Collaborative Summer Library Program 2018

PROGRAM IDEAS
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This is a compilation of programming ideas discussed during the CSLP 2018 presentation at CYPD 2017 and gathered during CSLP 2018 training/roundtable sessions across the state. Additional ideas are taken from last year’s idea list. This list will continue to be updated through March 2018. My thanks to the groups for their input!

(To search this document for a particular topic, use Ctrl-F.)

Additional Resources for CSLP planning:

CSLP website:  http://www.cslpreads.org/

ISL’s Resources for Librarians Serving Youth:  http://www.in.gov/library/4642.htm


CSLP’s 2018 Pinterest page:  https://za.pinterest.com/cslpreads/  
(Includes individual boards for each age level.)

Program Ideas

All Ages program ideas
(Search with Ctrl-F)

- Ice cream social – makes a great kick-off program!

- Rock painting / rock garden / rock scavenger hunt (hide painted rocks around town) – traditional paint or you can dip rocks into water that has nail polish floating on top to create a marbled effect.
• “Global Beatles Day” is June 25th—celebrate with a Beatles party! Music, wigs, dancing, an airing of the movies Help! or A Hard Days’ Night (with proper licensing of course), etc. [http://www.globalbeatlesday.com/]

• Yoga, Zumba, etc. Little ones can also do these when simplified!

• Divide the library into multiple areas; each area could feature a style of music (country, pop, classical, etc.); Or, could divide by decade and have people dress up by decade, play music from that era, etc.

• Moana party or Beach party with ukulele music and basic ukulele lessons; try some basic hula dance moves; do limbo; read Moana books and/or screen movie. Bring towels, sunglasses, wear flip flops.

• Name that song as a passive program—clips of songs from Disney movies on a CD, answer sheet with pictures to match the song with the movie (pictures helped the youngest children play along).

• Garbage Can Drumline or Bucket Drumming – use garbage can lids, cans turned upside down, or buckets to improvise drums. Experiment with sticks made from different materials to see what sounds they make. YouTube has videos about this style of drumming for reference. Bucketdrumming.net; bucketdrumming101.com

• Star Wars Jedi Academy – invite local 501st legion to visit in costume, set up stations for various tasks the kids must accomplish to become a jedi. [https://www.501st.com/]

• Dungeons and Dragons / General Board Games programs – lots of websites to refer to: [http://Dnd.wizards.com] / [https://roll20.net] / [https://donjon.bin.sh/d20/dungeon]

• Invite local dance teacher/school to perform or to teach an easy lesson—could work for any age.

• Invite local geologist or rock enthusiast in to do a talk about their rock collection, or ask them to create a display (in a locked case, ideally) for your library!

• Hire a professional jump roper to do a program at your library, especially if he jumps to music… or create your own jump-rope-a-thon or jump rope party—again, set to music!

• Keepsake crafts – stations around room for creating different keepsakes to give as gifts—hand prints in salt dough, etc.

• Genealogy program for families—create family trees, talk about researching, etc. Local historical society could help present; Indiana State Library Genealogy Division could offer tips to librarians to share with patrons.

• Paint your own walking stick, perhaps talk about trails at local state or city parks.

• Show and tell with older audio/visual formats: cassette tapes, 8 tracks, vinyl records, VHS tapes, beta, laser discs…

• Create a community art project you work on through the summer…perhaps using rocks to create a collage/mural!

• Dungeons & Dragons or roleplaying clubs for upper elementary age and up.

• Hold an American Sign Language program. One library is offering it 1x week for 6 weeks. Invite a local teacher or someone else qualified to present.

• “Dad Rocks!” Father’s Day program

• Invite local musicians in for “First Friday” concerts the first Fridays of May, June, July, and August.

