Science Corners: Going from Eeeek to Awww!

Pine River Library
Becky Van Den Berg & Michaela Wilson
About Us & Our Library

- Becky Van Den Berg - Young Adult Services Coordinator
- Michaela Wilson - Public Services Librarian
- Our Branding opened up new avenues for:
  - Learning environments
  - “Outside of the box” thinking
  - “Connecting Community”
    - Beyond the books outreach & community engagement
STEM in Our Library

- The year of STEAM
- Bridges the equity gap in learning opportunities for rural youth
- Allows people to look at something and find their own ways to learn about it:
  - Natural curiosity is the best!
  - For example: why is he orange?
Meet Our Critters
Asmo, the Library Snake

- Asmo’s story and how he became a library snake
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/CQwbvQANdk9/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://www.instagram.com/p/CQwbvQANdk9/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)
- Check him out on social media!
  - @asmothelibrarysnake
- And if you have questions, you can email him!
  - asmothelibrarysnake@gmail.com
Community Engagement

● Everyday interactions
  ○ “I want to see the snake!”
  ○ “Is he a real dragon!?”

● Fun programs
  ○ Interactive
  ○ Self-directed
Exploration Station

- Science based, interactive display
  - Every two months
- Snake sheds
Outreach

- Pop-up outreach
- Expanding the experience
- Our spiel for patrons
  - Demonstration (with fake snake!)
Summer Learning: Animal Events

- Non-traditional involvement for Summer Reading
- Creates amazing partnership opportunities
- An environment for kids to experience new animals
Say Hi to a Horse!

Reptile Day

In-House
The logistics

- 64 hours a year (estimate)
  - Daily/weekly
  - Monthly

- Taking a vacation?

- Research mode

- Funding

- New additions
Tad Cooper, Book Hoard Protector (dragon)

- Taking on new critters
- New addition in June 2023

Pros/Cons
- More engagement opportunities
- Creates more diversity (he’s got legs!)
- Time involved
- Food/Supplements
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I hold Asmo?
2. Does he bite?
3. How hard is maintenance?
4. How long do they live?
5. Would you like to add ___ to your science corner?
6. Do your cockroaches really hiss?
7. Can I hold a frog?
What questions might you have?