Library Scavenger Hunt for Youths and Teens

A scavenger hunt can be a fun and effective way to invite students to the library, encouraging them to physically explore and use library resources. Youths can hunt individually or in teams to make the hunt their own “Amazing Race”. The tasks can be as varied as the limits of your imagination. Examples follow below.

Objective: Find something in each room of the library, or on each library resource, by completing the following Challenges. Prizes: book store gift cards, magazine subscription, movie rental gift cards, movie passes

Challenge 1  Find a book or a magazine in the particular genre listed on the piece of paper given your team.

Challenge 2  Find something in the library’s online databases, using specified keywords/limiters, etc., and make note of some part of the citation: (Ex. database name, all or part of an article summary, including journal name). Library staff could provide How To’s for searching, or require teams to figure it out themselves.

Challenge 3  Conduct a search on the library’s online databases, and find an article with a photo, PLUS a version in PDF format. Click both versions open, and write down what the main differences are between them.

Challenge 4  Find and identify something on a research subject or literary web site, such as poetry corner, book review, or book club guides.

Challenge 5  Print a 1-page document

Challenge 6  Go to the library’s Web site and locate the name of the library director or young adult librarian. Alternatively, go to the library Web site and locate the library’s E-mail address. If the library does not have a Web site, contestants can ask the library staff for other information.

Challenge 7  Conduct a search for a resource using the online card catalog. Library staff will provide How To’s for searching, and perhaps titles or authors to search. Teams/Individuals will go to the resource and claim a bookmark or something the library staff has placed inside.

Challenge 8  Find something on microfiche, microfilm, etc.

Challenge 9  Request a book with ILL (Inter-Library Loan).

Challenge 10  Ask the librarian for the Final Challenge Question (a different one for each team)
Example: Where would you go to find another way of expressing the word scavenger, if there were no computer available? Locate that resource and identify the synonym for scavenger.
[Correct Answer: a thesaurus, and forager, hunter]