# Speed Dating, Outreach Style

# Why Do Outreach?

The library may be central to your life, but that is not necessarily true of everyone. Some might be unfamiliar with the modern library and think that it has nothing to offer them. For others, not having transportation means they are unable to access the library and its resources.

That combination of a lack of transportation and a lack of awareness means that there are many potential library users that we have yet to reach. Fortunately, there are a multitude of ways to match activities, locations and audiences for you to spread the word of your library.

When you think about outreach, think outside the box! Here are some of the places and programs where we have enjoyed outreach success.









Children are eager to learn, and we're eager to teach them about all the library has to offer. We hope that the library becomes an important part of their lives and remains that way in the years to come.

#### Finding them is the first step

### Try these places

- Daycares & Preschools
- Laundrymats
- Playgrounds & Ball Fields
- Housing Complexes
- Family Restaurants

# Or these organizations

- Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- Cub Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Schools & PTAs

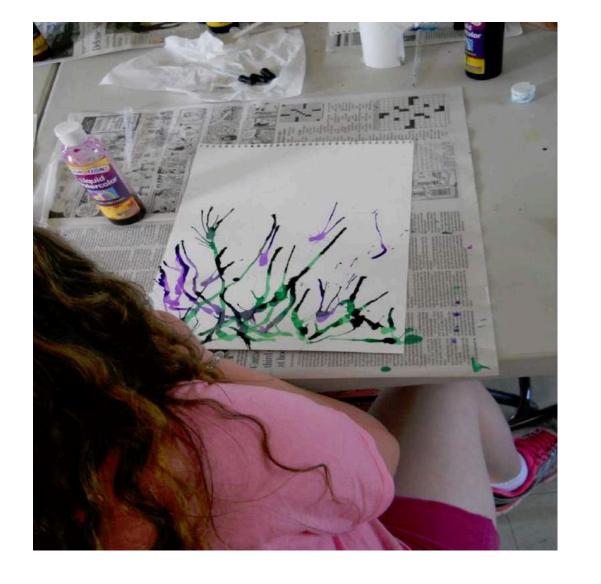
# After you find them

#### For the younger crowd

- Story Time
- Outdoor Art
- Story Walk

# For older children

- Minute to Win It Games
- Robotics
- Ice Cream in a Bag





# **Adult Audiences**

For some adults, all that is necessary is to make information about the "new" library more visible. For others, it means bringing the services and resources themselves.

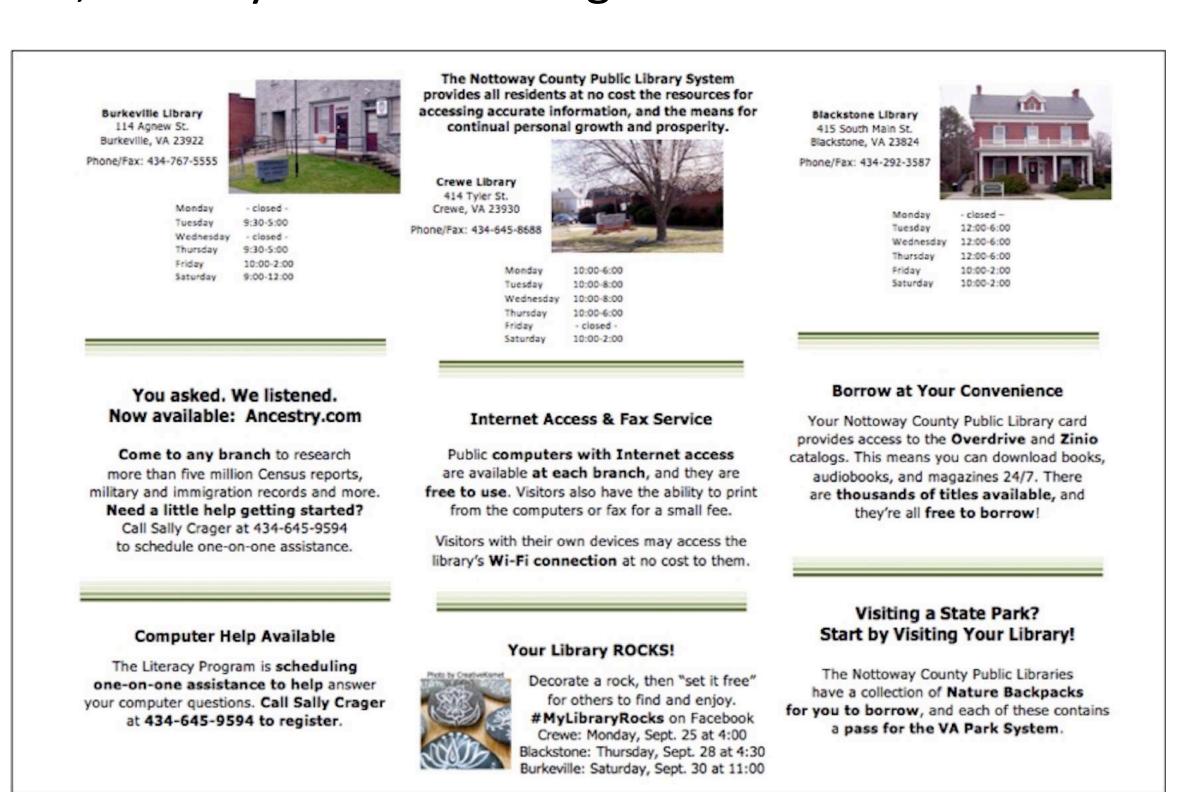
## **Finding Mobile Adults**

Make a call and get permission to set up a table. You can hand out information about resources and upcoming events or establish a pop up library to provide cards and materials.

- Community Festivals
- Farmers Markets
- Bingos
- Senior Centers
- Food Pantries
- Parks

# Reaching Out with Promotional Materials

Would a local restaurant allow you to provide them placemats? What about organizations that hold community meals, host pancake breakfasts, or carry out fundraising dinners?



(Actual size: 11" x 17")

#### **Deposit Collections**

Think about where adults gather. Any place that has a waiting room or common area is a possible location for a deposit collection.

- Government Offices
- Service Stations
- Senior Housing
- Doctors' Offices

## **Traveling Programs**

Have you found potential patrons in places without transportation? Consider bringing resources and programs to them.

- Adult Coloring
- Tech Petting Zoo
- Book Discussion
- Tie Dye

# Do local businesses have counter space for event post cards? Kids...Come to the library to build and



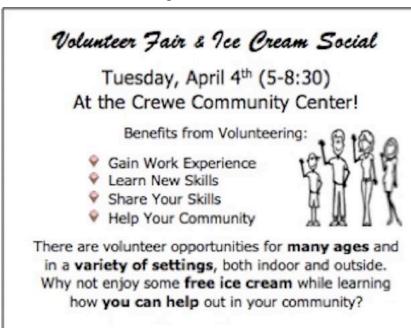
Nottoway County Literacy Program
One - on - One Computer Help

Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 5:30-7:30
(Blackstone)

Thursday, Sept. 14 from 6:00-8:00
(Crewe)

Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9-12:00
(Burkeville)

Contact Sally to schedule a session:
434-645-9594 or scrager@nottlib.org



Try some "matchmaking" of your own, pairing places and programs, and don't be afraid to try something new!



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