The Teens here at Wooster can earn up to three free books each.  We award the books at 5, 10, and 15 hours of reading. After they receive their free books, their name goes in a drawing every 5 hours after that.  The drawing is for a Kindle Fire 7 (we buy these when they go on sale at the end of the previous year). The Teens have always been excited to win the Kindles.

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The teens get ear buds, free food coupons, lanyards, books, reading lights, water bottles, journals, sport bags, etc. We don't have a big teen presence for hands-on programs but we do have a fair amount that read for prizes.
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Teens at the Lakewood Public Library check in with their reading log three times over the summer. The first time they check in they receive a coupon for a free game of bowling and shoe rental at a local bowling alley. The second time they check in they received a coupon for a small cheese pizza at Papa John's. The third time they check in they pick out a new book, receive a coupon for a free cookie at a local bakery, and choose one patch from an assortment of space patches. They also get a raffle ticket to try for a prize; we have 5 prizes for them to choose from:

1. Gift card from a local pizza place.

2. Gift card from another local pizza place.

3. Gift card to a local gift store with inexpensive products from around the world (jewelry, tie dye, scarves, incense, hats, mittens, clothing with a young attitude, etc.)

4. Gift card to a very popular local restaurant.

5. One free rock climbing session at a local rock climbing gym. (Most popular choice this year)

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We have tried everything under the sun.  This year we are giving away larger prizes at the end of June, July, and August only.  Cedar Point tickets (we are twenty minutes away from it) and a large Amazon gift card. No smaller prizes in between.  We focused on actual programming and tried to spend more money on that than on prizes. So far it’s working out okay.

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Food coupons, Amazon gift cards, basically anything that "feeds" them or they can independently purchase their choice is always popular. We've also given away YA books as incentive prizes for goals met. If you can go with donations via community - tickets to movie theater work well, or community shops (pizza place, etc)

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Our teens, upon completion of their summer challenge, receive a prize pack that consists of a book, Chipotle coupon, galaxy bracelet, star stress ball, and an invitation to the “After Hours Event” that we hold in August on a Friday after the library closes. The kids who are participating seem to really like it.

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Weekly prizes of $15 gift certificates to Barnes and Noble

Grand Prize Kindle Fire

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Our teens earn tickets that were entered into various drawings.  They can choose which drawing to place it in. We vary on the drawing prizes each year.  Tickets to local events. Tickets to water parks, gift cards, etc. They also earned full size candy bars and or books.  In years past we had a bin with earbuds, bracelets, sunglasses, etc. that they would choose from.

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We offer door prizes at our end reception that all families are invited to. Teens can win door prizes like tickets to an amusement park, movies, candy, gift cards, and board games. Specifically for our Summer Reading Teen prizes, in the past we have given away books, board games, posters, art sets, umbrellas, techy devices, candy, gift cards, notebooks, tickets to Deer Park, the Erie Zoo, IX Indoor Amusement park, Science Center, local restaurant coupons (DQ, White Turkey, local BBQ). In the past we have done a sort of Chinese Auction where the kids can put in their reading tickets for the item the want the most. We draw the tickets and winners at the Teen Appreciation Party.

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Last year we switched to giving a free book to everyone who finished their reading goal.  The teens loved this as much as the children because it was an immediate reward and they were given lots of choices.  They also were able to put their name in the drawing for one of the bigger prizes that were awarded at the end of SRP.

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At Herrick Memorial Library (Wellington Ohio) we tried something new last year for summer reading, and we are doing it again this year, which  is to buy tickets (or gift cards) to nearby science centers/museums. Last year we did tickets to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland Natural History Museum. This year we are doing the Greater Cleveland Aquarium, the Cleveland Zoo, and the Great Lakes Science Center (which includes NASA Glenn research center). We have paper forms that have teens keep track of their reading time in 30 minute blocks, and 3 hours of reading time (6 blocks) fills a form

which they can then add to one of the three prize drawings. We run this for 2 months (June-July) and in August we draw one winner from each of the three pools. This has proven popular with our teens.

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Our teens are broken up a bit. up to 8th grade, they have a choice of earbuds, a bracelet, or a water stick (think of the long pool toy). Grades 9 and up choose from the adult prizes. This year they are back massagers, a bag or a travel cup.

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We struggle with teens too.  Over the years we have done weekly drawings for a prize we pick, then we did it so there were different prizes and they could pick.  Then we changed and just did a bigger end prize, like a basket with a variety of things. This year we are just doing an end prize but multiple ones that are gift cards to restaurants and stores and candy & snacks.  We get complaints every year that someone is not happy or their parent. Last year we asked the teens what they wanted for next year and this is what they said. We'll see if they like it.

