

## Additional Programming Ideas for a Teen Halloween

Programming for teens can be a difficult challenge, especially in a library setting. With a wide variety of ages covered by the label 'teen,' it may seem impossible to run a program that everyone will enjoy, not to mention one that accounts for varying reading levels and diverse interests.

Below are a few ideas on the topic of Halloween, to help get you started.

### **Scary Movie Night**

This program is simple and easy to run. Pick out your library collection's classic scary films that have accompanying books and are appropriate for teens. Display these books during the film screenings and encourage your audience to pick one up after the show. Encourage dressing up and give away prizes for the best costumes, and have lots of snacks.

### **Tell Ghost Stories**

Ask your writer-in-residence or another favourite local author to come in and read local ghost stories. For spooky story ideas see your own library archives, city archives, or another local history organization. Finish the program off with a ghost story contest and let teens

come up and tell their own original ghost story. Have a vote to decide who has the scariest story and give extra points to those stories that the participants claim are 'true.'

### **Gourd Painting**

It is most likely that pumpkin carving will not be allowed at your library, as this activity requires the use of candles and knives. So consider gourd painting as a creative alternative. Purchase numerous small gourds and have teens paint them with acrylic paint. The smaller the gourds, or larger the teams, the more challenging the program may be. Encourage your participants to not only paint scary figures, but also a scene from their favourite book, a caricature of their favourite author, etc.

### **Halloween Around the World**

Explore the origins of Halloween and the similar festivals of other cultures. Give a small presentation on the history of Halloween, tying in resources from your library. Encourage teens to come dressed up in an outfit that shows their cultural heritage, not necessarily a Halloween costume. Following the presentation, have each teen take a turn telling the

group about their culture in general, how they personally celebrate Halloween, and if they have ever celebrated a ‘traditional’ Halloween before with their families.

### **Trick-or-Read**

Have teens roam around to the various library desks or departments, ie. reference services, technology services, children’s department, sign-out desk, etc. and trick-or-treat. However, in order to get a treat, each teen must answer a question based on the stories from the various teen horror novels within the library.

### **Coffee Filter Ghosts**

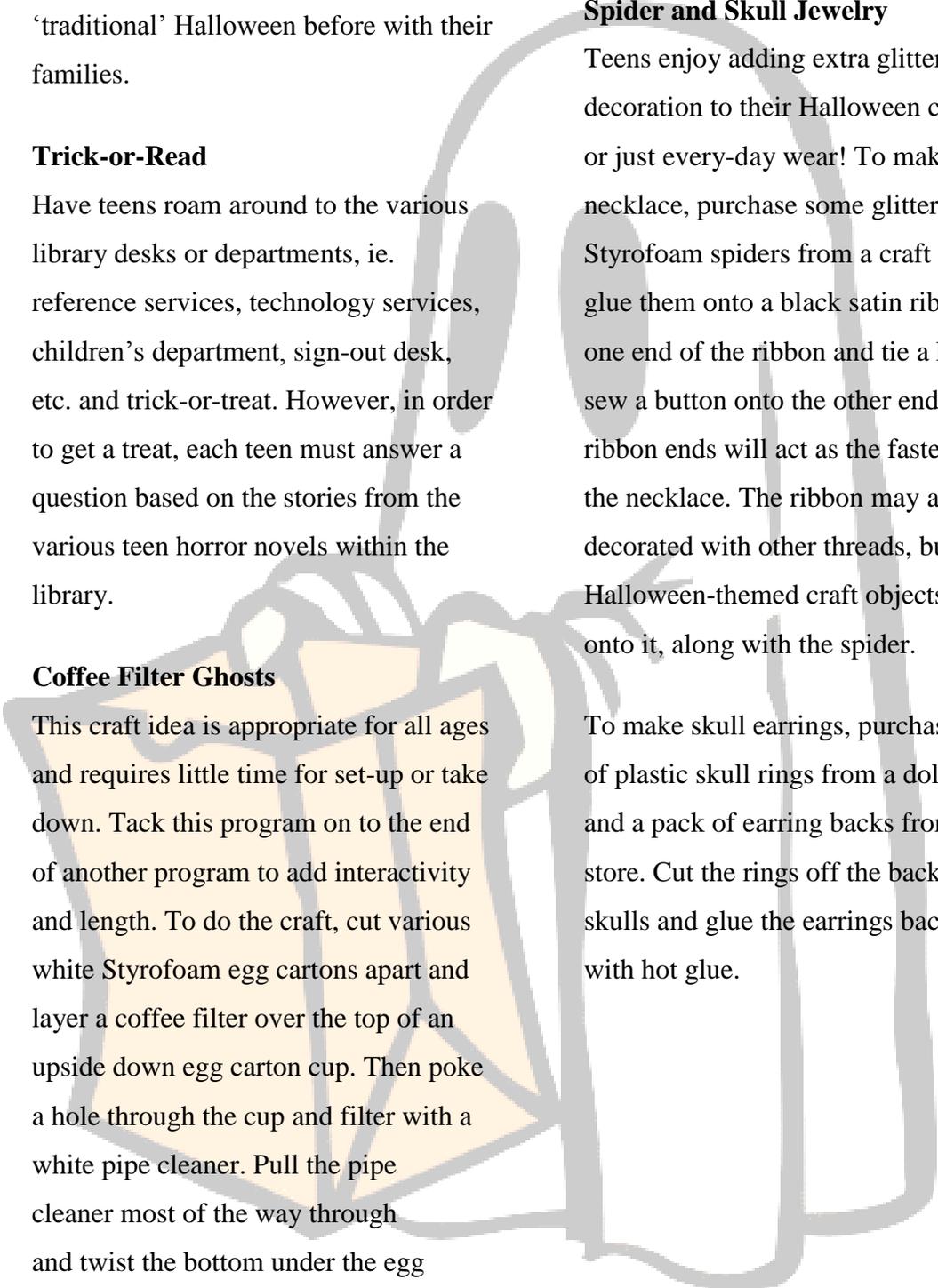
This craft idea is appropriate for all ages and requires little time for set-up or take down. Tack this program on to the end of another program to add interactivity and length. To do the craft, cut various white Styrofoam egg cartons apart and layer a coffee filter over the top of an upside down egg carton cup. Then poke a hole through the cup and filter with a white pipe cleaner. Pull the pipe cleaner most of the way through and twist the bottom under the egg carton so it won’t pull through all the way. Add wiggly eyes and let your

program participants wave their ghosts around!

### **Spider and Skull Jewelry**

Teens enjoy adding extra glitter and decoration to their Halloween costumes, or just every-day wear! To make a spider necklace, purchase some glittery Styrofoam spiders from a craft store, glue them onto a black satin ribbon, loop one end of the ribbon and tie a knot and sew a button onto the other end. These ribbon ends will act as the fastener for the necklace. The ribbon may also be decorated with other threads, buttons, or Halloween-themed craft objects glued onto it, along with the spider.

To make skull earrings, purchase a pack of plastic skull rings from a dollar store and a pack of earring backs from a craft store. Cut the rings off the backs of the skulls and glue the earring backs on with hot glue.



## References

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