

Teen Creative Writing Challenge
Van Buren County
2018

Background: 2016

- ❖ The Kick-Off
- ❖ The Contest
- ❖ The Awards Ceremony

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Background: 2015-2016

In the beginning ...

- ❖ Problem: Struggling Teen Writer program
- ❖ Solution: "How about a contest?"
- ❖ Problem: Low local interest?
- ❖ Solution: Expand to all 7 branches

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Taking on the Challenge

Van Buren County Teen Creative Writing Challenge

Presented by
Jeffrey Beatty, Van Buren District Library
Writing Hub, Van Buren District Library
March 22, 2018
Spring Institute

Background: 2017

- ❖ Invite other libraries to join
- ❖ Done by committee instead of one person
- ❖ Significant increase in participation
- ❖ Book available for order



Background: 2017

Van Buren County Teen Creative Writing Challenge 2017, available on



Background: 2018

❖ Joined by all Van Buren County public libraries



Funding

- ❖ Friends Programming Funds
- ❖ Patrons



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Funding

- ❖ Local businesses, organizations
 - May have strings
 - No stipulations clause
- ❖ Grants
 - Many grants prohibit use of the money for prizes
 - Might be used to publish a book, etc.

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Funding

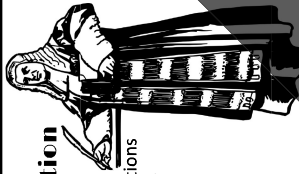
Account	Balance	Program	Notes
Friends of Library #1	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #2	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #3	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #4	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #5	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #6	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #7	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #8	\$100.00		
Friends of Library #9	\$100.00		
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Judge Selection

Sources

- ❖ Personal connections
- ❖ Library programs



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Judge Selection

Sources

- ❖ Local organizations
- ❖ Local universities
- ❖ Local bookstores

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Judge Selection

Sources

- ❖ Library of Michigan
- Michigan Notable Book Awards
 - Children's & YA Authors
- Google the authors for contact info

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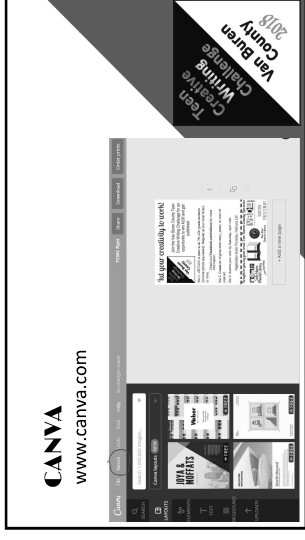
Promotion

- ❖ Flyers
- ❖ Classroom Visits
- ❖ Kick Off Party
- ❖ Press Release
- ❖ Social Media

CANVA

www.canva.com

- ❖ Online graphic design tool
- ❖ Easy to use drag and drop features
- ❖ Upload your own images or use theirs
- ❖ Free subscription for not-for-profit organizations
- ❖ Share folders with up to 10 team members



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Van Buren County Teen Creative Writing Challenge Kick-off Party
 When: Thursday, February 24, 2-4pm
 Where: Van Buren District Library (at location on school grounds)
 What:
 - Sign up for the Challenge
 - Create an idea book
 - Sign up for the Kick-off Party
 - Check it out!
 Facebook.com/VanBurenCountyLibrary
 @VanBurenCountyLibrary
 For more information about the Challenge visit our social networks

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Multi Library Cooperation

- ❖ Shared ideas, promotional materials and tasks
- ❖ Multiple Friends groups and Libraries contribute to the budget
- ❖ Promotion and Recognition for each Library
- ❖ Strategic Plan goals
- ❖ Board directives

Rules

- ❖ Stories, Poems & Artwork
- ❖ Writers and Artists in 7th - 12th Grades
- ❖ No geographical boundaries
- ❖ Submission period 2 ½ months
- ❖ Length matters
- ❖ Original
- ❖ Submit hard copy or online
