



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Public Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2016

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth Schneider,
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-2

TITLE: 2015-2016 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Library Board with the annual evaluation of the 2015-2016 Teen Advisory Board.

BACKGROUND: The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) was formed in June 2009 for sixth through twelfth grade teens to plan events for themselves and their peers at the Library, offer volunteer services, and make suggestions for purchasing teen books, movies, and music. TAB members get involved in the community via City events such as the Annual Arbor Day celebration and establish relationships with other teens and non-parental adult role models.

Librarians feel that it is important to encourage teens from different backgrounds to join TAB in order to garner a wider range of program suggestions. The staff uses this feedback to provide programs and materials that will attract a variety of teens from across the community. The TAB program encourages lifelong library use and gives teens a sense of empowerment via their suggestions for programs and services.

ANALYSIS: The members of TAB come from all walks of life and from different schools in the area. Some schools that are represented are Monrovia High School, Santa Fe Middle School, Clifton Middle School, area private schools, and home schools. To join, teens must fill out an application and waiver, and both documents must be signed by their parent or guardian. The waiver is a formal document approved by the City of Monrovia, asking for emergency medical information and photo release approval, and is kept on file for one year.

Librarians visited Clifton and Santa Fe middle schools in December 2015 and May 2016, talking to every English class. During these visits, teens learned about new books to read and were encouraged to become a member of TAB and volunteers for the Summer Reading Program. As a recipient of the American Library Association Great Stories Club, library staff visited Canyon Oaks High School regularly to speak to two English classes and discuss three books donated through the grant. The theme of the grant was Hack the Feed. Teens received three books and participated in process art projects while discussing how media affects society, and how to have their message heard. The titles of the books were *Feed*, *Hunger Games* and *March*, a graphic novel by John Lewis.

Moving forward, the governing TAB Board will continue to take on more of a leadership role in creating and implementing teen programs, determining projects that will meet community needs such as Pokemon Go displays and publicity, and participating in outreach to promote their group at schools and City events.

AR-2

The following information is an overview of the 2015-2016 TAB program:

- Members:** TAB had 192 members enrolled from June 2015 to May 2016, as compared to 164 members the previous year. Participation has increased at Monrovia High School showing concentrated outreach in the middle schools has helped to grow teen participants who value being part of the Library community. Teachers in the middle schools are strong advocates for the Teen Advisory Board, and constantly refer students to join the program. Interest has also developed with students in neighboring school districts, who are attracted to the year round structured volunteer program.

The following is a comparison of each school's student representation over a three year period.

TAB MEMBER SCHOOLS			
Schools	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Clifton Middle School	33	24	27
Santa Fe Middle School	19	33	33
Monrovia High School	70	71	93
Canyon Oaks School	0	2	2
Arcadia Schools	9	6	11
Private Schools	17	12	9
Home School	5	6	4
Duarte Schools	4	7	4
San Gabriel Schools	1	0	0
Alhambra Schools	0	1	2
Pasadena Schools	2	2	3
Pomona Schools	0	0	0
San Marino Schools	0	0	0
Sierra Madre Schools	1	0	0
Altadena Schools	0	0	1
Burbank Schools	0	0	1
Temple City Schools	0	0	1
Hacienda Heights Schools	0	0	1
Total TAB Members	161	164	192

The following information is a comparison of grade level enrollment over a three year period.

TAB MEMBER GRADES			
Grade	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Grade 6	11	15	9
Grade 7	26	28	31
Grade 8	34	24	36
Grade 9	28	31	38
Grade 10	34	23	23
Grade 11	15	27	24
Grade 12	13	16	31
Total TAB Members	161	161	192

2. **TAB Council:** Formal elections were held in April to vote for board members for a term that runs for one year. The 2015-2016 TAB Council consisted of a High School President, Vice President, Secretary, Middle School President, Director of Volunteers, and two Co-Directors of Programs. The seven member council led the Teen Advisory Board members every month. TAB meetings and events were supervised by Library Staff members.
3. **Programs:** TAB held a variety of teen events during the past year, including monthly movie nights, Live Angry Birds, a Sherlock Holmes Party, Disney movie night, Mystery night where teens wrote their own script and put on the show, and a giant version of the Game of Life. The most popular was the Super Smash Bros Tournament with 31 participants and an average of 21 teens at all of the other events.
4. **Projects:** Members volunteered their time to represent TAB at Library Board meetings and City Council meetings, assisted with Adult Services and Youth Services programs. TAB members were the leads for the summer family LEGO programs. They were in charge of implementing the program, crowd management, set up and clean up.
5. **Collaboration:** TAB partnered with the Recreation Division Youth Commission (YC) to volunteer at the following City Events: the Spring Egg Hunt, Arbor Day, Mother's Day Home Tour, and the City Halloween event. In February, TAB collaborated with the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association to host a teen event for Black History Month. They watched a movie about the Underground Railroad. Tim Fisher, from the Black Alumni Association, spoke about what Monrovia was like during the 60's and answered questions. Ten teens watched the movie and participated in the discussion afterwards.
6. **Volunteer hours:** Last year, TAB members volunteered 2,324 hours compared to the previous year of 2,797 hours. The number of members increased, but the number of hours slightly decreased. This is a result of fewer youth programs offered by the Library because of lower staffing levels. The hiring of two youth librarians and expected increase of Adult programming will increase volunteer opportunities for this coming year.
7. **Recognition:** All of the outstanding work completed by the Teen Advisory Board was recognized at the Big Birthday Costco Food Night Leo Appreciation Celebration on Friday, May 27. Graduating seniors were also honored for their work over the years with a PowerPoint presentation, and awards for TAB Volunteers of the Year were presented. This year, two extra awards were given out: Most Reliable and Most Creative. The four recipients for Most Reliable consistently cleaned baby toys every week for an entire year. The winners were Chloe Bautista, Logan DeBetta, Adam Woolery and Joel Yamashita. Most Creative was given to Megan Matthiesen and Janelle Fisk for spending hours of their time developing interesting and unique programs for teens such as the Mystery Night and Life Sized Life.

