

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY GRADES 5-12 2023 SURVEY RESULTS

An impressive 248 tweens & teens (Grades 5-12) filled out the survey between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15, 2023. This was twice our expectations ! Our consultant commented that she has never seen such overwhelming positive and thoughtful responses from any teen survey she's ever done.

The survey was promoted in the library, on social media, throughout the town, to parents, and in all local schools serving Groton tweens/teens (GDRMS, GDRHS, Nashoba Valley Tech., Parker).

Survey: 10 questions with 1 open feedback option at the end. Questions were on library usage and services, best ways to communicate library events, best times for programs, and program topics of greatest interest.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Who Took the Survey? All grades were represented. Number of respondents by grade:

5th (31) 6th (42) 7th (46) 8th (35) 9th (33) 10th (18) 11th (25) 12th (18)

Frequency of GPL Visits (on average) – highest to lowest:

1. **Monthly (43%)** 2. **Weekly (36%)** 3. Rarely (14%) 4. Daily (4%) 5. Never (3%)

Why Don't "Rarely" or "Never" Respondents Visit GPL? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Too Busy/No Time (58%) | 5. Materials/Resources from School (21%) |
| 2. Buy/Get Materials Elsewhere (23%) | 6. Inconvenient Location (9%) |
| 3. OTHER (23%) – "I live in [another town]";
"read online"; "forget to return stuff 📖" | 7. Borrow Digital Materials Only (2%) |
| 4. No Transportation (21%) | 8. Uncomfortable Space (2%) |
| | 9. Limited Seating (0%) |

Library Services That Are Most Important to Regular Visitors (Select up to 5):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Borrow Physical Materials (64%) | 7. Library Programs (29%) |
| 2. Relaxed Hangout Space (57%) | 8. Librarian/Staff Assistance (23%) |
| 3. Activities on School Half-Days (40%) | 9. Research Databases (12%) |
| 4. Use Wi-Fi/Computers/Printing (35%) | 10. Digital Materials (eBooks, eAudio) (11%) |
| 5. Place for Study/Group Projects (31%) | 11. OTHER* (7%) |
| 6. Summer Reading Program (30%) | 12. N/A (3%) |

*OTHER answers: "books and clubs"; "volunteering"; "fun place 2 hang"; "Felting!"; "Squishmallows and robot building"; "Basketball"; "good young adult book selection"; "games"; "Children's rooms"; "really well kept library grounds that are great to hang out on with a book (the stairs, benches, rock circle, etc.)"

Frequency Attending GPL Programs: **40% Regularly** (25% Monthly, 13% Weekly, 2% Daily), 39% Rarely, 21% Never

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What Types of Programs Most Interest You? (Select up to 3)

1. **Creativity (arts, crafts, music, writing) (54%)**
2. Gaming (video, board) (35%)
3. Movies (33%)
4. Food-Related (cooking, taste-testing) (32%)
5. Escape Rooms (31%)
6. STEM (coding, robotics) (16%)
7. Fan Clubs (anime, comics) (13%)
8. Book Clubs (book, genre/type) (12%)
9. Guest Speakers (author, creator) (9%)
10. Stress-Reduction (yoga, meditation) (7%)
11. OTHER* (7%)
12. N/A (5%)

*Other answers: "Summer reading"; "robots" (x2); "squishmallow bingo" (x4); "sports"; "Dungeons and Dragons" (x2); "food cooking and escape rooms"; "Cooking classes, stem projects"; "Llama lounge"; "fortnite"

Best Times to Attend Library Programs During the SCHOOL YEAR? (Select up to 3)

1. **Weekdays 5-8 pm (43%)**
2. **Weekdays 3-5 pm & Saturdays 1-4 pm (42%) - TIED**
3. Sundays 1-4 pm (25%)
4. Saturdays 10 am-1 pm (23%)

Best Times to Attend Library Programs During the SUMMER? (Select up to 3)

1. **Weekdays 3-5 pm (50%)**
2. **Weekdays 10 am-1 pm (41%)**
3. Weekdays 5-8 pm (30%)
4. Saturdays 1-4 pm (27%)
5. Saturdays 10 am-1 pm (25%)

How Do You Hear About Library Programs? (Select all that apply)

