

Celebrate the Freedom to Read in Oregon

Activity Ideas for Banned Books Week Activities

Suggested Activities / Action Guide Banned Books Week from ALA
<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/actionguide/actionguide.htm>

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Public Libraries

▶ Use public address announcements throughout Banned Books Week (“Brought to you by the First Amendment”) to explain BBW and invite the public to join the celebration with bookmarks and "I read Banned Books" buttons, and a quote on First Amendment, or Freedom, or Censorship.

-Eugene Public Library

▶ Send a press release to local newspaper or contribute an article about Banned Books Week.

-Douglas County Library, Baker County Library, Clatskanie Public Library, Wagner Library (Falls City), Hermiston Public Library, Springfield Public Library, Deschutes Public Library, Newport Public Library.

▶ Write an article for the local newspaper describing banned book week and asking folks to come in and check out a once-banned book to show their support of the freedom to read.

-Jefferson County Library

▶ Sponsor an Open House at the library for school media specialist in the service area for the library. Put up posters, hand out bookmarks, display challenged and banned books. Give a Banned Books T-shirt to those who answer a BBW Quiz. Encourage media specialists to use the BBW Quiz in their school libraries.

-Multnomah County Library Capitol Hill Branch

▶ Bookmark or include Links from the OPAC to the list of Challenged Materials in Oregon on the ACLU of Oregon website.

-Dallas and McMinnville Public Libraries, Southwestern Oregon Community College

▶ Be interviewed by high school students for their school electronic message board.

-Hillsboro Public Library

Public Libraries (cont.)

- ▶ Include information about Banned Books Week as a part of a Friends of the Library mailing.
-Hood River County Library
- ▶ Include Banned Books Week on your monthly library calendar.
-Albany Public Library
- ▶ Posted the list of the top 10 Banned Books last year, displayed books on book banning and related issues, and set out bookmarks and buttons for patrons to take. Promoted the display on the State Employee Information Center (SEIC is a portal to State library services for State employees) homepage and listed with hyperlinks resources and information on banned books and intellectual freedom. An announcement about this went out on the State employee listserv.
Oregon State Library
- ▶ Use the flyer in a BBW display and/or at the circulation desk.
-Various libraries and bookstores
- ▶ Use a staff meeting to educate all staff about what BBW really is all about.
-Klamath County Library, North Bend Public Library
- ▶ Printed a version of the list of challenged books to include only those titles owned by our and put them in folders for the public to look at.
-The Dalles-Wasco County Library
- ▶ Use the list to make a lists of challenged materials for children and teens in the library collection, including the call numbers.
-Springfield Public Library
- ▶ Use the list at the information desk kiosks when talking to patrons about BBW.
-Tualatin Public Library
- ▶ Use the list to select books for a display or to indicate in the display those which have been challenged in Oregon.
-Various libraries and bookstores.
- ▶ Do a featured a film screening during BBW of banned book. Examples: *Fahrenheit 451*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Provide background on the film and challenges along with audience discussion after the screening.
-Klamath County Library, Newport Public Library, Klamath County Library
- ▶ Feature BBW info on our Web site homepage, with links to all the online stuff happening for BBW.
-McMinnville Public Library

Public Libraries (cont.)

- ▶ Café Banned featuring local authors and community members.
-Multnomah County Library Central Library

- ▶ Sponsor an event where community members read aloud an excerpt from their favorite banned book.
-Lake Oswego Public Library; Newport Public Library

- ▶ Library and Foundation Co-sponsor an event featuring an author or other well-known person speaking about Banned Books.
-Eugene Public Library

- ▶ The flyer was posted on the doorways several weeks in advance of BBW and throughout the week itself. Copies were also available on the BBW book cart.
-Baker County Public Library

- ▶ Keep the list it at the reference desk for patrons to read while waiting for help.
-Forest Grove Public Library.

- ▶ Photocopy the flyers from the ACLU onto bright colorful paper and distribute them to library patrons. They made it possible for people to have information in hand to read about the event and it's importance. Plus it gave them a source for further information.
-Albany Public Library

- ▶ Put them on our entry doors and in convenient locations where patrons could read them.
-Clatskanie Public Library

- ▶ Contest for teens where they could take a quiz prepared by our Teen Services Librarian, Kris Lutsock. Printed a list of 17 titles Quiz participants were asked which three are not frequently banned or challenged. Participants were rewarded with pizza bucks to purchase pizza at a local pizza parlor.
-McMinnville Public Library

- ▶ Held a Scavenger hunt for the teens. I printed out large titles of 30 banned books (some from the Oregon list) and asked merchants downtown if they would hide them in their store front windows for the teens to locate. The teens then had a list of the titles and had to write down the store window they found each title in. The first team (2 people) to locate and write down 25 titles and return it to my desk won gift certificates for one of the local bookstores in town.
-Ashland Branch, Jackson County Library

- ▶ Host a discussion of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, for Harry Potter fans of all ages who have read the book.
-The Dalles Wasco County Library District

Public Libraries (cont.)