• The Indiana State Museum has several themed education trunks that can be borrowed for a small fee, see their website for info and availability. https://www.indianamuseum.org/educational-outreach
Preschool/Early Literacy program ideas
(Search with Ctrl-F)

*DON’T FORGET—your CSLP Early Literacy manual contains a wealth of book, song, fingerplay, craft, and other storytime-related ideas!*

- Dance party! Block Party! Art Party! - Use/play fun music during all of these. (Check out Jim Gill and Laurie Berkner.) Music Makers / Movement and Music / Shake Your Sillies – etc. -- all toddler music and movement programs

- Make your own shakers/drums/other instruments with recycled materials

- Toddler air guitar contest

- Use the book *Music Class Today!* by David Weinstone to inspire a program

- Do something inspired by *Beat Bugs* (show on Netflix): [https://www.beatbugs.com/](https://www.beatbugs.com/)

- Instrument petting zoo—ask high school band/orchestra teacher, or local professional band or symphony, to bring in instruments.

- Tiny Tot Idol – American Idol for little ones! Singing “competition” (could just be a way for them to have fun—teach songs and sing them together).

- Toddler Prom – have them come in their finest, play music and dance!

- Seek out picture books that use song lyrics for the their text; Iza Trapani has done several of these (“How Much is that Doggie in the Window” and “I’m a Little Teapot,” for instance); read with the group then sing the song. Act out any motions.

- *Not a Box* program – use book by Antoinette Portis, then use cardboard boxes to play pretend or to craft cars, houses, etc.

- Building Friendships program – could make many different programs work for this, from general ‘play’ programs to craft programs; maybe an official ‘hang out after storytime’ program? Happens anyway, but this might encourage shy parents to stay and interact more with other parents and kids.

- Petting Zoo with vehicles – Contact your local police/sheriff’s dept, fire dept, etc for a “community helpers” vehicle petting zoo or a local contractor for a “construction vehicle/big trucks” petting zoo.
• Build robots – cardboard & scrap materials or possibly real robots (basic ones!)

• Play with Robots – use Cubelets, Spheros, Dash, etc. with toddlers! It can be done! Indy PL InfoZone does this regularly. Code-a-Pillar is a preschool coding toy one library has used.

• Make and/or decorate “Drive-in Movie cars” made from cardboard boxes. (See Pinterest)

• See if your county’s Purdue Extension office can supply blocks/DUPLOs for block play.

• Put up a Story Walk in a local park (or in/around your building!).
  http://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk

• Parachutes Rock! -- parachute play program for preschoolers. Will need adults to help with this. Teach basic movements then use those movements with songs.

• Pete the Cat dance party.

• You Rock! Based on the book Only One You by Linda Krauz which features colorful fish; read the book then paint rocks to look like fish! Great message about how everyone is unique.

• Rock-a-bye Baby – baby program that includes lots of music, lullabies, playing, and singing.

• Library Town – dramatic/imaginative play stations for various community locations set up in a room together – laundromat, ice cream shop, restaurant, store, mini-library, etc.—and let the kids play freely!

• Toddler 4th of July parade to marching band music.

• Process Art program – painting idea – Put sheet of white construction paper inside a pringles can, add a ping pong ball that has been dipped in paint, shake the can and remove the ball. See what you created! Can take the painting home in the same can.
Children’s/School Age program ideas
(Search with Ctrl-F)

- Mousetraps/Rube Goldberg Devices Rock! - build a device
- Building Rocks! – Build Bridges: Experiment with craft sticks, straws, blocks, legos…marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti; Build Buildings: Who can build the tallest tower with provided materials? Could be family challenge…
- Robots Rock! – Build functioning robots--brush and art bots, Pop Can Kits, etc. OR not functioning—build with craft materials, design on paper, etc.
- Cooking Rocks! Could easily be series, different dishes each time. Can do no-cook/microwave if your library doesn’t have oven.
- The Future Rocks! – Brainstorm and dream big about the future, design cars, build buildings, etc.
- Stories Rock! – Writing contest or workshop; MadLibs program
- Bookmarks Rock! – Bookmark contest (run through summer) or design bookmarks craft program
- History Rocks! – Make a time capsule, learn about historical events in your community.
- T-shirts Rock! – tie dye, cut into new patterns (remove sleeves, etc.)
- Being Healthy Rocks! – Yoga for kids, martial arts, healthy snacks, etc.
- Science Rocks! – SO MANY experiments you could choose from! Check Pinterest.
- Your Library Rocks!/Children’s Dept Mascot – hold a contest to design the new library/dept mascot. Winner’s design gets made into a stuffed version via a company such as Budsies.com. Winner gets 1 copy and library gets 1 copy to keep in department.
- Fairy Tales Rock! – Read/discuss fairy tales from other countries, discuss how they are alike or different, then kids can write their own fairy tales.
- Sports Rock! – Invite local HS athletes and coaches in dressed in their uniforms, talk about how the game is played, run basic drills to the extent space allows, talk about teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-discipline. Let kids try on uniforms (pads for football, shin guards for soccer, etc.).
- Pets Rock! – Invite local Humane Society or other shelter in with some of their adoptable pets; talk about pet care; hold adoption hours; create simple tied blankets for the shelter.
- Space/Moon Rocks! – Family Moon Night, could be after-hours family program, use telescope to spot visible planets/stars/the moon; use microscope to view lunar rock samples.
- Monster Socks Rock! – Make sock puppet monsters (check last year’s CSLP manual for details)
- Coding Rocks! – Coding with Google CS – csfirst.withgoogle.com – website has everything you need to create a club for free. They have a music and sound lesson.

