SCHOOL LIBRARY TEENTOBER GUIDE

Get your teens excited about your school library during TeenTober! TeenTober is an annual, month-long celebration held every October by libraries across the country to promote and support the services, programs, and resources specifically designed for teens. It is an initiative aimed at encouraging teens to read for pleasure, explore their interests, and connect with their libraries in meaningful ways.

TeenTober was introduced by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The initiative replaced two separate celebrations: Teen Read Week (October) and Teen Tech Week (March), combining the objectives of both into one month of teen-centered library activities. The goal is to better meet the evolving needs of teens and highlight the full range of resources and services libraries offer this age group.

Benefits of Participating in TeenTober:

1. **Engage Teens:** School libraries help foster a love of reading and learning among teens. TeenTober offers a structured opportunity to engage with this age group, drawing them into the library and helping them discover new books, resources, and skills.
2. **Promote Digital and Media Literacy:** TeenTober encourages exploration of tech tools and digital resources, making it an ideal time for school librarians to promote media literacy, digital citizenship, and information literacy.
3. **Support Student Success:** Participating in TeenTober aligns with the South Dakota School Library Standards, particularly in promoting reading for personal growth and recognizing opportunities for living and learning in an interconnected world.
4. **Strengthen the Library's Role:** By participating in this national initiative, school librarians can amplify their role as key supporters of teen development, positioning the library as a hub for creativity, critical thinking, and social connection.

Inspiration and Ideas:

1. **Book Displays:** Create displays featuring popular teen books, young adult (YA) authors, graphic novels, or genres like fantasy, mystery, and romance that will capture teens' interests.

2. **Reading Challenges:** Organize a TeenTober reading challenge. Encourage teens to read a certain number of books or explore different genres, with rewards like small prizes or recognition.

3. **Tech and Media Workshops:** Host workshops that teach digital skills, from coding and app development to podcasting and digital storytelling. This ties back to Teen Tech Week's legacy and introduces teens to valuable digital skills.

4. **Teen Advisory Groups:** If you don't have one already, use TeenTober as an opportunity to start or promote your Teen Advisory Group (TAG). This group can help plan library events, select books for the collection, or suggest services that reflect their interests.

5. **Author Visits and Book Talks:** Host a virtual or in-person author talk featuring a YA author, or lead book talks with popular YA titles to spark excitement about reading.

6. **Interactive Displays:** Set up interactive bulletin boards or displays where teens can share their favorite books, write book recommendations, or participate in polls about their favorite genres or hobbies.

7. **Social Media Engagement:** Encourage teens to engage online with the library by using hashtags like #TeenTober to share their reads or projects. Post about library activities to build excitement and community.

8. **Maker Spaces and DIY Projects:** Organize DIY craft projects or create maker spaces where teens can explore creative interests like 3D printing, crafting, or coding during TeenTober.

Find more information and access the YALSA TeenTober Toolkit here: