



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Loudoun County

Program Title: Loudoun County Public Library Time Travel Club

Program Category: Customer Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Peter O'Brien

Title: Division Manager, Communications

Department: Library Services

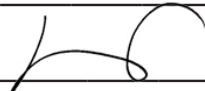
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Chang Liu

Title: Director, Library Services

Signature: 

Loudoun County Public Library: Time Travel Club

Brief Overview

Time Travel Club provides an educational program that incorporates history, STEAM, social studies and cultures at the library. School-age children can discover new and exciting worlds through trivia, discussion, hands-on activities, and collaboration. In addition, through partnerships with other libraries, local artisans and educators, and other community organizations, students are provided with information about famous people in history and are taught about many different world cultures that they might not otherwise be exposed to. This program has not only benefited the local community, but is getting national reach as librarian Elizabeth Stinnette has presented one in-person seminar and two webinars explaining how any library can duplicate this program.

Executive Summary

Elizabeth Stinnette, a librarian at Purcellville Library, developed the idea for Time Travel Club after speaking with a fellow librarian about a history program he created pre-COVID. Obviously, when the library closed and programming came to a halt, this idea sat on the back burner. When lockdown was lifted, and Elizabeth was looking for new, innovative programs that would entice the public to return to the library, she began to generate new ideas to make history fun. Using STEAM, culture and social studies-based activities as a guideline, she constructed a program that was educational, cost-effective, and diverse.

Once a month, Time Travel club introduces students to various chapters of history and culture. Some programs may promote certain historical events or time periods, such as the Battle of Antietam or a Victorian Christmas, while others might focus on historic individuals like the Wright Brothers and Benjamin Franklin. International places and people also play a part: For example, she has run programs about the West African kingdoms and the Aztec, Inca, and Maya.

Elizabeth does around 15-20 hours of research on each of these programs, trying to find activities that are unique and, hopefully, avoid something that the kids may have done already in school (i.e., having the kids make a working Roman oil lamp instead of the stereotypical baking soda volcano to represent Mt. Vesuvius). She also is careful to choose activities that are suitable to the time period and that avoid cultural appropriation. Elizabeth's dedication to research, as well as her inclusion of a variety of library books at every Time Travel Club, give students not only an introduction to a historical subject but avenues for further study if the topic interests them.

Results

The expense of this program can vary. Elizabeth has done programs (i.e., one about Michelangelo and Da Vinci) that only used items the library already had. She has also gotten creative and sought out supplies that would enhance the program by contacting other library branches. For example, for the Ancient Egyptian program, she borrowed a sarcophagus and a from other branches. Purchasing supplies is usually a final resort. As such, programs have a monthly budget of anywhere from \$0 to roughly \$80. When available, Elizabeth will have fellow staff members help run the program, but she also relies heavily on our wonderful teen volunteers. We have a large homeschool population that likes to both assist and participate in these programs.

The biggest payoff for our system is that Elizabeth was asked to present about Time Travel Club at VLA. She so impressed the moderator that she was recommended to PCI Webinars, a national vendor for library employee webinars. She presented twice, first to librarians in Florida and then nationwide. The link to that webinar can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdf1ipMjmuQ>

PCI was so impressed that they are now working with Elizabeth to build another webinar around her Homeschool Enrichment programs.

Comments from other librarians who attended the webinar:

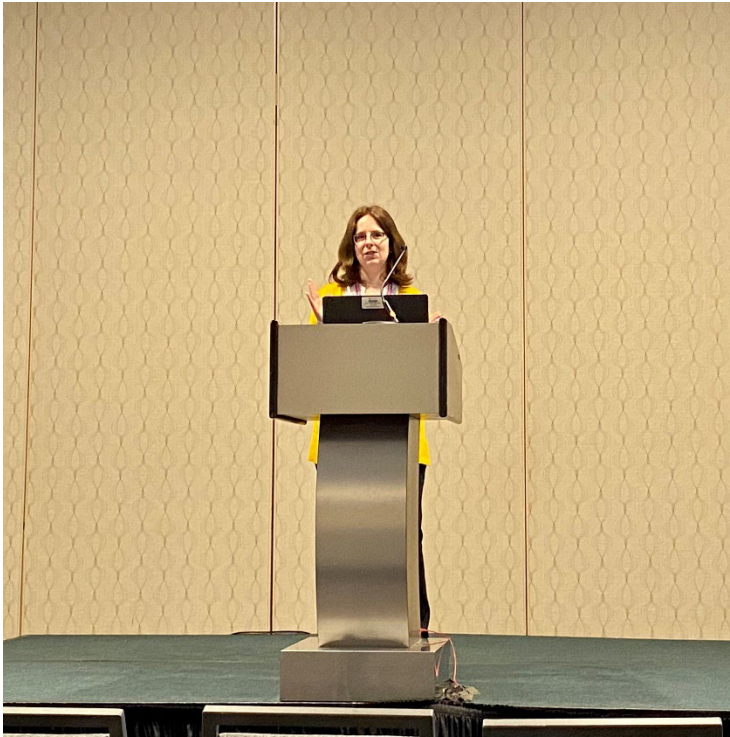
- A librarian in Michigan said, "As a history fan-- love these ideas! Going to incorporate Time Travel Club offerings rotating with our STREAM programming for good balance."
- A librarian from Pittsburgh said, "Travel Time Club: Bring Children's History Programming to Your Library was one of the best webinars I have attended. Thank you for bringing this program to light for us."

Patron Feedback:

- A staff member overheard one homeschool mom telling another about Elizabeth's homeschool programs. The mom gave the other mom a flyer and said, "*These are all great programs! You should come!*"
- At Time Travel Club, a mom told Elizabeth that on the way to the library, her 3-year-old daughter said, "*I love going to the library. The library is my happy place.*" The mom said that the daughter especially loves going upstairs, because it means that she'll be doing a fun activity at one of the library programs.
- Partnering with the Blue Ridge Fiber Guild, Elizabeth made November's Time Travel Club about colonial settler and Native American fabric arts. Nancy Reaves and the guild went above and beyond, setting up stations for carding, spinning, flax processing, and Native American cording. Both children and adults were fascinated, visiting some stations twice. Elizabeth noticed a few of the parents talking with the Guild about their meetings, and the Guild enjoyed sharing their skills with a new generation. One mother complimented Elizabeth on the Time Travel Club as a series, saying the program is regularly interesting and that, "You're always so prepared!"
- At Time Travel Club, 27 attendees learned about the Aztec, Maya, and Inca by creating a rope bridge, building rainforest terrariums, and designing mosaic masks. Several of the parents

seemed sad that we were taking a break for the summer, and one mom said to Elizabeth, “You do such a great job with this program, and having hands-on activities for the kids is really helpful.”

Elizabeth presenting at VLA:



Time Travel Activities:

Ancient Rome:



Lumbee artist Rene Locklear White working with kids on a Native American medicine wheel



A finished medicine wheel:



Greek Mythology: Defeating Medusa



Ancient Mesopotamia (building Xerxes pontoon bridges):



Ancient Egypt: Making a Shadoof



Colonial Fiber Arts, Native American cording demonstration



Spinning demonstration



Time Travel Club Webinar Handout

Time Travel Club – Ancient Egypt

SAMPLE PROGRAM

Crafts:

- Wrap a mummy
- Shadoof STEM activity
- Canopic Jar

Do beforehand:

- Make sample shadoof
- Make sample canopic jar
- Make trivia and history presentation
- OPTIONAL: Make a mummy mask with cardboard, foil, and paint
- OPTIONAL: Make a “sarcophagus” out of a large cardboard box

Supplies: Shadoof (NOTE: I made my own design based off the picture. Children would make their own shadoof stick, then test it by laying it on the branched stick and trying to lift out water.)

