A Voyage of Discovery: Escape Room Activities for Outreach and Instruction in Every Library

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What We’ll Do Today

- Play a game!
- Learn about tools for creating an escape room
- Learn from our successes and challenges
- Brainstorm how you could create an escape room activity for your library
What is an escape room?

“An adventure-based game in which players solve a series of puzzles and riddles using clues, hints, and strategy to complete the objectives at hand. Players are given a set time limit to solve the puzzles and complete the game.”

Wikipedia
Let’s Play a Game
How It All Began
Our Tools
Bulldog Welcome Week 2018

Goal: develop a fun activity for students to do in the library space that isn’t focused on learning about the library

Audience: incoming students

Theme: Duluth-y, lighthouse
DOG RACE
GREAT FUN, CHALLENGES AHEAD

BY MEGAN LAWSON

This year’s Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon was great fun. Teams from across the world competed in the race, which, at a distance of approximately 440 miles, is the longest sled dog race in the lower 48 states.

In addition to the race itself, festivities were held across Duluth. The cutest puppy competition, held at Fitger’s on the Lake Superior waterfront, was, as always, a big draw.

“I love dogs,” said Eric Barmie, 5. “Cars are pretty cool, but I want a puppy when I’m old enough.”

Despite the successful race this year, organizers acknowledge that they need to plan for the challenges in the years to come. Each winter has brought a unique snow, and low snow makes it difficult to run the complete 440-mile race.

Next year, says Dagmar Andersen, the race might be shortened, with teams limited to 12 dogs, rather than 18.

“We want to keep it up, you know, but when the weather doesn’t cooperate, that just isn’t anything we can do. We still look forward to great times next year!”

THINGS WE LIKE:
WATER, ALSO BREAD

DULUTH DAILY OWL

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LOCAL POLISH SAUSAGE ADEQUATE, SAYS OUR CRITIC
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UMD Seminar Fall 2018

TWIN PORTS POST

Annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon

BY J.J. JOHNSON

One of Duluth’s most exciting annual winter events is nearing. The John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon will start January 26, 2019. The race is the longest sled dog marathon in the lower 48 states and is a qualifier for the Iditarod in Alaska. The race was established in memory of John Beargrease, a mail carrier in the late 1800s who delivered mail by dog sled up and down Lake Superior’s North Shore. Today’s mushers follow a similar route. Starting near Duluth, they head north toward Grand Portage. Near Silver Bay they turn east, and then continue north. They go east and then turn around in Grand Portage to head back south. The marathon includes other festivities. Popular events include the Cutest Puppy Contest which is free and open to the public, and Cab-Run for mothers under the age of 14. Don’t miss these great events!

INSIDE
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03 Chaos Reigns: Bears in Trees, Owls on Patrol Cars

DULUTHIITE

DULUTH’S PAPER OF RECORD (DOO-LOOH-TEE-ITE)

WE’RE ‘M0R3 OF A CAT CITY’

What’s small, snuggly, and just the right amount of standoffish? That’s right, it’s a cat.

As in years past, the Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon has celebrated its opening with a cutest puppy competition. In Duluth, this has proven controversial.

“We’re ‘Mor3 of a Cat City’ say local resident José Luis Gonzales. “Always has been, always will be.”

Cats have long been at the center of Duluth’s civic pride. Reached for comments, Mayor Sigmund Anderson said this: “The mayor believes that cats are wonderful and that holding cats is really, really great. And without cats, Duluth would not be the city we love today.”

The cutest puppy competition will return in 2019, for those who love dogs, for whatever reason.

MIYORI SAYS
Mayor Sigmund Anderson has spoken after a 5-year absence. The mayor emerged from her office to tell everyone that she was “Just fine, don’tcha know? The Duluthite will keep readers informed of any further developments.”
A “Complete Picture” of Duluth
UMD Seminar Fall 2019

**Theme**: Tour of the UMD Library

**Clues**: based on library services/resources that students should know about
Think + Pair + Share

Brainstorm how you could create an escape room for your library.

What would you do differently for your escape room?
Tips

✘ First puzzle should be relatively easy to build confidence
✘ Coming up with puzzles takes time, especially the first few times you do it
✘ Think outside the box!
✘ Partner with the local escape rooms for discount codes as prizes
Questions?
References and Resources

✘ Beyond Reinventing the Library Scavenger Hunt: Teaching Library Literacy to First-Year Experience Students Using an Escape Room Jennifer L. Pate and Derek Malone, University of North Alabama
✘ Breakout EDU
✘ Canva