

PROGRAM TITLE: Murder Mystery

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Teens work through a script to solve a murder.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Murder Mystery script

Chairs for the jury

Chairs for the witnesses

Chair and table for the judge (robe and gavel are nice if you can get them)

Chair and table for the Prosecutor

Chair and table for the Defense Lawyer if you have one

Witness Chair

Any props needed as evidence as called for in the script

COST: \$40 or more if you buy a script

Free if you write one or use one already written and is free to use. Cost of refreshments.

PROGRAM PROCEDURE: As the teens arrive, assign or allow them to pick a part to play. You usually need around 20 to make a murder mystery night work. Give them time to look over their part. Then everyone takes their place and works through the script. When all the witnesses have been interviewed, it is time for the judge to give the jury their instructions. The jury retires to another room to deliberate. The rest can begin to enjoy the refreshments. Be sure to send in some for the jury or it can all disappear before they return! When the jury returns and renders their verdict, the murder mystery is over. The judge can have the deputy or bailiff arrest the person to end the night. Make sure you take lots of pictures.

USEFUL PLANNING RESOURCES FOR LIBRARIANS:

http://www.ehow.com/how_5855640_create-own-murder-mystery-game.html

<http://www.mymysteryparty.com/domybate1.html>

<http://teen.host-party.com>

<http://www.janetdickey.com/>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: I found most of my Coroner's Inquest scripts on a website that no longer exists. These have been extremely easy to use. And the teens love them! In addition, I have two scripts written by teens and one which I wrote using a boxed murder mystery game as my starting point. I plan a 2-hour event. Just a word of warning, one year we bought a "mix and mingle" type of murder mystery where the teens get a bunch of clues divided among them and have to mingle to find the answer. It was a total flop! They didn't want to spend time away from their closest friends to mingle with everyone, which was the only way to solve the crime.

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Live Clue Program available on request