



Library Lunch Ladies

Creating and Implementing Food Programming in Your Library

How It All Began...

- **Introductions**

- **Keri Whitmore, Assistant Director, Franklin Public Library**
- **Sarah Bublitz, Children's Librarian, Franklin Public Library**

- **Why did we start these programs?**

- **Library gardens**
- **Past food programming was very popular**
- **We had the existing facilities to do them**



In-Person Cooking Programs - Planning

- **Choose your topic**
 - **Helps focus your recipe choices**
- **Choosing Recipes**
 - **Considerations**
 - Time it takes to make the recipe
 - How many recipes can you fit into the time allotted
 - Can the recipe be easily multiplied if necessary
 - Cost of ingredients
 - What appliances are needed
 - How much prep work will need to be done



In-Person Cooking Programs - Planning

- **Shopping/Budget**

- **Our programs are limited to 30 people and the budget has never exceeded \$150**
- **Make a list and shop for ingredients**

- **Food Prep**

- **Test out your recipes if you have never made them before**
- **Prep as much ahead of time if you can**
- **It may be easier to make the recipe ahead of the program and while the attendees are sampling it, go through the steps of the recipe**

In-Person Cooking Programs - Planning

- **Time Management**
 - **Sit down and time out your recipes!**
 - Start with a short recipe or one that you have already completed so that your attendees can start eating right away.
 - Follow that with a more complex or longer recipe if you have one.
 - Keep the longer recipes in the middle of your program
 - Finish with a shorter recipe or two
 - Save desserts for the end
 - **Plan out what will need to go in the oven**
 - Look at baking temperatures
 - Can two things bake at the same time?
 - **Limit your program to an hour and a half – any more and people get bored**

In-Person Cooking Programs - Execution

- **Marketing**
 - **Spread the word about your program!**
 - **Flyers, city newsletter, library newsletter, social media, etc.**
- **Registration**
 - **Great for planning and budget purposes.**
 - **Not great when registrants don't show up, and there is a waitlist.**
 - **Do what works for you and your library.**
 - **Reminders for registrants.**



In-Person Cooking Programs - Execution

- **Cooking Class**
 - **Check-in (wait a minute for latecomers)**
 - Participants receive a packet with all the recipes (and more) being made during the program.
 - Participants pick-up their plates, utensils, and glass of water and find a seat at a table. They are all set for samples!
 - **Introduction**
 - Introduce yourself and the theme of the class.
 - **Recipes and Samples**
 - Work through the recipe flow developed during the planning stage.
 - Demo the recipe, answer questions along the way, and end with a sample (or come back to the sample later if more time is needed).
 - Move on to the next recipe as they sample.
 - Discuss any bonus recipes not being made.
 - **Wrap-up**
 - Thank your patrons for coming and mention any future classes.
 - Clean-up!

In-Person Cooking Programs – Patron Response

- **“Thank you so much for these classes! We would have to pay over \$100 for a similar program elsewhere.”**
- **“You guys are awesome! Thanks for all you do!”**
- **“I can’t believe how much food we get. You do too much!”**
- **“I’m on amazon right now looking for the spurtles you have.”**
- **“Is this the Wilton melting pot you used?”**
- **Patron emailed the library director saying how much she enjoys the Keri and Sarah cooking shows. She thinks they should have a network show, except she would miss them too much.**

Transition to Virtual...

- Early in the pandemic, we had to cancel our scheduled cooking classes.
- YouTube, Facebook Live, & Zoom
 - Quarantine Quick Meals
 - Quick meals to make at home with pantry staples.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWeBJHyRlXkgcn3gXadel63W0W1F4MMjC>
 - Library Lunch Ladies
 - Picnic Party – filmed live in Keri’s backyard (Facebook Live)
 - Garden Harvest—filmed live in Sarah’s kitchen (Zoom meeting)
 - Holiday Recipe Bytes
 - Short recipe videos for holiday cooking inspiration.
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWeBJHyRlXki_PQdB3ZTiR80lgkooY1hN
- Overall, not the same as our in-person demos.



Children's Cooking Programs

- Cooking Up Stories

- Pre-Pandemic

- Geared towards ages 4-8 and registration required.
 - Consisted of a book, snackivity, and a craft relating to theme.

- During Pandemic

- YouTube videos with a story, demo a snack and easy craft.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmKS1TkC4g8&list=PLWeBJHyRIXkh1AKaohJ1QTNBYkHVBZq&index=16>

- Snacktivity Station

- Creative snacks for kids.
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWeBJHyRIXkky8qUNowREuFAZ3h_sIsDR





Conclusion & Demo

- Questions?
- Quick Cooking Demo
- Thanks for listening to us!