the Library Board, School Board, Friends of the Library, etc. See my blog for more details on how to do this.

4. Hire teenaged library workers (pages, shelvers, etc.).

5. Include teen representatives on library and school committees (e.g., building and planning, policy and procedure, etc.)

6. Offer teen community service hours.

7. Incorporate a suggestion box in your teen area to gather suggestions.

8. Include an online survey on your teen website to gather even more suggestions.

9. Work with teens to start a library blog, library Facebook page, etc.

10. Create a teen web page designed and maintained by teens or with the assistance of teens.

11. Have teens name the teen area by having a contest. Some libraries re-name their space every year!

12. Go on buying trips (this works for teen space design, collection development, and more).

13. Include posters and artwork in your teen area that have been selected (and hung) by teens.

14. Collaborate with the local school art departments to rotate student artwork through the library.

15. Hold a “Trading Spaces” contest with another area library.

16. Enlist “industrial arts” students to make shelves, furniture, etc. for the teen area.

17. Once your teen area is finished, have teens plan a Grand Opening (food, festivities, etc.)

18. Draw new teens in the library by starting discussion groups for movies, manga/anime, music, etc.

19. Start a peer-to-peer tutoring program available after school.

20. Involve teens in running the summer reading program for children and for teens.

21. Start teen-sponsored fundraisers to raise money for remodeling the teen area, buying materials, etc.

22. Promote “teen happenings” at the library by asking teens to write articles for the local paper.

23. Have teens assist with ordering teen library materials (music, DVDs, video games, magazines, etc.).

24. Have teens assist with the creation of Podcasts and Vodcasts showing what’s happening at the library.

25. Start a “Tell-a-Friend” program – give away prizes, rewards, etc. to teens for bringing in new teen library users.

26. Train teens to give library tours. This is a great marketing new for libraries with new buildings!

27. Work with teens to publish a Zine, an inexpensively produced, self-published, publication that contains teen poetry, cartoons, prose, etc.

28. Have teens help create, purchase, and locate signage in the teen area (and the rest of the library, for that matter).

29. Invite teens to weed the teen collection. Make sure you have guidelines. Give them written criteria and work collaboratively with them.

30. Post a “Teens Welcome Here!” banner on the front of the library or in the lobby.