- Draw to music! Listen to a few types and see if artwork changes. Could also create multimedia art.
- Karaoke party! Or Name that Tune – either using Disney music or Kids Bop.
- Make a music and/or dance video—let the kids shoot it and edit it
• Put on a talent show

• Have the school band or orchestra put on a concert for kids at the library; or, hold a petting zoo with their instruments; or, have marching band teach kids how to march (basic steps like a “basic block”).
  o Jazz Immersion program—High School Jazz Band, let kids try or touch some of the instruments, read books like Trombone Shorty or Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra

• Make various instruments from everyday/recycled materials – drums, guitars, pan flutes (from straws)

• Use a Makey Makey to make music via their bongo and piano apps:  http://makeymakey.com/apps/
  Make it fun by making piano keys they can walk on out of foil, or bananas in place of the bongos!

• Shrinky-Dinks to create guitar picks (could make necklaces out of them); colored pencils are recommended for coloring them.

• Geology Rocks! Do a geology-based science program. Could make it disaster related—experiments like making volcanos, tornados in bottles, etc.

• Make your own fossils (see Pinterest), kids get to dig them out. Consider using a 3D printer to print really cool dino shapes, dino teeth and claws, etc. and use those. Can freeze in ice, place in plaster, etc.

• Create pet rocks! Paint/decorate, attach googly eyes.

• Rock, Paper, Scissors contest! Use the book The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors by Drew Daywalt

• Learn another language. Ask language speakers in your community to offer a mini or beginning class to kids.

• Angry Birds program – build and knock down cardboard boxes (can do as individuals and in groups); stuffed sock balls with angry bird faces; green balloons with piggy faces.

• International Night – representatives/booths from different countries, ask local restaurants to provide food of different countries, provide information. Great all-ages/family idea!
• Coder Dojo program – partner with Eleven Fifty Academy to offer classes (an Indiana-based non-profit that offers coding classes, contact them to learn more: https://elevenfifty.org/about/outreach/)
  o Websites to help teach coding:
    Scratch - https://scratch.mit.edu/
    Hour of Code - https://code.org/learn
    CodeCademy - https://www.codecademy.com/
    Additionally, many robots (Dash, Lego WeDo, Spheros) provide their own coding software such as Blockly, which can be used on iPads and other devices.

• Cardboard Challenge—Global Cardboard Challenge is in Sept/Oct, but could do your own version of it—idea is open-ended, to build “something awesome out of cardboard, recycled materials, and imagination.” (http://cardboardchallenge.com/) Can often pick up resources for free or inexpensively at your local Solid Waste Management District center or recycling center.

• Life-size games (life-size Jenga, Candyland, etc.). Added bonus—have the kids help you build it/put it together! One library did life-size Oregon Trail! Included a history lesson about that time period.

• Make “galaxy” shirts with fabric paint; example of how: http://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Galaxy-Sweatshirts-Or-anything-you-want-to-/ 

• Create map art—make your own or color/decorate black and white maps—could even frame them!

