

Introduction

Idaho Battle of the Books, IBOB, is a statewide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program open to all Idaho students in grades 3-12, regardless of ability.

IBOB is meant to expose students to quality literature representing a variety of literary styles and viewpoints.

The mission of the program is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, share the love of reading with students who have not yet discovered that for themselves, broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students.

Lists of books are chosen, and questions are written, for each grade level division; elementary, middle/junior high, and high school. Students read the books, discuss them, and then compete in teams of four students to correctly answer questions based on the books in a “quiz show” format.

Levels of competition begin at the school or local library level, and may continue into regional or even state competition, as those levels are developed with the growth of this program in Idaho.

Idaho Battle of the Books is administered by a Executive Committee and other volunteers.

Book Lists

New lists of titles for each level are compiled each year by the Selection Committee based on the “Criteria for the Selection of Titles.”

An attempt is made to vary the titles chosen according to genre and difficulty so that readers may encounter a broad range of books. Care is also taken to ensure a diversity of people, places, and ideas among the chosen titles so that students may find the diversity of our world reflected in the pages of the books.

It is not the goal or purpose of IBOB to endorse or censor titles solely based on race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation of the characters or author of a book.



Idaho Battle of the Books

Idaho also has a history with Battle of the Books programs, but until 2017 they have largely existed independently from each other. In the 1970s some Boise programs were sponsored by local book stores, and in other places programs existed purely out of the love and tenacity of parents, teacher, and librarians in a school or district.

In 2016 the Oregon model of BOB was introduced at North Junior High in the Boise School District. The following year, many other junior high/middle schools joined the program, as did homeschooled students via the Meridian Public Library system. Meanwhile, the idea of creating a uniquely Idaho program was introduced at the Idaho Library Conference in the fall of 2017.

From there a group of passionate and committed volunteers began work on what has become Idaho Battle of the Books, or IBOB. The goal of the IBOB Committee is to grow IBOB across all of Idaho, in three distinct grade level divisions, with local, regional, and state level competitions each year, while remaining a volunteer-only program.

Volunteers

If you would like to be a part of this program, or you would like to start IBOB at your school, please visit us at idahobattleofthebooks.org for more information.