



Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival

Our mission is to foster a community effort to celebrate and promote reading by connecting teens and authors.

* www.teenbookfest.org *

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FACT SHEET

Purpose and Goals

The primary purpose of the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival, Inc. is to support and provide funds for the benefit of the annual Teen Book Festival. The group's mission is to foster a community effort to celebrate and promote reading each May on the campus of Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. The goals of the Festival are to connect teen readers to award-winning authors, enhance students' reading and literacy skills as they prepare with their school faculty to attend the sessions, and to help youth develop their potential by encouraging interaction between aspiring teen writers and established authors.

Program: What Happens At the Festival?

The Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival has been in existence for more than ten years, beginning with eleven authors for teen readers and has now grown to 33 authors in May 2015. Attendance in 2006, the first Festival, was 500 people; in 2015, nearly 2,500 attended. There is no cost to attend Teen Book Fest. Many school districts make the day a field trip opportunity for their students. Buses brought more than 1,000 students in 2015, from all over New York State. Following a kick-off opening session with all the authors, participants have a choice to listen to four 40-minute sessions with individual authors or panel discussions with several featured writers. Participants choose which sessions they would like to attend. At the conclusion of the author presentations, there is an autographing session with all of the authors. Books are available for purchase through an on-site sale by Barnes & Noble, with a portion of the proceeds being donated back to TBF.

Planning Committee

All activities for the Teen Book Fest are coordinated by a steering committee of public and school librarians from across three counties in the western NYS region, working in collaboration with Nazareth College educators, TBF alumni, and interns. Subcommittees divide up the major tasks over the 12-month planning stage: fund-raising and sponsorships, website creation and maintenance, author hospitality, volunteer coordination, and publicity.

Who Do We Serve and How Teens Are Involved

TBF's primary focus is students in grades 6 through 12. TBF could not happen without the assistance of more than 300 adult and teen volunteers from area school districts and the

community. Young adults themselves play an integral, active role in making TBF happen. Teen volunteers are paired with each author. These “handlers” escort their authors to the campus locations of the breakout sessions and introduce their author to the audience. Additional volunteers are recruited each year to serve as guides for the attendees, staff the TBF merchandise booth, assist with set up and clean up, and perform other tasks throughout the planning and publicity process leading up to the Festival. Entertainment features local teen talent to kick off the Fest.

Organization

The Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization which is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Seven community members serve three-year terms. The volunteer directors receive no compensation for their service. The Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival, Inc. is a Type B corporation; its Certificate of Incorporation was filed in August 2010. The Internal Revenue Service determined TBF was a charity in September 2012.

Funding

From its beginning in 2006, TBF has been funded 100% through donations. Substantial financial support, both monetary and in-kind donations of services, has been received from our host Nazareth College, Friends of the Library groups, parent-teacher-student associations, community service clubs, professional associations, and local businesses. Contributions are deductible under the Internal Revenue Code and TBF is qualified to receive bequests, gifts, and grants from public and private sources. The corporation’s fiscal year begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th. Costs for Teen Book Fest exceed \$35,000 every year. Some public and school librarians have coordinated fundraisers such as can and bottle collections and read-a-thons. Official “TBF” merchandise with the Festival’s logo is sold at the event, including T-shirts and tote bags. Many of the authors’ publishers cover transportation and incidentals. Funds raised by TBF are used for publicity, support materials (e.g., posters and signage), and the costs of travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses for the visiting authors.

Board of Directors

President and Founder: Stephanie A. Squicciarini

Secretary: Beth Puckett

Treasurer: Karen Hultz

Directors: Charles Benoit; Dr. Naomi B. Erdmann; Dr. Laura C. S. Jones; Lisa C. Wemett

Quote from Festival President Stephanie Squicciarini

“Teens and the authors who write for them deserve to be celebrated. Nazareth College and the School of Education gave TBF a warm and welcoming home so that we could grow. They have demonstrated a commitment to our community and with this support, show that libraries and those they serve matter.”

Testimonial from A. S. King, a TBF Author Alumna

“The Teen Book Festival is doing a lot more than bringing authors and teen readers together. It’s fostering a lifelong love of reading and learning and encouraging kids to get excited about books. As an adult literacy teacher, I worked with people who were never encouraged in this way, so watching teens get excited by this event really hit home for me, because it showed how confident they are about being readers.”