• Reader’s Theater—can use short stories or adapt books yourself (examples of Mr. Popper’s Penguins, Peter Pan were given). Invite teens to act as mentors and assist.
  “What’s Fowl in the Library?” – brought in chicks, talked about care/handling of animals, could do many different animals if you have a good contact (any contacts with local 4H groups if not farmers?). Could call series, “Animals Rock!” or similar.

• Group building challenge—build a structure from LEGOs or blocks, put it under a box. One person on a team is allowed to look and must try to communicate to the group what should be built (they don’t get to see it). Team building/communication practice exercise.

• Invite local woodworkers in to show and tell different tools with the kids; work with them or a naturalist to build bird houses for outside the library, then note/track the birds that visit (an ongoing project or posted in dept).

• Work with a local arts group to create a piece of public art to display in the community.
• Create cupcakes that look like book characters or represent elements of books; could be child’s choice of character.

• Create a community garden, or a library garden, with kids as a program or ongoing program.

• Children’s craft fair—children sell their own craft projects.

• Minute to Win It program.

• Create a house out of empty plastic water bottles. Kids can paint bottles first. Will be a several week program.

• Summer-long LEGO building challenge/program—can add on to structure all summer.

• “Create and Destroy” program—build contraptions that will knock other things down! Example is marshmallow guns. Catapults from craft sticks.

• Stuffed animal or teddy bear sleepover. Stuffed animals sleep over at library, take pictures of them doing things around the department.

• Cookies & Canvas—let the kids paint whatever they want OR guide them through drawing music-themed paintings—can trace out lines before or put tape down in the shape of a music note, etc.

• Pokemon scavenger hunt—hide pics of different Pokemon around the library, give them a checklist to check off as they locate, prize for finding them. Could be part of a larger Pokemon-themed party.

• Use drum sticks as basis for a craft. Check Pinterest for ideas.

• Make rain sticks! Talk about what they are and then make one. http://happyhooligans.ca/rain-sticks

• Paint rocks to look like cactus, glue together and put in planters—googly eyes for added cuteness.

• Book buddies – pair teens with young K-3 students to practice reading together. Do a craft, have a snack, pick out books together.
• American Girl tea party, bring their dolls, dolls can be ‘introduced’ to one another, do crafts and have snacks.

• Readers’ Theater Rocks – turn a picture book into a production using music, instruments, songs, sets, props, etc.

• Backyard Bird Song primer – listen to bird songs of local/common birds like cardinals, chickadees; talk about how birds learn and imitate songs and why they sing; step outside and listen for robins; bird song impression contest. www.Allaboutbirds.org

• Kids choir program for grades K-5, teach them 1-3 popular songs for kids and simple choreography, the let them perform.

• Sing Silly Songs – teach the kids several silly songs that have motions that go with them (Once an Austrian Went Yodeling, The Princess Pat, Little Bunny Foo Foo). Provide the lyrics on paper and let the kids make their own songbooks by adding construction paper covers and decorating them. At the end, ask them to teach songs to you!

• Stomp program with various found materials to make drums.

• Make Solar S’Mores: https://climatekids.nasa.gov/smores/

• Invite a local bakery/baker to come in and teach cake decorating or do a baking program. Could do this on your own—ask local grocery to donate the cupcakes or sell them to you at a reduced price, lots of books/pinterest ideas for decorating cupcakes.

• Invite local music store, music teacher, or other musician to come in and give instrument lessons. Ukuleles are a very easy instrument to learn.
Teen program ideas
(Search with Ctrl-F)

- **Zombies Rock!** – Make “zombie” bears or other stuffed animals by taking apart and putting back together with mismatched parts. Watch zombie movies.
- **T-shirt Art Rocks!** – Tie dye, bleach, cutting different ways to create new pattern, use old t-shirts to create new clothing item.
- **Book Crafts Rock!** – Use old books to create book art.
- **Writing Rocks!** – Hold a writing contest or workshop; make book spine poetry and hold a poetry slam at the end so kids can read their best ones aloud, etc.
- **Cooking Rocks!** – Food and cooking. Teen “Chopped” or “Iron Chef.” Could also build a solar oven.
- **Gaming Rocks!** – Have an expert gamer in to speak, or invite teens in to teach each other informally.
- **Coding Rocks** – Teach basic coding using CodeCademy or use robots and Scratch or similar.
- **Robots Rock** – Can make more complicated robots than School Age, or use set such as LEGO WeDo.
- **Your Future Rocks!** – College or career fair or talk; college prep; what to expect.
- **Make Your Business Rock** – Invite babysitters and lawnmowers, etc, in for tips from a local entrepreneur.

