

## TWEEN SERVICES TEAM MISSION

We foster agency by cultivating creativity,  
curiosity and community

The Tween Services Team serves children ages 9-13 and their adult caregivers. The primary goal of this team is to provide engaging learning opportunities with a focus on building positive self-identity, individual agency and life-long curiosity. Caregiver engagement will be a secondary goal for this team in order to provide parents and supportive community members with developmentally appropriate strategies to support the development of their early adolescent child.

Team members receive training in adolescent brain development, connected learning, as well as effective caregiver engagement strategies.

The Tween Services team will achieve this mission through three areas of focus:

1. Inclusive and accessible spaces
2. Youth Voice
3. Self-Discovery

The activities listed on the following pages were gathered during our first team mission discussion in January, 2022. Our next step will be reviewing the activities in each focus area. Over the next several months, the team will work together to identify priority activities that fully support the outcomes for tweens, adult caregivers, and other supportive adults in alignment with the 2020-2023 Community Impact Plan.

**INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE SPACES**

- Emotionally inclusive
- Physically inclusive
- Trust
- Safe
- Free
- Respected
- Heard
- A place to grow
- Belonging
- Nurtured

**OUTCOMES FOR TWEENS**

**If we successfully create inclusive and accessible spaces for tweens and their grownups, these outcomes are the natural results:**

Tweens have access to safe adults	Tweens are given resources to share ideas freely amongst their peers	Tweens feel welcomed and free to approach each other and library staff
Tweens develop social skills	Tweens choice of identity is respected	Tweens develop their own unique and valid opinions
Tweens are given privacy, protection, and shelter	Tweens experience physical safety, relaxation and a full belly	Tweens are able to explore who they are and share that with others
Tweens have a place of stability, cleanliness and openness, which is nonjudgmental and calm	Tweens know how to be safe online	Tweens have the ability to comfortably make mistakes and develop a growth mindset
Tweens feel safe to become who they are without limits	Tweens understand that “free” is what “safe” aims for	Tweens feel free, listened to, safe, and comfortable in pursuing their interests without judgement

**ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACES FOR TWEENS**

- Snacks
- Providing a physical space to chill and just be
- Providing a safe space with an awesome facilitator to help tweens navigate the rest of their spheres
- A place that feels like a shelter from the middle school storm
- A place that communicates to tweens that they “belong here”

**YOUTH VOICE**

- Confidence
- Communication
- Expression
- Advocacy
- Empowered
- Positivity
- Courage
- Activism
- Knowledge
- Agency
- Growth
- Appreciated

**OUTCOMES FOR TWEENS**

**If we successfully support youth voice for tweens, these outcomes are the natural results:**

Tweens are able to make their presence known in healthy and productive ways	Tweens do not have too much fear of being wrong	Tweens are able to communicate about their needs and wants to each other and to library staff
Tweens will feel safe asking for and using resources relating to difficult and sensitive subjects	Tweens understand their goals well enough to begin the process of working towards them	Tweens communicate their emotions respectfully
Tweens learn how to use their voices to enact social change	Tweens develop their sense of empathy and fairness	Tweens have a place to empower young voices to speak openly without judgement
Tweens feel comfortable speaking up and learn that their voice and input is valued, both by other tweens and the community	Tweens understand that their words and actions matter	Tweens find new interests of their own

**ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT DEVELOPING TWEEN YOUTH VOICE**

- Service projects with peers
- Programs, services that connect tweens to people from different economic, social and racial backgrounds
- Programs and services that help tweens learn about themselves, develop empathy
- Social justice focused programs

**SELF DISCOVERY**

- Opportunity
- Access
- Curiosity
- HOMAGO
- Resilience
- Experimentation
- Growth mindset
- Expression
- Exploration
- Play

**OUTCOMES FOR TWEENS**

**If we successfully support self-discovery for tweens, these outcomes are the natural results:**

A vibrant, curious community of engaged, inquisitive tweens who are sure anything is possible	Tweens discover new interests and goals	Tweens learn about their community and the larger world
Tweens have increased knowledge through access to relevant information	Tweens gain a chance to try new things without excessive investment	Tweens feel inspired by the world around them
Tweens enjoy a sense of curiosity throughout life	Tweens develop their interests and are exposed to activities they might not have known about or been introduced to previously	Tweens can explore their interests, their community, and library resources with confidence
Tweens learn and discover their boundaries and how to respect boundaries of others	Tweens feel sure of themselves as they have been accepted and allowed to explore who they are	Tweens are given multiple outlets and opportunities
Tweens learn what is important to them and what is not	Tweens enjoy the process of learning new things	Tweens are confident in how they interact with others

**ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT SELF-DISCOVERY FOR TWEENS**

- Opportunities to explore technology
- Interest focused programs
- Programs and services that expand the world of tweens beyond school and home
- Opportunities to explore new interests and to learn lots of new things in a fun, open way
- Learn about community resources
- Ability to move on to something different when something isn't fun or interesting anymore
- Opportunities to explore all kinds of activities and discovering what speaks to them