

PROGRAM TITLE: Murder Mystery

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Teens work through a script to solve a murder.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Murder Mystery script
Chairs for the jury
Chairs for the witnesses
Chair and table for the judge (robe and gavel are nice if you can get them)
Chair and table for the Prosecutor
Chair and table for the Defense Lawyer if you have one
Witness Chair
Any props needed as evidence as called for in the script

COST: \$40 or more if you buy a script

Free if you write one or use one already written and is free to use
Cost of refreshments

PROGRAM PROCEDURE: As the teens arrive, assign or allow them to pick a part to play. You usually need around 20 to make a murder mystery night work. Give them time to look over their part. Then everyone takes their place and works through the script. When all the witnesses have been interviewed, it is time for the judge to give the jury their instructions. The jury retires to another room to deliberate. The rest can begin to enjoy the refreshments. *Be sure to send in some for the jury or it can all disappear before they return!* When the jury returns and renders their verdict, the murder mystery is over. The judge can have the deputy or bailiff arrest the person to end the night. *Make sure you take lots of pictures.*

USEFUL PLANNING RESOURCES FOR LIBRARIANS:

<http://www.plano.gov/Departments/Libraries/Youth+Services/Teen+Mystery+Night+Resource/>

This website has wonderful scripts that are free to librarians. I have used all of the Coroner's Inquest scripts and find them extremely easy to use. And the teens love them! In addition, I have at least one script, which is no longer listed on the site. I have two scripts written by teens and one which I wrote using a boxed murder mystery game as my starting point.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: We plan a 2-hour event. Just a word of warning, one year we bought a "mix and mingle" type of murder mystery where the teens get a bunch of clues divided among them and have to mingle to find the answer. It was a total flop! They didn't want to spend time away from their closest friends to mingle with everyone, which was the only way to solve the crime.

CONTACT INFORMATION OF LIBRARIAN SUBMITTING PROGRAM:

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