1. **School (45%)**
2. **TIED: GPL Website/Calendar (38%) & Parent/Caregiver/Family Member (38%)**
3. Friend/Peer (30%)
4. Sign/Flyer @ GPL (27%)
5. GPL Print Newsletter (23%)
6. GPL Social Media (FB, IG) (17%)
7. Local Newspaper (9%)
8. GPL Email Newsletter ("Check It Out") (7%)
9. Email from Teen Librarian (6%)
10. OTHER (5%) Answers: Variations on those already listed

What Are the Best Ways to Let You Know About Library Programs? (Select up to 3)

1. **School (51%)**
2. GPL Website/Calendar (35%)
3. GPL Social Media (FB, IG) (27%)
4. Sign/Flyer @ GPL (20%) & Email from Teen Librarian (20%) - TIED
5. GPL Print Newsletter (18%)
6. GPL Email Newsletter (13%)
7. Text from Teen Librarian (11%)
8. OTHER (4%) Answers: "my friends parents"; "Family"; "Send home printed flier with middle schoolers"; "mom"; "often come day of (not very helpful) and the posts are not very entertaining (if you want them to reach a wider audience, I can help)"

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Any Additional Feedback to Share? All Responses listed below. All are direct quotes.

1. I love the library!
2. have a room 4 only 12-14 year olds with no staff, I always feel like i'm being watched
3. Love the library 😊
4. Yay
5. The activities at the library are amazing, I wish I could attend more of them! The librarians are so friendly as well!
6. Thank you for the survey
7. Thanks for giving us a good learning environment 😊 Thanks you ❤️
8. iyu
9. I think you guys are doing awesome - thank you for keeping the library running so well!
10. I'd like there to be a Taylor Swift Fan Club at the library.
11. This is an amazing place to have fun and study!
12. I like the Library. The Library is fun!!!
13. I love the library!!!!!!!!!!
14. I have nothing bad to say about the library. I have always had a fun and safe time her.
15. I don't have any feedback!
16. I love the library. Especially the Nintendo room
17. battlebots are fun
18. Thank for my time and szervace
19. I think the current way of doing things has worked well, at least for me personally. I would assume others agree, a lot of my friends also participate in library events or go for books.
20. The library is great! Thank you!! =)
21. In fact, what I want more than anything else is a space environment that is cozy and quiet enough. I like to read paper books, it makes me feel comfortable.
22. Classes I want to take fill too quickly.
23. nicer staff members
24. None at the moment! Love The teen area!!
25. awesome survey
26. Nothing
27. None
28. Nothing. They are good how they are right now.
29. More remote cooking classes for older teens
30. nicer staff members
31. I enjoy going to the library and looking for a new book to read, asking Deb for book suggestions, and doing events but I don't have any time to go because of sports all day.
32. a lot of creativity and mind "workouts" could be fun. Trivia, bingo, and playing board games like Dungeons and Dragons interest me. Also learning how to make/do new crafts can be useful, along with volunteer opportunities like putting together care packages for the military.
33. N/A

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34. I love the library, it is a great place to hang out and relax and read.
35. I think the summer programs are very fun and I love going to the library with friends
36. Cooking classes, sushi making, art classes, anything anime or manga related.
37. No
38. I love the library! It feels like home! ALL the librarians are AMAZING
39. maybe having the library open later for those who are busy during the day
40. you should have a larger hangout room
41. i love the kindness of the staff!
42. I love the summer and winter reading programs. They are my favorite to attend!
43. no feedback! fun library!
44. It think the library is great!
45. I think there should be a cooking/baking club in the summer because I really like to cook and bake and it would awesome if I could do it with other kids.
46. I love the library, I wish there were more activities later in the day though.
47. There should be a yoga class
48. I would like to taste test
49. I think you guys at GPL have been so nice and kind. I do not have any additional feedback. Thank you for this opportunity.
50. Your staff are so nice!
51. Can I please have the gift card I really need it
52. Can't think of any suggestions
53. Having quiet study spaces is amazing!
54. I'm good
55. As said before, the social media doesn't reach many teens as it's not very interesting- they're all canva prints. If you want to reach teens more so that they know more about programs and such, I'd be happy to help out! [name withheld]
56. I love all of the library clubs and especially the summer reading it's so fun! I will continue to do it every summer