Each TAB member who volunteered a minimum of 50 hours were eligible to attend the Knott's Berry Farm excursion on June 11. Fifteen TAB members reached the goal and were invited on the trip. TAB members were honored with the annual Library sleepover, which took place on June 30.

8. **Youth Volunteers of the Year:** The Youth Volunteers of the Year were announced at the Teen Advisory Board Appreciation Celebration. The recipients were Juan Esparza, Leo Martinez, Naz Shalviri and Jacob Szymkowski. Naz and Jacob have been integral parts of TAB since middle school, serving on the board as leaders for the younger members. Juan joined in high school, but

immediately became an advocate for TAB and encouraged many people to join. As an 8th grader, Leo volunteered 134 hours, the most by far of any other volunteer this year.

- 9. Outcomes:** A total of 31 seniors graduated out of TAB this year with 13 active members who had been in the program through most of their teen years. TAB members will be going on to higher education schools such as Berkley, Temple University, Swarthmore, Humboldt, UC Santa Barbara and more. Their majors range from English to Biology to Mechanical Engineering to Cinematic Arts. All seniors were asked to complete an exit survey. When asked how participation in TAB has changed their lives for the better, one teen commented: 'I find volunteering in my community to be really important because it immerses not just the volunteers, but those we help to understand the importance of community events.'

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no environmental impact associated with this program.

FISCAL IMPACT: During the year of 2015-16, 164 TAB members contributed 2,324 hours of volunteer service. This volunteer support saved the Library \$27,888.00, compared to the previous year of \$25,173.00. This figure is based on a starting wage of \$12.00 per hour for a Library Aide while last year's figure was based on the past minimum wage of \$9.00.

The TAB program is funded by donations from the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library. All programming supplies, snacks and materials are purchased in an effort to create experiences for community teens. Expenditures include snacks for the monthly meeting and 1 to 2 programs per month, as well as supplies for each program. Example supplies include large board games pieces for the giant Game of Life and small costume items such as mustaches for Mystery Night. Balls were purchased to act as birds to knock down boxes for the Angry Birds event. Magnifying glasses and art supplies to create a British selfie wall were bought to create an interactive experience for the Sherlock Holmes event. A large portion of the budget goes to recognition at the end of the year. This includes an Appreciation Party for all TAB members, and admission to Knotts Berry Farm for those that volunteer over 50 hours in the year. Plaques for Volunteers of the Year are also purchased.

PROGRAM BENEFITS:

1. The Teen Advisory Board serves as the voice of local youth in the Monrovia Public Library and a leadership opportunity for teen growth.
2. The Teen Advisory Board's volunteer efforts saved the Monrovia Public Library \$27,888.00 in part-time staff costs last fiscal year.
3. TAB members develop and implement monthly teen programming for community teens.
4. More children's library programming, such as the family LEGO programs were made available to patrons because teen volunteers managed the events.

PROGRAM IMPACTS:

1. The Teen Advisory Board remains an unbudgeted program and Staff seeks program funding from the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library to offset supplies. In 2015-2016, the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library donated \$3,000.00 for programming materials, snacks, and supplies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Staff recommends TAB develop their voice in regards to young adult programming and collection development by writing book reviews for library social media sites, and be a part of posting for the TAB Facebook account (with employee supervision).
2. Staff recommends TAB create a structured mechanism to embrace new members into this cohesive team and make them feel welcome with an orientation.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Library Board provided feedback on the TAB program and move to receive and file AR-1 2015-16 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation.

LIBRARY BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: If the Library Board concurs, the appropriate action would be in motion to: *Provided feedback on the TAB program and receive and file, AR-1 2015-16 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation.*