

## **ComicCon – Where Do I Start? Will Anyone Come?**

### **1. Pre-planning**

You need to start early and get your library staff on board! Keep the Director in the knowledge loop, and ask for others (doesn't matter what department) to be part of the planning "committee."

Make a list of possible ideas for your ComicCon that you will present to tweens and teens. If you have a Teen Advisory Board, they should be part of your plans; if not, ask teens that you often see in the library about your ideas.

Keep your school librarian/s in the loop. Talk to them about your ideas; make sure they will help with your promotional material both in the library and through other classes and announcements. Also talk to the librarian about possible conflicts with school scheduled events.

Start a conversation with your local comic book store. They may know of local artists and be happy to supply you with some swag. The first Saturday of May is usually "Free Comic Book Day" and they may have leftover comics to hand out... or not.

([www.freecomicbookday.com](http://www.freecomicbookday.com))

Possible list of activities for your ComicCon:

- Video Game Tournament (Does your library own a system? Can you borrow one?)
- Lightsaber Training (Does any school or college teach fencing?)
- Costume Contest
- Cosplay 101 – How to Make Costumes (Does the school's theater teachers have a staff member or volunteer to help? What about a local costume shop?)
- Zombie Survival
- Special Effects Make-up (Again, try the school's theater teachers, or colleges.)
- Drawing Classes: can be traditional or in the manga style
- Pokemon Go
- Author Talks (check with local Comic Book Shop; check with authors that might not live too far from your library – include money for this in budget!)
- Movie Screening
- Crafts
- Life-sized Chess (you need a lot of people for this)
- Table Top Gaming
- Trivia (Need help with comic knowledge? Wikipedia!)
- Cosplay Parade
- Sushi Candy Making

Look at your library and plan WHERE you will do each activity. Make a schedule for the day, and the rooms. If you can utilize the outdoors, think about weather and have change-of-plan substitute.

Encourage kids (and/or families) to picnic at the library. If this is going to be all day, can you get a food truck or two to support the lunch?

Start designing publicity and make sure you will have help from your social media/tech support in the library.

## 2. Planning

PICK YOUR DATE and BOOK IT!

Ask your teens (and advertise at school library, too) that you want a logo or some special artwork for the Comic Con. Make it a contest, set a date, and get kids invested in this program!

After you have picked out what you want to do as activities start looking at what resources you have “in-house.” Games? Library owned. Video system and game? Does library or employee own and will let you use? Crafts? What is in that closet that will work? Want to give prizes? What is leftover that looks nice – doesn’t have to be a major prize, but something to enhance the activity. Does it have your name and logo on it? Even better! Ask at the local Comic Book store if they would like to donate to the event.

Do you have a crew of volunteers? This can be staff who are willing to volunteer PLUS teens who may not want to participate, but are interested to see the whole thing. There may even be parents who are willing to volunteer. Equal opportunity to all! If you can afford t-shirts with your Comic Con logo for all volunteers, great, but home-made buttons/badges are fine, too. Just make sure all volunteers wear the badge or the t-shirt.

Make your contact list of people you need for your activities. Email, phone, and follow-ups are very important. Some will volunteer and others will expect to be paid for their time. What does your budget tell you?

Do you need rules for costumes? What ages have you decided will be able to enjoy this special program?

**All kids that love comics may want to partake.** Kids under a certain age should have a parent or caregiver with them. No one should just be dropped off!!!! You should think about what ages and activities are appropriate without making kids feel uncomfortable. You **MUST** decide this in the planning. If you are a large library with good support from teens, then your Comic Con will be great for middle and high school kids. However, if you are a small library that usually allows all ages, then you should plan for that. You can have a **Library Comic Con** for everyone and make it a community day. Why not?

<https://www.teenservicesunderground.com>

All ideas were culled from Teen Services Underground. Use the SEARCH bar – comic con. GREAT information! Need ideas for graphic novels? There are articles for everything teen!

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