- Teen “Take Apart” or “Tinkering” Day – bring in old music-playing devices (cassette players, record players, 8-track players—also old VCRs/VHS tapes and old TVs are possibility) – take them apart and learn how they work.

- Lip Sync battle! Or a Rap Battle

- Bring out your old library Wiis and play Rock Band, American Idol, Just Dance, Dance Dance Revolution, etc.

- Make art inspired by music – listen to music while drawing/creating

- Air Band competition

- Make Your Own band-inspired t-shirt (favorite band, or make up a band name…) OR, make your own concert poster – talk about design, make one for self and one to decorate the library.

- Do a Hamilton (or other Broadway-themed show) inspired program
• Make parody videos

• “Adulting 101” series – geared toward older teens who need to learn skills before leaving home. Job Skills – Tips on getting a job; what employers expect from you; resumes; taxes; changing a tire or car oil; etc.

• Obstacle Course or Life-Size Game – Could ask teens to create these themselves!

• Great opportunity to try forming a Teen Advisory Group if you don’t already have one.

• Greeting Cards – Use conductive copper tape, coin batteries, and tiny LED lights inside to create homemade light-up greeting cards; could create other light-up art using these materials. “Paper circuits” ideas: http://tinkering.exploratorium.edu/paper-circuits and here: https://chibitronics.com/

• Filmmakers Club, Classes on basic shooting and editing, teen video contest.

• Teen Bookshelf – Ask your teens to tell you what they’d like to see on a special shelf just for them—give them ownership of it.

• Revamp Your Bedroom or Locker – Suggestions for organization, create things to put in room/locker.

• Make a New Ending (for book or movie) – Could be a writing program, movie program, or just a book discussion where you talk about how the ending could be improved. Re-do it themselves.

• Start a Teen Art & Poetry magazine—show off what teens in your area can do! Self-publish it. Bring in professors or authors/professional writers who can tell the kids “this is what you can do with your writing skills!”

• Start a teen volunteer program.

• Book club for teens—icebreaker games at the beginning (they find it easiest to talk about themselves!), make it regular/weekly. One library picks one book per month and gathers weekly to discuss it.

• Make terrariums! Put small characters and objects in them. Could also do this as a “fairy garden.” Could use fake plants so they require less care/maintenance.

• Magic the Gathering (or Pokemon, etc.) program—gives teens an excuse to get together, practice social skills, easier when you have something to do with your hands like a game.
- Spa party—make own bath bombs, sugar scrubs, etc.

- Crayon art—melt crayons onto white canvases, let them drip down and create cool designs.

- Do a Zentangle program—may need a certified teacher (check local art store to see if they know one!)  [https://www.zentangle.com/](https://www.zentangle.com/)

- Steampunk art – take apart old equipment/computers, etc. (i.e., “e-trash”). and make art that is steampunk inspired; could also create elements of costumes this way; make sure THEY are the ones taking a part the equipment, saves you time and they learn a little.  Be sure to use safety glasses and gloves.

- Work with a local arts group to create a piece of public art to display in the community.

- Shaving cream & water fight outside the library.

- Amazing Race for teens – race around library/outside library for clues.

- Bad Art Night – kids can do whatever they want with supplies provided, no pressure to be “good.”

- Breakout Room/Box program—Breakout EDU has one-stop supplies in a box as well as themed program ideas.

- Zombies in the Stacks – Keep library open until dark/late for teens.  Teach them zombie makeup then turn down lights and play zombie tag—have to drag one foot if “it,” no cell phones allowed.


- Teen jam session – invite teens who play instruments to come together to play, sing, or just hang out and listen.  Serve coffee/soda.

