



Library: Webster Public Library

Title of Program or Event: Shirts to Dye For! Tie-Dyeing: A Come-and-Go Craft

Age level: grades 5-12; adults

Thursday, June 3, 2004; 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Description of Activity: Pre-teens and teens will bring their own T-shirts to tie-dye in red, white, and blue in preparation for the summer reading program, "Read, White and Blue" (and Flag Day and the 4th of July).

Objectives / Goals:

- to encourage teens' creativity with a unique craft project
- to offer an opportunity for teens to meet informally while learning a craft that can be also done at home by students with a wide variety of skill levels
- to raise awareness of upcoming summer program events for teens, with a possibility of pre-registration for these programs

Suggested setting: library café with linoleum floor and worktables

Time required: 1½ hrs. with appointments every 20 minutes.

Materials needed: handouts on washing instructions; summer reading registration materials; paper towels (lots—to wipe up drips and keep the tables clean); drop cloths to protect tables and floors; rolls of white paper to cover tables; lined trash cans; sturdy zip-lock plastic bags (to send home wet shirts); sponges, sponge mop for spills; fabric dyes in squirt bottles; dye tub with soda ash wash; white cotton T-shirts (or other white cotton apparel such as socks, bandannas); rubber bands; sample shirts to show the various patterns that can be achieved with different tying and banding methods.

Advanced Preparation: Contacted Roberta Voelkl, Teen Services Coordinator at the Ogden Farmer's Library (269 Ogden Center Road, Spencerport NY 14559. 585-352-2142.) Roberta has taught tie-dye crafts with students at BOCES and Special Olympics participants. The presenter's fee was \$85 (including mileage) plus reimbursement for supplies. The WPL Teen Services Librarian developed half-sheet fliers and a handbill describing the craft opportunity. The program description and registration information was posted on the library's web site for online registration. Teen Volunteers who had taken the Disability Awareness workshop were contacted to assist with the event. Encourage helpers to wear tie-dyed clothing to show what participants can make.

Publicity avenues included two counter displays in separate parts of the library with the handbill and fliers to pick up; handbills on the bulletin board in the library's Teen Lounge and the library foyer; a variety of emails were sent to community contacts with the handbill as an attachment (the school library media specialists at the middle and high schools in Webster to post; the young adult librarians at all Monroe County Library System [MCLS] units). Direct mailing included the **TeenNews** newsletter to over 250 teens on WPL's mailing list. A press release was sent to the Town of Webster for their **Town Times** newsletter, **Webster Post**, **Webster Herald**, and the "Our Towns" section of the **Democrat & Chronicle**, both by the Webster Public Library and the Communications Office of MCLS. The local cable channel was sent information for the bulletin board crawl messages.

Procedure: The presenter purchased all consumable supplies (est. \$40) and brought all necessary equipment. Once registered, participants were contacted for a specific appointment time. In twenty-minute intervals, up to ten teens could be accommodated. Appointment times spread out the participants in manageable groups (i.e., 6:30, 6:50, 7:10, 7:30 p.m.). The tie-dyeing was set up in stations one hour before the first appointment: a large bucket with a soda ash wash to soak the garment; wringing out the garment; tying and banding the garment with rubber bands to achieve a variety of pattern effects; dyeing table; bagging the garment and instructions handed out for its care.

Modifications: Adults and Teen Volunteers who took the disability awareness training were on hand for one-on-one assistance, walking the participant through the various steps of the process. Accommodations were made to allow participants to do as many steps as they could (wringing, gathering fabric, rubber banding, etc.). Everyone worked at their own pace, moving to the next station when they were ready. The appointment times reduced the number of participants working at any given time, easing the way for participants who are anxious in large groups and reducing the mess and chaos for students and helpers alike.

Evaluation: attendance figures; informal conversation.