- ▶ Library Book Discussion Groups discuss challenged books.
-Eugene Public Library, Deschutes Public Library

- ▶ Attach the buttons to a bookmark promoting Banned Books Week.
-Dallas Public Library

- ▶ Hand out “I Read Banned Books” buttons at a City Council Meeting.
-St. Helens Public Library

- ▶ Gave the buttons away to library patrons after they completed a very short form about a banned book they have read and whether they recommend it or not. Also gave buttons away at a middle school literacy night where students, parents and teachers filled out the same form. This sparked some great conversations about books.
-Springfield Public Library

- ▶ Get invited to do a Banned Books program at local churches and distribute “I Read Banned Books” buttons.
-Siuslaw Public Library

- ▶ Library staff wear “I Read Banned Books” buttons.
-Many libraries

- ▶ Give “I Read Banned Books” buttons to members of the teen advisory group. Explain the importance of the freedom to read without censorship, and ask them to spread the message at their schools.
-Crook County Library

- ▶ Put ‘I Read Banned Books’ buttons in the library’s display for patrons to take.
-Stayton Public Library, Jefferson County Library, Portland Community College and others

- ▶ Print out the list of “Challenged Materials in Oregon 1979 – 2007” for library patrons, students and parents to browse.
-Various public and school libraries

- ▶ Give an “I Read Banned Books” button to everyone who checks out a banned or challenged book.
-Crook County, Gilliam County, Wagner Library(Falls City), Hermiston Public Library

Elementary Schools

► Harry Potter Party, to commemorate BBW and the fact that the Harry Potter books are among the most consistently challenged all over the country

- Students were invited to dress up in the colors of the Hogwarts house (Slytherin, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, Gryffindor) that they felt they belonged to
- I made an open invitation/request for anyone who could to make Harry Potter-related food or beverages, and many students did that
- We set up a projector and screen and watched several of the Harry Potter Puppet Pals videos
- A sophomore created a very challenging quiz for the true fans (attached), and the students divided into their houses and competed as house teams in the trivia contest. As a prize, the winning team got a copy of the new 10th-anniversary edition of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.
- We also gave prizes for best costume, and probably should have given prizes for best recipe/food.
- Beaverton Powell's loaned us their really cool Hogwarts house banners and some other Potter props.

-Oregon Episcopal School Upper School.

► Book talks on banned books including reasons that books are challenged and the school district's process for challenging books and, if you have them, personal stories of actual challenges.

-Bend Public Schools, Wilson High School (Portland Public Schools)

► Discuss the concept of banned books and free speech with all 4-6 grade classes along with a display of banned books in the library.

-Skyline School (Portland Public Schools)

► Discussion with 5th graders about why the First Amendment is so important to our library and each student.

-Alameda Elementary School (Portland Public Schools)

► Place banned books on the school library check out counter. The lesson of the week is to try and figure out why the book was banned. Use an older book to show that it is not just modern books that have been banned or challenged. I used 1820 edition of Young's Night Dreams that had been banned from the New York Public Library. -
Columbia City Elementary School (St. Helens School District)

► During library visit of 4th and 5th graders, we looked at books in the library, and how I, as a librarian, make decisions when I am weeding books. We then discussed whether I should be able to take books out of the library because I don't like them. Then we talked about how I should handle it if someone else comes in and says that they don't like the book. Then I showed them the library policy as it exists.

-James John Elementary School (Portland Public Schools)

Elementary Schools (cont.)

▶ Do a banned books display in school library for Open House.

-Several elementary schools.

▶ Show 5th grade students a list of books in the library that were on the banned book list. Ask the kids if they have read one or more titles on the list. Then do a PowerPoint presentation about our First Amendment rights. Explain Banned Books Week.

-Alameda Elementary School (Portland Public Schools)

▶ Have 4th and 5th graders rummage through the collection looking for challenged books from the ALA challenged books lists. We put red dots on the spines of those books.

-Maplewood Elementary School (Portland Public Schools).

▶ Print out the list of “Challenged Materials in Oregon 1979 – 2007” for library patrons, students and parents to browse.

-Various public and school libraries

▶ Library staff wear “I Read Banned Books” buttons.