- Teen Band night – invite local teen bands from your community in to perform concerts.  If there are enough—perhaps a Battle of the Bands?
- Play name that tune but use Rockabye Baby CD versions of popular songs, they have to identify them. Make it a team-based game.

- Sound wave art – teen creates a soundwave by saying a phrase and recording it with sound recording software. Then you print out pictures of the waves, trace and paint them onto canvas or object or manipulate it using photoshop.

- Teen Book Playlist Contest – teens choose a book and create a song playlist for the title, 5-7 songs they think match the mood or themes of the book. Make display with lists later.

- What rocks? Create a playlist of many different types of songs. Kids spin a wheel to determine what genre you will listen to, then you play a few examples of that genre of music. The kids evaluate it: First, they rate it (Yes! Kinda. Meh. Ew! No way!), decide whether the song is a ‘classic,’ determine whether you can dance to it, does it stir any type of emotion, do they know anyone who knows that song, then they can talk about the songs after they evaluate them.

- Top 5 Listening Parties – inspired by the book *High Fidelity* by Hornsby – teens can bring their top 5 lists of songs based on various categories, or create the lists at the library—then get together and share that music (they can bring their own music on their phones, etc.) Then at the end they will compile it all into one big group list.

- Beat Shazam – using the phone app Shazam, which identifies music, play name that tune…but you are playing agains Shazam to see if you can guess it before Shazam does!

- Have a “book” discussion about video games! Play a video game at the library—everyone playing the same game OR everyone checking out different games if your library loans them—and discuss the game’s literary merits—talk about plot and pacing, character, etc.

- Harry Potter Horcrux Scavenger Hunt on Harry’s Birthday – July 31. Hide “horcruxes” around the library with clues to find them. If enough teens, divide into the 4 Houses (Gryffendor, Hufflepuff, etc.) and give them 4 different tracks so they aren’t just following one another around.

• Ask a local DJ (wedding/party DJ or radio station) to talk about their job, how they got into it, the equipment, best and worst part of job, etc. Show equipment.

• Fired Alcohol Ink Art – use alcohol inks (can make these yourself—see Pinterest—or buy them) on glass or tile, light them on fire (CAREFULLY! Take all precautions, of course!) to create really beautiful art. Lots of info online. https://www.itsalwaysautumn.com/fired-ink-art-easy-craft-for-kids-adults.html; https://alittlecraftinyourday.com/2017/06/29/diy-fired-ink-art/; http://www.reinstonz.com/peek-pinterest/fired-alcohol-ink-art/ Great for Adults, also!

• BINGO with a Twist – Play Bingo; when someone hits BINGO, sing the “B-I-N-G-O” song (“There was a farmer had a dog…”). Randomly during game, do other silly things like asking “Would you Rather” questions, show fun YouTube videos, make them sing or dance, etc.

• Make mosaics from old CDs/DVDs; create jewelry, bowls, or other art from vinyl records

• Invasion of the 80’s – Rock of Ages program. Retro event for teens incorporating 80’s music trivia, ‘costume’ contest, know your meme trivia, lip sync contest, 80’s movie clips, etc.

• Build a PC – have computer repair person or builder/hobbyist teach the basics of building a PC.

• Black Out in the Library Party – turn teen room into a glow zone party with black lights, glowsticks, etc. One library had a local DJ play music, held a Nerf war, created a glowing dance floor with florescent duct tape.
Adult program ideas
(Search with Ctrl-F)

