



## What's a Book Cart Drill Team?



A group of library people who perform a synchronized “drill team” routine to music with decorated book carts as props. The American Library Association started sponsoring book cart drill team competitions at their conferences in 2005, and some other library organizations have as well. Book cart drill teams have also performed in community parades. Participating in a team is a great opportunity to have fun and show the world that librarians are really very lively folks! CSLA plans to hold a competition at the next conference in 2009. So, start thinking about forming a team... ☺

### Some Tips for Organizing a Team:

1. Think about a group you want to represent, such as your school district, CSLA region, or any other logical group of school library workers.
2. Advertise by email, flyers, and word of mouth to get participants. Let them know that *it will be a lot of fun*. Teams can be as small as about five people or as large as you like. Find out how many carts DEMCO will provide for the event, but every team member doesn't have to have his/her own cart if you have more people than carts.
3. Come up with a song that will be fun or representative of your group. (The “California Girls” chose the Beach Boys' song since we were representing Southern California for a national and international audience at ALA.)
4. Check out “book cart drill teams” on YouTube for ideas of what routines are like.
5. Find someone who can work out the choreography.
6. Find a large rehearsal spot, such as your school gym. Plan several rehearsals.
7. You will need book carts at your rehearsals. If you don't have enough at the rehearsal school site, ask people to bring their own carts if possible. Rolling laundry bins or anything else on wheels can “stand in” for a book cart for rehearsing if necessary.
8. Come up with a plan for costumes and cart decorations. The cart decorations have to be very simple, since you will probably only have about five minutes to put the decorations on the cart on the day of the event. DEMCO provides carts, but reuses them for multiple groups.)
9. Have at least one “tech person” who can run the music during your rehearsals and provide a perspective of how the group routines look.
10. Think of how you can use this as an advocacy opportunity. Contact your local paper and anyone you can think of to create publicity for school librarians from the event. Have people take photos at the event to send to papers and for any other publicity opportunities.
11. Have fun! “The California Girls” had a ball performing at the ALA Conference last summer. You can too! ☺

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