

## Dress up as Zelda Rubenstein's character and do some fortune-telling. Capture the Flag **PK C F**

One of the most well-known events at a sleepaway camp is capture the flag. Hide a small flag around the children's department in the library. Have a small prize (sticker, bookmark, etc.) for anyone who finds it. Move it weekly, so kids can look for it any time they are in the library.

### Citizen Science Programs

Host citizen science programs that patrons can participate in, either at home or as part of an in-person program.

*Bumble Bee Watch:* [bumblebeewatch.org/](http://bumblebeewatch.org/)

Bumble Bee Watch brings citizens and scientists together to identify and conserve the bumble bees of North America. You can take pictures of bumble bees, learn to identify them, have experts confirm your findings, and maybe find a new population of rare species!

*I See Change:* [iseechange.org/](http://iseechange.org/)

I See Change allows you to document what you see in your own backyard. Your entries are connected to real-time data such as temperature, dew point, and wind speed. You'll be able to see change in your own neighborhood and be better able to answer questions.

*North American Mycoflora Project:* [mycoflora.org/](http://mycoflora.org/)

The North American Mycoflora Project wants to create a continent-wide community comprised of citizens and scientists documenting the fungus species they find. You can take photos and send in samples to build a database to further discoveries and conservation.

## Community Scavenger Hunt **A F AA**

Develop a scavenger hunt based around the lesser-known haunts and histories in your community or highlighting local spots or activities.

Encourage your participants to learn more about the community and to think local when dining, shopping, etc. You can work with multiple organizations to further the reach and participation.

Pick a focus, gather ideas from staff, and reach out to community partners about what to include on your hunt.

- Consider names and what may or may not count.
- If using images, are there specific spots that will work well?

Set up run time and rules:

- Decide how and when the clues will be released.
- How do participants qualify their find?
- Where and how do submissions get turned in?
- How do participants win? Do they have to find them all or a portion?
- Will there be prizes? Will there be multiple winners?
- If using a photo/selfie submission, create a hashtag for participants to link back to the library's social media accounts
- QR codes can be used to provide links to information or further clues.
- Develop fliers and posters based on the *Read Beyond the Beaten Path* to promote the program.

### **Bibliography:**

Henderson, Lyndee Jobe. *Illinois Off the Beaten Path: A Guide to Unique Places*.  
Globe Pequot, 2010.

### **Cooking Camp** **C** **T**

Partner with your local University Extension to provide cooking courses. For instance, in Illinois, the University of Illinois Extension offers both youth and teen cooking courses. Some virtual options may be available.

Possible Cooking Demonstrations: Hot dogs and hamburgers, fry bread, skillet cake, potato boats, breakfast burritos, nachos, quesadillas, and pizza.

### **Could You Survive?** **T**

With shows like *Naked and Afraid* and *Alone*, older children, tweens, and teens can use their survival skills to see if they would survive in the wilderness or even a hypothetical desert island by themselves. You could start with patrons creating a list of the ten most useful items that they would want to have with them and why.

Have an introduction or demonstration of survival skills, such as fishing, foraging for mushrooms or other edible plants, or gardening. You could also do a quiz/game about “Would you be more likely to survive...?” (such as a lightning strike or a shark attack. You are more likely to survive a shark attack: Imagine that!)

Provide supplies so patrons can make survival kits: water bottle, mini flashlight, duct tape, etc. Will we survive? We sure hope so!

### **Dino Tea Party** **F**

Inspired by the book *Tea Rex* by Molly Idle, combine children’s love of dinosaurs and dressing up in sparkly outfits like princesses or princes!

This event has two separate components:

- Sit-down tea where you serve dino-themed treats, such as doughnut holes as dinosaur eggs, white chocolate pretzels as dinosaur bones, and Bugle chips as dinosaur claws. “Tea” (lemonade) is served using disposable teacups. A surprise guest can come with a staff member dressed as a dinosaur for patrons to take pictures with.
- Crafts that are a fun tie-in to the program are fizzing dinosaur eggs, where children create a dinosaur egg using baking soda, cornstarch, food coloring, and water. Children can also make fossil prints by imprinting mini-dinosaurs into molding clay.

*Tips:* Using large dinosaur footprints can help guide patrons between rooms, if the event is in separate areas of the library.

### **Resources:**

Idle, Molly. *Tea Rex*. Viking Juvenile, 2013.

Fizzy Dinosaur Egg Recipe: [everydaychaosandcalm.com/baking-soda-dinosaur-eggs/](http://everydaychaosandcalm.com/baking-soda-dinosaur-eggs/)