

## YALS TEEN PROGRAMMING IDEAS

**PROGRAM TITLE:** Greek Lightning

**BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** Inspired by The Lightning Thief series by Rick Riordan, this program involves Greek “Olympics”, a Greek mythology (and Lightning Thief)-themed Jeopardy! game, and a sampling of Greek/Mediterranean foods.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

Foam Frisbees (discus), Pool noodles (javelin), olives, blindfolds (we used bandanas), sheets (togas), Greek mythology trivia and trivia from The Lightning Thief, index cards, poster board, and Greek/Mediterranean food, tags (to wear) to tally points, and prizes.

**COST:** Variable depending on food/prizes. We spent approximately \$50 total. Many materials you may already own such as foam Frisbees, pool noodles, bandanas, sheets, poster board and index cards.

**PROGRAM PROCEDURE:**

1. Divide group evenly into teams. (We had two teams of 8 each.) Give each participant a tag to tally points. We punched a hole in the tag and put them on a cord to hang around neck. Our tags were formatted with the Olympic ring symbol and categories listed with space for points.
2. Greek “Olympics” can include discus throwing (use foam Frisbees), javelin throwing (use pool noodles), and relay games such as olive relay (blindfolded, carry olive on a spoon and drop in a bowl). Pair up participants to tie togas with the sheets, this can be timed so the first, second, and third place are judged by speed, or you can give them a time limit, then judge according to how well they did. Award points for first, second, and third place in each category. We did this in the library basement, but this could be done outdoors.
3. Jeopardy! Game. Create categories; write on top of poster board. Write trivia questions for each category on index cards with points on back side of card. Make them progressively harder as possible points earned increase. Then either tape or use poster putty to attach to poster board under appropriate category (points facing out). You decide how many questions and points system. Use the same teams as with Greek Olympics. The team which earns the most points wins. Award points to each participant on the team.
4. The first place winner won a \$20 gift certificate for Gibson’s Books store and a bag with a few gold foil wrapped chocolate coins. Second place winner won silver foil wrapped chocolate coins, and third place (you guessed it!) won bronze foil wrapped chocolate coins. We also prepared bags of chocolates (mini Hershey’s) with an Olympic symbol sticker on each one for every participant.
5. Eat. All participants were welcome to sample authentic Greek foods. We had stuffed grape leaves, hummus, tabouli, and Greek cookies.

**OUTSIDE PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:**

N/A

**USEFUL PLANNING RESOURCES FOR LIBRARIANS:**

(Books, websites etc)

The Lightning Thief series by Rick Riordan, D’Aulaires’ Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d’Aulaire and Edgar Parin d’Aulaire.

**RELATED MATERIALS FOR DISPLAY /RESOURCE LIST FOR TEENS:**

(Websites, books, periodicals, etc. For program participants)

The Lightning Thief series by Rick Riordan

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths by Bernard Evslin

The Odyssey by Homer, translated by Robert Fitzgerald

Lord of the Silver Bow by David Gemmell

Shield of Thunder by David Gemmell

Troy: fall of kings by David Gemmell

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

(Include duration of program, suggested number of participants)

Our program ran for 90 minutes. This allowed plenty of time for 16 participants. You may want to allow more time if you have a larger crowd. With a large number (20+) you could split the whole group in half, then do Greek Olympics with one half while the other plays Jeopardy!.

Most of our teens were middle school age. Greek mythology is taught in 6<sup>th</sup> grade in our middle school. I suggest that you find out when it is taught in your town and collaborate with the teacher(s) for timing and promotion of the program.

The food was not popular, so you would simply offer snacks. Suggestions: print out clip art of Greek gods and goddesses and put in cupcakes with toothpicks. You could make Cyclops eyeballs using popcorn balls or donut holes.

**CONTACT INFORMATION OF LIBRARIAN SUBMITTING PROGRAM:**

(Name, library, e-mail address, library phone number)

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