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For teens we track number of minutes read. They receive 20 points for every 20 minutes of read, and earn prizes at 300, 600, and 900 points. The first prize is always a book. For the second and third prize we have a treasure chest with 5-6 prize options. The Space Shuttle Pens, Suckers, and Glow in the dark slap bracelets were the most popular prizes. We also made fandom buttons for teens to choose at each level. These have been pretty popular as well.

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This is my first year for the Summer Reading Program, but so far I have gotten two of the big popcorn buckets, along with two smaller ones that I just bought from the dollar tree here in town, and I bought 4 different "teen appropriate" movies from the $5 bin at Walmart. Then I picked out some popcorn and different kinds of candy for them to put together as a prize. We always order a bunch of extra T-Shirts for the Summer Reading Program, so I plan to give my teens T-Shirts as well, along with the Summer Reading lanyards. I know teens are into electronics as well so I thought about getting some simple things like maybe an AUX cord, some headphones, and a few other things along those lines.

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This year we went with a Reading Contract and every time a contract was fulfilled, the Teen or child was able to pick a prize off of our prize cart. Little things such as stress balls, bracelets and even bags of chips or ear buds. The kids enjoyed picking their prizes out.

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We have small prizes they can buy with tokens (1 earned for each hour of reading). After 8 hours, they can enter a drawing for prizes such as a summer swim pass, a bowling party, a movie party, a set of art supplies, etc. Many of these are donated by local businesses. They put in their reading log for the specific prize they would like to win, and can enter the drawings as often as they complete 8 hours of reading.

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The most popular prizes for the teens are a spa basket (filled with little items from the Dollar Tree: nail clippers, nail file, nail polish, a fan to dry the nails, lip gloss, hair ties, a folding hair brush with a mirror, a small cosmetic bag, and an eye mask) and a basketball hoop wastebasket that has a movie, a beanie, Arby's coupons, a phone charger, and a few Universe of Stories things from the CSLP catalog.
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At our small library, we separate into two groups: early teens (6th - 8th) required to read 3 books to fill out/punch a ticket to be entered into their prize drawing.  Three (3) prize buckets are set on the counter and the kids get to choose which drawing they want to enter. Prizes included :

1. $25.00 Walmart gift card

2. Tickets for two (2) adults to Kings Island

3. Drone (approx. $50.00 value)

Additional chances to win prizes are given by checking out more books.  Each book checked out allows for the ticket to be punched (hole punch) and after three (3) punches the ticket is tossed into a prize bucket.  The teen can choose to put all tickets in the same bucket or spread them out among all the buckets, (essentially, they could win more than one prize, but this has never happened before.)

We also have partnered with our local county fair board so every student that fills out at least one ticket with three (3) punches will get a one day fair pass to our county fair.  A listing with name, grade and telephone number is collected during the six week program and the students need to come back to the library after the end of the reading program to pick up the fair pass.  (It's one more reason to get the kids back into the library!) It is a lot of work for staff members to track all this activity, but until we come up with an easier alternative we'll continue this way.

Students 9th grade and older are placed into the prize drawing category with adults.

Prizes included:

1. $25.00 gas card

2. $25.00 Merchant gift card

3. Kindle Fire Tablet

4. Destination tickets  - Donated tickets to area attractions such as Newport Aquarium, Armstrong Space Museum, Johnston Farms, Garst Museum, etc.

Five (5) punches per ticket are required for this age group instead of three (3).  The bottom of the punch ticket lists the prizes : gas, merchant card, Kindle tablet or destinations, and the patron is responsible to circle the prize they want to try to win before turning it in. For the prize drawing, the staff will first sort all the like tickets together, then pull one winner for each except the destination tickets.  We have 9 sets of tickets and call 9 winners. All destination prize winning patrons are informed that their prize is first come first serve. They need to get back to the library quickly to claim the popular tickets.

Again, this is a lot to explain to staff but we have used this same format for several years.

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We have more expensive prizes at the end like: a drone; moon lamp; art package; tie-dye package; big squirt guns, other water toys; usually something vintage rock like Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon shirt and poster, or Beatles stuff.  We also get Kings Island tickets and give away half way through. 2 tickets to 2 teens.

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This year for the Teen/YA Participants in the Summer Reading Program, I done a Tic-Tac-Toe, the teens had to choose what prize category they wanted to try for (Silver was 3 squares; Gold was 5 squares in an "L" shape; and the Grand Prize was all 9 squares)I gave away 3 category prizes (Silver, Gold, and Grand Prize) at the end of the Summer Reading Program, which at Wauseon Public Library, we ran for the month of June. The Silver Prize was an outdoor dart game; the Gold Prize was an Art Prize (it had paint, brushes, colored pencils, and a mini canvas); The Grand Prize was a Telescope and 4 Books Pertaining to space and home telescope activities. When the teens came to a program, I gave away "universe of stories” pens or USB Phone chargers. I did not do weekly prizes.