



April 25, 2013

Sacramento Public Library Authority

Agenda Item 13.0: Teen Library Card Proposal

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board

FROM: Rivkah K. Sass, Library Director

RE: Teen Library Card Proposal

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Adopt Resolution 13-15, a resolution authorizing library staff to implement a Limited Teen Card for users ages 14 through 17 that requires no parental signature and instruct Library staff to provide a written assessment on Limited Teen Card to the Board one year from implementation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Currently, the Sacramento Public Library requires a parent or guardian to sign for a library card issued to anyone under the age of 18. Because the parent or guardian is ultimately financially responsible for unreturned materials, they must agree to the child having a card.

The library is proposing a different option for Teens, ages 14-17, as a one-year pilot project. Some teens are not able to obtain a library card for many possible reasons. Sometimes a family feels it cannot afford to worry about potential fines; sometimes transportation or other responsibilities make it difficult for a parent to come in person to sign for the card, and sometimes because of cultural differences do not understand the concept of a library card.

The proposed limited Teen card provides the opportunity for the teen to succeed and learn without being restricted by obstacles. A Limited Teen Card will expose teens to the wealth of materials and resources Sacramento Public Library has to offer, provide access to materials that will help them succeed in school, and teach them responsible library borrowing behavior.

The standard juvenile card will still be available for anyone up to age 18 with a parent or guardian's signature. The library would also like to make a Limited Teen Card available that requires no parental signature. The following rules will apply to Limited Teen Cards:

- Cards will be available to teens aged 14 through 17 (14 is the minimum age a teen can be employed and covered under worker's compensation.) If they can work, they should be able to get a library card.
- No parental permission required (Teens will use their school ID as proof of being local).
- If a parent does not want the teen to have library access, the library will delete the card.
- While regular juvenile fines will be charged for late materials, unreturned materials will not be billed. When the teen has reached the maximum number of items that can be checked out, they will be restricted from further access until the items have been returned.
- The Friends of the Sacramento Public Library are supportive of making library services more accessible to this audience and have agreed to allocate \$1,000 to this project in the initial phase to replace materials that may be lost.
- To limit the library's exposure to loss, the Teen will be able to check out a maximum of 3 items.



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- When the Teen turns 18, they can update to an adult card, with proper ID and proof of address, regardless of the status of the teen card (this is not a change in policy; it has always been true when juveniles reach adult status).

This is not a new initiative for this region; Placer County Library system has offered the “Teen card with no parental signature” option for more than 20 years. Sacramento Public Library staff believes the benefits to the underserved teen community outweigh the potential for loss, and ask the Board to consider adopting the changes suggested.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Resolution 13-15, a resolution authorizing library staff to implement a Limited Teen Card for users ages 14 through 17 that requires no parental signature and instruct Library staff to provide a written assessment on Limited Teen Card to the Board one year from implementation.



Sacramento Public Library Authority

RESOLUTION NO. 13-15

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Sacramento Public Library Authority on the date of:

April 25, 2013

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LIMITED TEEN LIBRARY CARD FOR TEENS AGES 14-17

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY AS FOLLOWS:

1. Authorize library staff to implement a Limited Teen Card for users ages 14 through 17 that requires no parental signature.
2. Instruct Library staff to provide a written assessment on Limited Teen Card to the Board one year from implementation.

Phil Serna, Chair

ATTEST:

Rivkah K. Sass, Secretary

By: _____
Linda J. Beymer, Assistant Secretary

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.