- Bring in local gem and mineral society to speak or create a display
- Technology Rocks series – how to use apps, devices, how to search for song lyrics
- Rockin’ w/ Bingo – use rocks as markers
- Volunteers Rock – get your volunteer program started
- Bring in bands to do concerts at your library
- Brain/Memory – Bring in a speaker on this or offer brain teasing exercises
- Body – Zumba, yoga, martial arts – instructors from community
- Coloring Sheet – Design their own
- **Home Rocks!** – Home improvement, organization – ask someone from hardware store to come in and lead a workshop on some aspect of home improvement.
- **Meal Plans that Rock!** – Speaker from Purdue Extension or other—nutrition, meal planning, freezer meals.
- **Make Your Wardrobe Rock** – Makeover your closet, invite local clothing store or thrift shop
- **Computers Rock** – Adult computer skills classes
- **Cooking Rocks!** – Iron Chef or Chopped for adults! Or just a cooking class.
- **Our Community/Library Rocks!** – Grow your Friends group (or start one!). Invite members of community in to discuss their aspirations for the community; find out how the library could become involved. Or, invite local elected officials to come speak in forum, give chance for community to get to know them.
- **Rock Your Business** -- Invite local business people in to give talks on entrepreneurship, perhaps your Chamber of Commerce?
- **Art/Painting/Crafting Rocks** –Art class! Painting, etc. ANY crafts. Could be a series. Coffee & Canvas.

- Adult Prom
- Band – invite musicians in to jam together, and/or to teach lessons
• Wreath – can glue all types of things to a wreath frame and make wreaths for any season!

• Make terrariums, real or fake plants.

• Spa party – make own bath bombs, sugar scrubs, etc.

• Master Gardener (or other gardening) program

• Do a Zentangle program—may need a certified teacher (check local art store to see if they know one!)  
  https://www.zentangle.com/

• Atlas Art – Weeding atlases? Take them apart and create art! Decoupage and collages on a variety of surfaces.

• Escape room – create your own in the library! Great possible family/all-ages program.

• Retro-gaming – Gather old tube TVs and connect them to old consoles like Ataris or original Nintendos… or there is now an Atari Flashback game console. Audience is 30’s-40’s and families, nostalgia factor.
  • Could include Tetris craft—glue small wood block beads together to look like Tetris pieces, string on jewelry or glue to picture frames, etc.

• Literary trivia in a pub! Work with a local bar to hold a trivia night. Librarians write the literary-themed questions and orchestrate? Could do this in the library, minus beer to keep it “dry.”

• Hold a food drive; build a structure using the boxes and cans donated; work with Habitat for Humanity in your town.

• Work with a local arts group to create a piece of public art to display in the community.

• For those in smaller towns, take area rugs to your town square, set them out on sidewalks, bring a transportable number of library books and comfy chairs, and encourage people to sit and read… community building. (Make sure you get permission from the proper authorities/businesses first!)

• Invite local roller derby team (if you have one!) to come speak, perhaps demo as much as is possible in the library! This has all-ages appeal.
- Knitting or quilting program, knit hats for those going through chemo, fleece blankets and dog beds for animal shelters, etc. Arm knitting is also an option.

- On site or off site at a local brewery or distillery or bar; how to make beer at home; learn about the different types of beer or spirits.

- Family STEAM Night! Example activity: The 3 Little Pigs story and families will have stations to build houses and after our Big Bad Wolf (blow dryer) will try to knock them down.

- Homeschool Fair – Organize fair for your community

- Glass etching – can find instructions on internet, simple to do with etching cream.

- Vinyl record scavenger hunt – use old records hidden with different titles, then they can search the stacks for the albums. Play music as clues or just in background.

- Make crafts with guitar picks. Cover a picture frame, make jewelry, etc.

- Create a Human Library. The “books” are humans with interesting and diverse stories. They are “checked out” during the program by other patrons and a discussion and learning follows. Several libraries in IN have done something like this. http://humanlibrary.org/ https://www.indystar.com/story/life/2017/11/03/indianapolis-human-library/821440001/

- Cook the Book cookbook discussion – reserve copies of cookbooks with a theme (a particular country’s cuisine, low-fat cooking, etc.) – patrons check out, try a few recipes, then return for the actual program. The group cooks a couple of recipes together then sits down to eat and discuss what they did and didn’t like in the cookbooks they checked out.

- Pebble art – creating whimsical artwork on canvas with pebbles, sticks, string, etc. Use super glue, hot clue to adhere to canvas. Pinterest or google image search of “pebble art” will result in great samples to share.

- Button art—use old buttons to create collage art on canvas board. Could be in shape of your monogram/initials, or could be in shape of guitars, music notes, etc.

- Build a PC – have computer repair person or builder/hobbyist teach the basics of building a PC.