

# LITERACY CHAMPIONS

A HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Empowering Youth Literacy Advocates  
**STORYTIMEVILLAGE.ORG**



# THE COMMITMENT

Literacy Champions commit to one year of service. The youth will serve in three capacities:

1

## SERVICE

Literacy Champions serve as “reading buddies,” to Title I students who are not reading at grade level. It is proven that the one-on-one approach is an effective way of helping students to improve their reading scores and develop many other great qualities like reading confidence.

2

## ADVOCACY

Literacy Champions join High school students from across Kansas each year at the Kansas State Capitol for Literacy Day. The day features panel discussions, workshops and the opportunity to network and discuss these important issues with state leaders.

3

## LEADERSHIP

Literacy Champions participate in leadership training and are empowered to be leaders in their own schools and community. They actively educate and recruit their peers to become advocates for the literacy issue.



# THE LITERACY ISSUE

National research shows that one in four children in America grows up without learning how to read. Students unable to read on grade level by third grade are four times less likely to graduate high school, and if living in poverty, 13 times less likely.

Testing shows these statistics hold true in our local community, as well. In 2016, 33% of Wichita third-graders scored at the lowest level on the state reading test. This increased to 42.5% in 2017, with percentages being significantly higher among black and Hispanic students and those with disabilities. Standard reading measures show declines in the reading ability of Wichita's children, and according to the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, nearly one-third of Kansas fourth-graders are unable to read at a basic level.



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In 2016 Storytime Village launched the Literacy Champions program with 30 Upper school students from The Independent School.

Literacy Champions is a high school leadership program with a goal to empower and inspire students to discover and maximize their leadership and volunteer skills while helping to impact the literacy issue in the city of Wichita and the state of Kansas.

The involvement of our community's youth in children's literacy awareness and service is particularly important because our youth are indeed our future leaders. The Literacy Champions program prepares the emerging generation to step up and lead. This program mobilizes high school students to raise their voices to bring awareness to the literacy achievement gap in the city of Wichita and the state of Kansas.



## "GROWING YOUNG LEADERS"

The Champions currently accomplish our goal by serving as "book buddies," reading one-on-one to the readers that need the most support at the Title I school, Spaght Science and Communication Magnet. Through a U.S. Department of Education study reported by Teacher Vision, it is proven that this one-on-one approach is an effective way to help students improve their reading scores and develop many other qualities like reading confidence.

The Literacy Champions also participate in leadership and advocacy training along with recruiting their peers to join the program.

## "MOBILIZING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO RAISE THEIR VOICES TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT GAP "