

"Man, the library will keep you outta jail!":
A public library/youth detention partnership

Megan Aarant & Lindsay Sheppard

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

YALSA Symposium 2019

How to Get Started:

1. Research what department juvenile justice falls under in your state.
2. Look into the long-term/short-term facilities, community service offices, and transitional schools in your community.
3. Reach out to the volunteer coordinators.
4. What are their needs and what services can you provide?
5. Think outside the box: Institutional cards, deposit collections, etc.

Contact us!

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Library Teen Dept.
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Tips and Tricks from the Teens:

Don't be scared
Open up
Be ready for anything
Be willing to listen
Bring a Spongebob
(a stuffie to hold when speaking)

Tips and Tricks Megan & Lindsay:

Give it time
Make it manageable
Be self sufficient
Be authentic
Don't be stingy with praise

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Deposit Collection

Establishing a deposit collection has boosted interest in reading. Teens would hide deposit collection books around the media center so that they could get them on their next visit. RYDC staff also moved some of the books into the teens' pods for easier access. The teens have been most engaged with contemporary YA books like "The Hate U Give" and "What Can't Wait." The boys have never complained that a main character is female. They have actually been choosing to read books with female protagonists when checking books out of the deposit collection.

Institutional Card

Institutional cards allow library access to populations such as residential and childcare facilities through a designated agent or agents that work at that facility. Standard circulation policies apply and the institution takes responsibility for lost or damaged items.

My library can support court-involved youth by: