

STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the period of early adolescence (10- to 15-year olds) is a distinct, developmental period between childhood and full adolescence; and

WHEREAS, this period has been little understood nor its importance recognized; and

WHEREAS, youth between the ages of approximately 10- to 15-year olds undergo more extensive physical, mental, social, moral, and emotional changes, with the possible exception of infancy, than at any other time of life; and

WHEREAS, the attitudes and values young adolescents develop during these formative years largely determine their later behavior; and

WHEREAS, parents continue as primary models and guides, even as young adolescents give increased attention to peer groups; and

WHEREAS, the community itself is also a "classroom" in which young adolescents learn many lessons; and

WHEREAS, much valuable information and research about this important age group now exists and should be circulated,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2003 as

YOUNG ADOLESCENT MONTH

in Tennessee, and encourage all Tennesseans join the celebration by extending their knowledge about these critical years and undertaking actions that will support the healthy development of young adolescents.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 2nd day of September, 2003.



Governor

