



## Tell Me a Story: Activity Planning Ideas

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The National Council of Teachers of English founded National Day on Writing, celebrated nationally on October 20, because writing is critical to literacy and needs greater attention and celebration.

Story time isn't just for adults to read or tell stories to children. When children tell and write their own stories, they use their imagination and creativity, develop language skills, learn presentation skills and organizational thought and utilize vocabulary and proper grammar. It could even provide an outlet for children to share their thoughts and feelings about a difficult subject.

**For the fourth quarter activity (October-December), help bring greater attention to and celebrate writing** by bringing members together to create paper booklets for children and then work with them one-on-one to write their own stories. (See the [campaign toolkit](#) for complete details about the 2023 national fraternal campaign.)

Below, find **suggestions on selecting a group to work with** for your activity, plus tips for **hosting the activity** and **activity ideas for each category**. For details on Modern Woodmen's service project, educational event and Hometown Hero activities, as well as premier requirements, refer to the 2023 Fraternal Leader Handbook. **Note: for this activity to count toward premier, it must be held in October.**

## Selecting a recipient

### 1. Select a group that:

- Is known for working with children.
- Your members will enthusiastically support.

**2. Include your leadership team and others as you plan.** Some members may have connections to organizations in your community.

**3. Make an impact locally.** Select from groups like:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Childhood centers
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Afterschool programs
- Summer day camps
- Mother's Day Out programs
- Parent/child play groups

### Share your impact for a chance to win!

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30 leaders will win a 12-month Amazon Prime subscription (or Amazon gift card of equal value).

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After reporting the activity, complete the [Q4 Raising Readers Impact Survey](#) to enter your name in the prize drawing!

- Children's literacy organizations
- Homeless shelters
- Hospitals
- Homeschool associations

**4. Showcase what the organization does for children in your community.** Ask your recipient to share with members at the activity what their organization's efforts do for children's literacy and how members are helping make an impact with this activity.

## Hosting the activity

**When selecting a group to work with,** be sure to find out how many children will be present at the time of the activity. It may also help to know their ages. This will help you plan ahead so each child receives at least one paper booklet and members who sign up for the activity have a child to work with.

**When creating the booklets,** you could make basic ones or get creative. This video provides some instructions on how to make them: [Making a Homemade Children's Book](#). At a minimum, you'll need construction and printer paper. The booklets can be made ahead of time and donated or take it a step further by creating them with the children and helping them write their stories.

**Remember to order supplies,** such as the Raising Readers Donated By Stickers (F-624) and Raising Readers Hometown Hero Card (F-623). Put the special donated by stickers on the back of the paper booklets before giving them to the children.

**At the activity,** have members work one-on-one with children on writing their stories. If children are struggling, you could give them some writing prompts or a certain topic to write about. (See "service project" below in "Activity idea add-ons" for writing prompt ideas.)

**After the activity,** be sure to submit your report on time and complete the Q4 survey to be entered into the prize drawing.

## Activity idea add-ons

**This activity can be a service project, educational event or Hometown Hero,** depending on what works best for your chapter/club. Before requesting the activity, decide what type of activity it is. You could keep it simple or go above and beyond by adding on to the activity with some of the following activity ideas.

**Note that if you add any of these "extras" to the activity, at a minimum, booklets need to be made and delivered to children in your community.**

### Service project

- Create Lifebooks for children using this website: [IFAPA Lifebook Pages](#)
- Use creative writing prompts in the booklets to help get children writing: [225 Creative Writing Prompts for Kids in All Grade Levels](#)
- Order premade booklets for members to use when working one-on-one with children instead of making them: [Paperback Blank Story Books for Children](#)

### Hometown Hero\*

- Have the children sign the Raising Readers Hometown Hero Card (F-623) before giving it to the honoree.
- Bring a book-shaped cake, cookies or a [literacy-themed snack](#) to the event.
- Give a small gift to the honoree, such as a [fun inexpensive book-themed item](#).
- Ask members to help create a gift basket for the honoree.

\*Be sure to have your Hometown Hero recipient determined ahead of time.

### Educational event

- Consider gathering members at a craft store to create the booklets.
- Enlist a local crafter to lead the booklet making.
- Invite a local book publisher to talk about how books are made or take a tour of a local publishing company.
- Ask a local author to share his/her approach to writing.