-Many libraries

Middle Schools

- ▶ Use the school's closed circuit television station for two minute public service announcement on BBW including reviews of banned and challenged titles.
-The Dalles Middle School

- ▶ I gave the 7/8th graders ALA lists of banned books and had them pull which ones we had from the shelves. Then I arranged them in a display and made presentations to classes. I asked what they thought these books had in common. We discussed "appropriate" books, censorship and the 1st Amendment. There were some great discussions and many of the books got checked out.
-Marysville School (Portland Public Schools)

- ▶ Used a bulletin board in the corridor outside the library to promote intellectual freedom and various forms of censorship. Over the course of the week I would place several of the buttons on the bulletin board with an Alice in Wonderland-type message, "Take me."
-The Dalles Middle School, North Wasco County Schools

- ▶ Circulate information about Banned Books week at building staff meetings, including ALA's top 100 Banned Books and the School District's list of challenges and outcomes. Have Homeroom teachers give students Banned Books Week bookmarks and facilitate discussions about the banning and challenging of books in schools. Recruit teachers to read from Banned Books to kids in the cafeteria during lunch
-Beaverton School District Arts and Communication Magnet Academy

- ▶ Book talk challenged books to middle school social science and language arts classes using various titles and have discussions about the issues of intellectual freedom.
-The Dalles Middle School

- ▶ Give a presentation to Language Arts about banned books and told students about the Banned Book Challenge – read a banned book and get a button. Use the ACLU flyer "What do the following books have in common?" as the first slide.
-Inza R. Wood Middle School Library (Wilsonville)

- ▶ Book talks on banned books including reasons that books are challenged and the school district's process for challenging books and, if you have them, personal stories of actual challenges.
-Bend Public Schools, Wilson High School (Portland Public Schools)

- ▶ Print out the list of "Challenged Materials in Oregon 1979 – 2007" for library patrons, students and parents to browse.
-Various public and school libraries

- ▶ Library staff wear "I Read Banned Books" buttons
-Many libraries

High Schools

▶ Use school announcement system to inform student body of Banned Books Week and library activities. Made to the student body at beginning of week.

-*Taft High School (Lincoln County SD), Thurston High School (Springfield School District).*

▶ Radio Station Interview about Banned Books.

-*North Wasco County School District*

▶ 15 minute Keynote presentation was presented to entire student body over a week and a half. Included a video clip of Nazis burning books in Berlin.

-*Beaverton School District Library*

▶ The library assistant was “Banned Book Lady” for the superhero dress-up day during Homecoming week (same week as BBW). She had pictures of banned books and “I read banned books” buttons all over her cape. She gave the buttons away to anyone who said they had read one of the banned books. Some staff wore buttons also.

-*The Dalles Wahtonka High School*

▶ Have your school newspaper interview you Banned Books Week or censorship.

-*Cleveland High School (Portland Public Schools), Grants Pass High School*

▶ Post flyers all over school, advertising banned book week and the buttons.

- *Newport High School*

▶ The high school student literacy team put up a whole bulletin board in the hallway with "banned books". The Language Arts teachers participated by discussing the meaning of celebrating banned books with some of their classes.

-*Canby High School*

▶ Set up a Banned Books Blog, in which students can go online and write a short summary about a banned book they had read along with why they thought it was challenged, and if they were glad they read the book or not. Give a “I Read Banned Books” button to all who post.

-*Wilson High School*

▶ Give “I Read Banned Books” buttons to language arts teachers to wear during BBW.

-*Cottage Grove High School, Silverton High School*

▶ Give to language arts teachers for students in their classes.

-*Madison High School (PPS).*

▶ Send the list to teachers as part of an initial e-mail to them encouraging them to celebrate their freedom to read and to share their excitement about reading with students.

-*Sandy High School (Oregon Trail School District)*

High Schools (cont.)

▶ Hand out “I Read Banned Books” buttons to interested students.

-South Albany High School, Jesuit High School

▶ Information at the circulation desk: copies of the half-sheet flyer based on books challenged in Oregon; a list of all of the books we had in our displays, and a printout explaining why Harry Potter is banned.

-Cottage Grove High School

▶ Pass the flyer out to teachers and display it in the library.

-Taft High School (Lincoln County School District)

▶ Put in the school-wide announcement on the Friday before BBW that the first 30 students who came to the library and told us the title of a banned book that they had read would get a button.

-Cottage Grove High School

▶ Created BBW laminated bookmarks on colored paper with quotes about censorship and banned books on one side and “celebrate your freedom to read” on the other side. Created a display with the bookmarks and each student was allowed one bookmark. Nearly 100 were taken over the course of the week.

-Cottage Grove High School

▶ Circulate information about Banned Books week at building staff meetings, including ALA's top 100 Banned Books and the School District's list of challenges and outcomes. Have Homeroom teachers give students Banned Books Week bookmarks and facilitate discussions about the banning and challenging of books in schools. Recruit teachers to read from Banned Books to kids in the cafeteria during lunch

-Beaverton School District Arts and Communication Magnet Academy

▶ Book talks on banned books including reasons that books are challenged and the school district's process for challenging books and, if you have them, personal stories of actual challenges.

