MiLibraryQuest: Summer Quest 2023 FAQs

1.   What is MILibraryQuest?

Due to COVID-19 during Spring 2020, libraries were closed and librarians were shifting to virtual programming. During that time, a group of librarians met to collaborate on providing virtual programs for teens and were looking for ways to more effectively reach and engage teens. As many felt they could not add another thing to their already full workload, our hope was that we would be able to offer more opportunities to our teen patrons if we worked together rather than individually.

A small group of libraries began creating the first Quest in May 2020. That summer, 92 libraries from throughout the state participated in a virtual scavenger hunt for teens. Teens collected virtual tools from the libraries' websites to slay a dragon and enter to win a prize.

See more information on our website here.

2.   What is MiLibraryQuest: Summer Quest 2023?

The Quest Team is now launching its seventh Quest which will be held from July 1 through August 5. This Quest will challenge teen explorers to complete a virtual escape room by solving puzzles about Michigan ghosts and legends. After they complete the escape room, teens will enter for a chance to win a prize from their library.

3.   How will teens participate?

Teens will be directed to the MiLibraryQuest website, where they will find an explanation of the Quest, the escape room, and links to the library websites containing clues.

After teens complete the escape room, they will enter for a chance to win a prize determined by their home library.

Do teens need to register?

Teens do *not* need to register in advance to participate in MiLibraryQuest. There is no advance registration option available on the Quest website. They will submit their entry after they have completed the escape room. A link to enter will be on the current Quest tab of our website (here) on July 1 when the Quest begins.

4. What ages may participate?

The Quest does not specify ages, only "teens." We plan the Quest with 6th through 12th graders in mind, as those grades are often the grades included in libraries' teen programs. Each library can define the teen age/grade group that you want to be able to participate in the Quest.

Only the word "teen" (not specific ages/grades) is used in the Quest's publicity, website, etc. Flyers will have an editable box to add any specific information for your library, including the age/grade group that you want to participate. Libraries can also specify the age/grade group in the text that accompanies social media posts.

5. What does each participating library need to do?

Each participating library will:

- Promote the Quest to their teens (A digital publicity kit will be provided.)
- Award at least one prize to a teen from their library who enters

OPTIONAL: Each participating library also has the option to:

- OPTIONAL: Have a clue to the Quest on their library's website.
- OPTIONAL: Host an in-person program for teens to solve the Quest together

6. What do I need to post on my website?

ALL PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES:
We ask all participating libraries to promote the Quest to their teens in ways that work for your library. Ideally, that will include publicity on your website; however, exactly how you do that is up to you.

OPTIONAL: For libraries that request a clue to be on their website:

After the deadline for libraries to sign up and request a clue (May 1), the Quest team will assign clues to libraries that have requested them.

We will provide each of those libraries with their clue, the Summer Quest logo, and instructions for adding the information to their website.

Each library that has a Quest clue will add to their website:

- The Summer Quest logo
- Their assigned clue
- Alt text for the Quest logo
- Link to the Quest website

We will provide additional information about these components when clues are assigned.

Once everything is ready to go on your website, your library will fill out a Google form to verify all details have been correctly added and to finalize your participation as a library hosting a clue.

We prefer the clue and logo image to be placed on your library's home page or teen page. The Quest information should be on a page of your website that can accommodate an image and text. It should be accessible to everyone - not in a location that requires patrons to log in. You will provide us with the exact url of the page during your final registration on the Google form mentioned above.

7.   How will I promote the Quest?

The Quest team will provide a digital Publicity Toolkit of resources including a poster, bookmarks, and social media posts. You can print and share these resources with your community.

Here is our initial publicity blurb:

Teens, can you survive the MiLibraryQuest this summer? Face all manner of ghasts and ghouls as you solve the mystery of their appearance in our state. Puzzles and riddles will aid you in the quest to Survive Together Now beginning July 1st! MiLibraryQuest: Summer Edition 2023 will be held from July 1 through August 5, 2023. Visit www.mi.gov/MiLibraryQuest to learn more!

The Publicity Toolkit will be available by early June. A link will be emailed to everyone who has signed up to participate in the Summer Quest.

8.   What do we award as prizes? Who awards the prizes?

Each participating library is responsible for providing at least one prize to at least one teen from their library. Prizes can be as big or as small as your library wants them to be.

Each library determines and purchases the prize for their winner.

For previous Quests, libraries have awarded books, gift cards to local businesses or bookstores, posters or other items already in their prize collections, and other things.

Some libraries choose one winner from their participants and award one prize. Some libraries award prizes to multiple winners or even something for each of their participants.

As a group, the Quest team wanted the focus to be on participating in the event with an extra bonus of possibly winning a prize instead of a big, elaborate prize as the main incentive. We also wanted each library to be able to do what worked for them. It is entirely up to you.

9. How will I know who participates from my library?

At the end of the Quest, the Quest Team will send each library a list of entries from their library. This list will include all the information the teens enter on the entry form. Each library can then choose winner(s) from their entries.

We will also share the number of entries from each library periodically throughout the Quest so you will know the level of participation throughout the summer.

10. What about teens who don't belong to a participating library?

The Quest team wants all teens in Michigan to be able to participate. Teens who enter and do not belong to participating libraries will be included in participating libraries' drawings. Your library can choose to accept one/some of these unaffiliated teens – or keep your drawing only for your teens. It is your choice.

If your library is able to include unaffiliated teens in your drawing, we would expect you to have one extra teen at the most. In the first Summer Quest, there were 4 unaffiliated teens, so 4 libraries each added one of them to their drawings. For the Winter 2022 Quest, there were 10 unaffiliated teens, and in Winter 2023, there were only 2. We cannot predict how many teens will participate; however, most teens find out about the Quest through their library that is participating, so most teens are affiliated with a participating library.

11. Do you record Quest meetings so we can watch them later?

We meet on Zoom periodically on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 P.M. (ET). All libraries participating in the Quest are welcome to join us. Participating libraries will receive emails with the date and Zoom link for meetings.

The meetings are not recorded, but the Quest team does email notes after each meeting to everyone who is signed up for the Quest. You will be added to the list when you register your library to participate. If additional staff members would also like to receive those emails, please let us know and we will add you/them to the list.

12. Where is MiLibraryQuest online?

Our website: https://milibraryquest.wixsite.com/quest1

Our page on the Library of MIchigan's website: https://mi.gov/MiLibraryQuest

Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MiLibraryQuest

Our Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/milibraryquest

13. How can I contact MiLibraryQuest?

If you have any other questions, please email us at milibraryquest@gmail.com.