o Skewers or popsicle sticks

o String

o Aluminum Foil

o Clay or Play-Doh

o Two bowls: one filled with water, the other empty

o One branched stick from the great outdoors Canopic Jar (NOTE: I recommend putting papier mache on the jars beforehand, because it takes a while to dry. DON'T follow their recipe—just use Modge Podge or your favorite papier mache recipe. For an easier method, have them tape white construction paper around the jars.)

o Empty & clean coffee, hot cocoa, Pringles, or similar cans

o Paint

o Air-dry clay

o Newspaper (for papier-mache) or white construction paper to glue onto canopic jars. o Hieroglyphic Alphabet to write your name or a message

Mummy (Pretty self-explanatory—kids will take turns wrapping the mummy. If you're using a sarcophagus, they can decorate it with markers.)

o Toilet Paper

o Skeleton or flat piece of cardboard cut in the general shape of a mummy

o OPTIONAL: Mummy mask and sarcophagus (see above)

o OPTIONAL: Crochet hook—for a live demonstration of how embalmers picked the brain out through the mummy's nose—a fun “gross factor” moment!

How to run the program:

1. Give the presentation with facts and multiple-choice trivia.
2. OPTION 1: Set up three stations where children can circulate among the activities. Invite 1-3 teen volunteers or coworkers to help you run the stations.
3. OPTION 2: After the presentation, lead the kids through each craft and activity sequentially. Do the canopic jar first so it has time to dry!

Other Themes and Activities:

West African Kingdoms: Mud Cloth Mancala Achi

Victorian Christmas: Teach (simplified) English country dancing - Grimstock Holiday poppers Paper cones

Ancient China: Paper lanterns (Find “Fifth Grade Asian Lanterns” for inspiration) Abacus

Greek Mythology:

Digging for pot shards: Write the names of ancient Greek gods in ancient Greek on “pot shards”

(air-dry clay bits you've made ahead of time). Hide them in containers of sand or dirt. Kids dig them up, search a Greek-to-English alphabet and translate the names into English. Cyclops Eye Greek pottery: Draw a story from Greek mythology in black marker on pot-shaped tan construction paper or, for a 3D effect, on a small terracotta pot.

Aztec, Maya, and Inca:

Aztec Mask: Use air-dry clay and beads or mosaic squares to make a colorful mask. Rainforest Terrarium: (I did it by layering pebbles, activated charcoal, and potting soil, and then planted herb seeds.)

Build a rope bridge: I taped three strands of twine so they were suspended between two tables.

Then, the kids cut, wove, and tied shorter strands of twine to make a bridge like the Inca.

Michelangelo and da Vinci: Da Vinci's Popsicle stick bridge Da Vinci's Parachute Michelangelo's Soap carving

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: Tape butcher paper to the bottom of a table. Give the children markers. Have them crawl under the table and draw on the paper above them.

Excellent historical nonfiction book series for elementary-age children:

- You Wouldn't Want... by various
- The (whatever historic society) News by various (For example, The Aztec News by Philip Steele)
- DK Eyewitness by various
- How Would You Survive as... by various
- Gross Facts by Mira Vonne
- So You Want to be a... by various (For example, So You Want to be a Roman Soldier by Georgia Amson-Bradshaw)
- Wicked History by various
- History Smashers by Kate Messner
- You Choose Books by various

Craft resources – Books and Websites:

- "Build It Yourself" series by various (For example, Amazing Africa: Projects You Can Build Yourself by Carla Mooney)
- "Crafts from the Past" series by Jessica Cohn
- "Hands on American History" series by various
- "Hands on Ancient History" series by various
- "Kaleidoscope Kids" series by Avery Hart
- This Family Blog Colonial Craft Tutorials:
<https://thisfamilyblog.com/colonial-craft-tutorials/>
- Imagining History:
<https://www.imagininghistory.co.uk/blog/categories/craft-activities>

Partnership Resources:

- The Smithsonian
- Your local historical society or museum!