

What is the Teen Battle of the Books Program?

Battle of the Books is a college bowl-type program for teens entering 6th through the 12th grade.

Participants in the RCLS program read eight preselected titles and then participate in trivia battles based on the books at a Regional Battle usually in early September.

The goal of the program is to promote a love of reading in teens, to expose them to titles and authors that they might not encounter otherwise, to encourage them to think of their local public library as a resource for entertainment and to inspire teamwork and good sportsmanship in an atmosphere of friendly competition.

The titles for the program are chosen by representatives from the participating libraries. Care is taken to include a variety of genres.

Who Can Participate?

The Battle of the Books program is for teens who will be in grades 6 through 12 in the September of the Regional Battle. Participants are expected to read the eight titles during the spring and summer months. Each library has its own requirements for meetings and attendance, the necessary number of books to read and decision on who will represent the library in the Regional Battle.

Are There Any Fees to Participate?

Each participating library pays a small fee to participate. This money is used for prizes and incentives. The participating teens are not charged a fee by the member libraries.

Where Do Participants Get the Books?

It is up to the individual libraries to purchase copies of the books as needed.

Do Participants Need to Read All of the Titles?

Each library determines their own rules. However, if a title is deemed inappropriate by a participant's family, it is taken into consideration.

How is the Regional Battle Held?

The Regional Battle is held as a bracketed competition requiring double elimination for each team. During each round of the Battle, the teams are asked a predetermined number of trivia questions based on the eight books. A buzzer system is used by the players to respond to the questions. The answers to the questions are always the title and author of the books. First, Second and Third Place teams are acknowledged after the final round of the Battle.

Where do the Questions Come From?

The questions for the Regional Battle of the Books are written by representatives from each of the participating libraries.