-Bend Public Schools, Wilson High School (Portland Public Schools)

▶ Students, teachers and staff were invited to list their favorite “banned book” and name a “I Read Banned Books!” banner. Each entrant received a banned book button. The banner was displayed in the library.

-Sandy High School, Oregon Trail School District

▶ Print out the list of “Challenged Materials in Oregon 1979 – 2007” for library patrons, students and parents to browse.

-Various public and school libraries

High Schools (cont.)

▶ Wrapped a double sided book case filled with I “Banned or Challenged Books” with Caution Tape and would not let the students check them out for a week. That sparked a LOT of discussion! I also ran daily trivia questions on the morning announcements. Students would come into the library and place their answers in a box. I drew names for prize and handed out “I Read Banned Books” buttons to students who participated and to teachers who where very excited to wear them!

-Sprague High School (Salem-Keizer School District)

▶ Distributed to all the Language Arts Teachers to a flyer announcing Banned Books Week to which was attached an “I Read Banned Books” button. The flyer included websites for more information from the information distributed to libraries participating in *Celebrate the Freedom to Read in Oregon*. Buttons were also given to members of the Library Club. The remaining buttons were put by the Banned Books Display. When a student asked if they could have one, we gave one to them.

-Grants Pass High School

▶ When students came to the library for book talks, ask the students from each class if they could tell me what was special about the books selected for them to hear about. The student who had the right response - that the books had been challenged or banned - received one of the "I read Banned Books" buttons.

-Jefferson Campus (Portland Public Schools)

▶ Library staff wear “I Read Banned Books” buttons.

-Many libraries

Academic Libraries

▶ Use the front page of the library's web site to inform readers about Banned Books Week. Include local call numbers and highlight the area of concern regarding the banned or challenged book.

-Portland Community College

▶ An instructor made viewing the library's BBW display an assignment. Each student who viewed the display got a button.

-Southwestern Oregon Community College

▶ Banned Books Lyceum on Censorship in Media and Expression.

- Concordia University College of Theology, Arts, & Sciences and the Libraries of Concordia University

▶ Hold a Banned Book Party, include an open discussion about challenged books and the idea of banning materials. Play a game. For example our display was fire and burning, so we played a game of hot potato. There was an elimination round and the top winners were able to pick their prizes out of a basket. The prizes were copies of challenged books, along with candy bars and coupons that could be used toward paying off library fines.

-Warner Pacific College

▶ Set up a display of banned/challenged books at our College's Fall Picnic. We gave out buttons, bookmarks, etc. and answered questions about the books on display.

-Linn-Benton Community College

▶ Put "I Read Banned Books" buttons in the library's display for patrons to take.

-Stayton Public Library, Jefferson County Library, Portland Community College and others

▶ I printed out (on colorful paper) lists of books that have been challenged (from the ALA website) and scattered the buttons around the lists (in a frame-like fashion); students were welcome to help themselves to a pin – their proximity to the lists encouraged perusal/browsing of the lists. I displayed them near my desk so that I could observe responses and engage students.

-Western Culinary Institute

▶ Give a button (as long as they last) to students who put a sticker next to the titles of those banned books they have read.

-Everest College Library

▶ Hosted a banned-themed party to celebrate Banned Books with a drawing for various items ordered from the ALA website. During the party, we discussed some of the books on the challenged materials list and passed out "I Read Banned Books" Buttons.

-Warner Pacific College Library

Academic Libraries (cont.)

▶ Used a “Wild West” theme for the display and advertising. Ads designed as “Wanted” posters were placed around campus, each with a photo of a banned/challenged book, as well as the place and date of the challenge. The ads invited people to come to the library to find out why the books had been banned/challenged. The display carried on the theme, with Western-style “props”, and books displayed with reasons for banning. Along with the buttons, we also created bookmarks that explained the purpose of Banned Books Week.

-Pacific University

▶ We made a large sign and display that raised the idea that censorship stifles creativity and posted it around campus. We did a second display about First Amendment rights and Supreme Court cases that challenged intellectual freedom and spread that around campus. We discussed intellectual freedom and creativity around our campus in informal ways.

-Marylhurst University Library

▶ Bookmark or include Links from the OPAC to the list of Challenged Materials in Oregon on the ACLU of Oregon website.

-Dallas and McMinnville Public Libraries, Southwestern Oregon Community College

▶ Library staff wear “I Read Banned Books” buttons.

-Many libraries

Bookstores

▶ Put the “I Read Banned Books” on the counter as free give-aways, with a stuffed animal holding a sign that says "raise awareness, read good books, take a button".

-Twenty-Third Avenue Books (Portland)

▶ Use the list to select books for a display or to indicate in the display those which have been challenged in Oregon.

-Various libraries and bookstores.

▶ Use the flyer in a BBW display and/or at the circulation desk

-Various libraries and bookstores

▶ Put the flyer at eye level on the front door.

-Book Stop (Hood River)