

**Public Libraries: How to Cooperate
With Schools to Promote
2009 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award**

The Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award is a reading enrichment program of the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana underwritten by Capital One Bank. The program was established in 1999 with the first award given in 2000. The purpose of the program is to foster a love of reading in the children of Louisiana by motivating them to participate in the selection and recognition of outstanding books.

Each year two ballots of 15 titles are compiled by a committee of school and public librarians: one for students in grades 3-5 and one for students in grades 6-8. Suggestions for titles to be considered for the ballot may be sent to the chair of the committee. The ballots are a well-balanced selection of high-quality fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Students may read or listen to the books and vote for their favorite one. This is a great way to involve students in literature and get them excited about reading for pleasure.

The titles that receive the most votes from the students are the award winners. The books with the second most votes are the honor books. The award or honor book authors or illustrators are invited to the Louisiana Book Festival in the fall to accept the awards.

Questions, comments or suggestions for titles may be e-mailed to Angela Germany, Teen Consultant of the State Library of Louisiana and Coordinator of the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award committee at agermany@slol.lib.la.us or call (225) 342-4931.

This program is a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with your local schools to promote reading. Most of the voting occurs in the schools; however, public libraries can play a major role in encouraging young people to read by purchasing the books and informing the schools about the program.

FREE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Order the free promotional materials from the State Library of Louisiana.

You may order promotional materials beginning August, 2008. An order form available on the LYRC web page. You may order:

- **Posters:** Full-color posters with both ballots. These may be displayed in your library and distributed to schools to be displayed in the school library or other areas in the school.
- **Bookmarks:** Full-color bookmarks with the Ballot for Grades 3-5 on one side and the ballot for Grades 6-8 on the other. These may be distributed to students.
- **Ballots for Grades 3-5:** Notepads with 30 yellow ballots per pad. Voting procedures are explained on the back.
- **Ballots for Grades 6-8:** Notepads with 30 blue ballots per pad. Voting procedures are explained on the back.

- **Brochures:** Intended for librarians and teachers, these full-color tri-folds explain the program.
- **Award Book Seals:** Gold stickers for the books that have won the award and silver stickers for the runners-up are available to put on the books. The award seals do not have the year printed on them.
- Large full-color labels for the 2009 nominee books are available from Perma-Bound Books representative Shannon Walgamotte. You may contact him: shannonw@perma-bound.com (504) 888-9288.

WEB SITE INFORMATION

Include information about LYRC on your library web site and link to the State Library web site.

- To access the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award web pages go to www.state.lib.la.us Click on Center for the Book and click on Louisiana Young Reader's Choice. Included on the web site are:
- How to promote the program in schools and libraries.
- Information about the award and honor books for 2008.
- Information about previous winners and previous ballots.
- Lists of titles on 2009 Ballots with annotations and full bibliographic information.
- Study Guides for the 2009 titles with author information, web links and curriculum-related activities. These are very helpful to classroom teachers.
- Power Point Presentation for the 2009 titles that may be shown to faculty, to classes or to other groups.
- A downloadable Flier and Brochure you may print and distribute for the 2009 ballot.
- Voting Procedures and Guidelines.
- Tally Forms for librarians or teachers to submit students' votes.

SCHOOL/PUBLIC LIBRARY COOPERATION

Purchase books.

- Purchase titles on the 2009 Ballot if you have not already done so.
- **Titles on the 2010 Ballots have been selected.** Purchase the books for 2010 now to be sure to have them in your collection for next year. Complete bibliographic information for all formats is included in the lists.
- Purchase extra copies (some are available in paperback) to meet the demand during the program.
- Encourage schools to set aside funds or raise funds (Book Fairs, sponsorship by PTO, etc.) to purchase the LYRC books.

Share books with schools.

- Designate the 2009 Ballot books as a special collection in the public library.
- Shelf the LYRC books in a display area with poster and other materials.
- Provide copies for teachers to borrow.

- Offer to make special loans to schools that are participating in the program.
- If several schools are participating in the program, rotate parts of the sets to the different schools.
- Provide a set of books to a school that makes a commitment to participate in the program.

Meet with school librarians and teachers in your area.

- A **Power Point** presentation of the 2009 titles is available for downloading on the State Library site. This includes images of the book covers and short summaries of each title.
- Be sure to tell educators that a **Study Guide** for each 2009 title is available on the State Library web site. The Study Guides include curriculum-related ideas, web links, related titles and information about the authors. These provide the teachers with a good basis for their lesson plans related to the books.
- Explain the procedures of the program. Remind them that students are eligible to vote if they have read or listened to 3 or more titles on the ballot. Teachers may read books aloud to the class. The students are not required to read all 15 books; they are required to read or listen to at least 3.
- Ideas for ways that schools may implement the program are available on the web page.
- Remind educators that Accelerated Reader tests are available for most of the LYRC titles.
- Suggest that the schools include the LYRC books on their Summer Reading Lists.
- Remind librarians and teachers that titles on the Ballots are available for the blind and physically handicapped in large print and audio formats. Encourage them to contact the State Library's **Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** for more information: 1-800-543-4702. Email: sbphkids@pelican.state.lib.la.us
- Suggest that the school request a voting machine for the students to use in voting:
Voting Machines are available from the Secretary of State:
 Contact Secretary of State Voter Outreach Division
 Naomi Guidroz
 225 342-4479
Naomi.guidroz@sos.louisiana.gov

Visit the schools and booktalk the titles on the LYRC ballot.

- Arrange with some of the schools in your area to visit the classrooms to read aloud some of the shorter books and give short booktalks for the titles on the ballot.
- You may want to select one or two schools (or even just a few classes) to start. Work with a few school librarians or teachers that you know and let the word spread about the program.

PROMOTING AND NETWORKING

Promote the program in your library and your community.

- Put labels on the books, so they are easily recognized.
- Create a display with the books, poster, book jackets, ballots, a ballot box etc.
- Promote the program with home schools.
- Include the Ballot books in after-school programs and book discussion groups.
- Include an article about the LYRC program in your library newsletter and in the local newspaper.

Attend the LA.LAMP regional meeting of school librarians in September.

- LYRC promotional materials may be picked up at the exhibits.
- LA.LAMP is a good place to network with school librarians and learn about their concerns.
- See <http://www.lalamp.org/> for schedule and registration information.

Attend the Louisiana Book Festival Saturday, October 4, 2008 in Baton Rouge.

- A Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award ceremony will be held at 11:15 a.m. for the 2008 award and honor books.
- Encourage school librarians and teachers to attend and to bring their students.
- See <http://www.louisianabookfestival.org/> for information about the event.

In January remind schools that tallies of votes are due to the State Library of Louisiana by February 1, 2009.

- Tally forms for both ballots are on the web site.
- Tally forms may be submitted online by librarians or teachers.
- Individual students may not submit tallies unless they are home schooled or without a school for some other reason.
- Schools may submit tallies of the books any time before February 1.
- All votes must be received at the State Library before February 2.