



OPERATION STORYTIME



**Story Station Coordinator
Training**



WHAT WE DO

Connect military families
through reading every day,
no matter the distance.

.....



OUR IMPACT

More than 3 million military
family members connected
through shared storytime
moments since 1989.

United Through Reading Meets Urgent Needs

THE NEED CONTINUES

- Military duty still takes service members away from home
- Military children need a strong reading foundation to ensure success now more than ever

Time apart due to military duty can be difficult for families, and especially for children.

READING SCORES

DOWN 5 POINTS

SINCE 2020

1.6

MILLION
MILITARY
CHILDREN

100,000

MILITARY PARENTS ARE DEPLOYED
AROUND THE WORLD EVERY YEAR

MILITARY
FAMILIES
MOVE EVERY

2-3 YEARS

Keeping Military Families Connected and Resilient

Our Storytime Recordings are there every day for families, no matter the distance.

United Through Reading helps children feel connected to their parent and provides a sense of normalcy and comfort during any challenging time.

With United Through Reading, military moms, dads, aunts, uncles, older siblings, godparents, and mentors have the opportunity to be **video-recorded reading storybooks** to ANY CHILD in their lives. This is a FREE service for Active-Duty, Reservists and Veterans.

The recording along with the book are given to the child to be watched and enjoyed whenever they are missing their service member due to deployment, training, or any requirements of duty.

- **Mission READ:** military children are reading every day.
- **Mission READY:** more reading ready our military families build a stronger our nation today and tomorrow.
- **Mission REACH:** reading reaches every part of our military community
- **Mission RECONNECT:** military families connect through reading every day

In 2022,
we reached

85,992

families through

417

Story Stations +

498

events!

Will You Save Precious

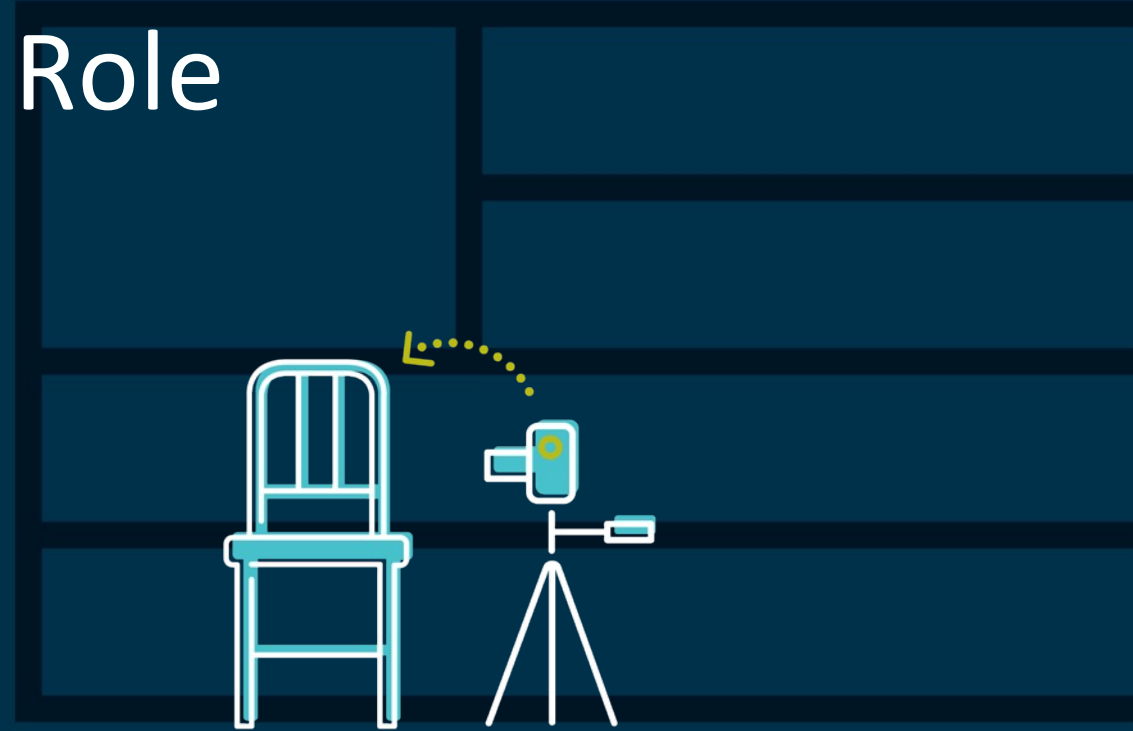
STORYTIME MOMENTS



Story Station Coordinator Role

Operation Storytime Checklist

- ✓ Complete Training
- ✓ Receive and Manage Supplies
- ✓ Recruit Volunteers to Assist
- ✓ Promote Recording Opportunities
- ✓ Facilitate Recordings
- ✓ Submit Monthly Reports



Story Station Tool Kit

Supplies and Equipment

- Story-time Library: Children's Books for recording stories.
- Program Materials & Equipment: Backdrops, Brochures, Recording equipment if needed (tablet, or video camera with SD cards).
- Seasonal book additions for actively participating Story Stations.

Resources

- Communications templates.
- Programmatic support throughout the year.
- Recording Event facilitation (where available).
- UTR App How to Guide.

Before A Recording Event

Prepare Your Story Station

- ✓ Inventory books and materials. Request more, if needed.
- ✓ Designate a recording space, hang your UTR backdrop to soften it. Recording space should provide privacy for readers.
- ✓ Test your recording equipment.

Prepare Your Service Members

- ✓ Promote United Through Reading and the Story Station at Resource Fairs, briefs, and other events.
- ✓ Schedule Recording Days events to meet and create demand signal.
- ✓ Encourage service members to download the UTR App prior to departing for deployment or travel.

Engaging Your Customers

Encourage Participation

- ✓ Create and post a Sign Up
- ✓ Market the Program across Command Communications
- ✓ Brief newcomers and post signage in living/temporary quarters
- ✓ Host Birthday Recordings Each Month
- ✓ Read a Bedtime Story!

Facilitate Recordings

- ✓ Coach the reader by having them look over the book, prepare an opening by addressing the child, turn the book towards the camera, ask questions, encourage closing remarks and have fun.
- ✓ Set books out for participants to choose from and assist in choosing a book if needed.
- ✓ After recording, Service Members mail book to the child.

Tracking Recordings and Volunteer Hours

Site Coordinator

- ✓ Retain Sign Up Sheets to track recording numbers and volunteer hours
- ✓ Volunteers earn 30 minutes per recording; Site Coordinator earns additional 5 hours per month
- ✓ Submit the Monthly Report to your UTR POC

UTR Program Manager

- ✓ Provide LOA/COA for volunteers upon request
- ✓ Send additional supplies as needed
- ✓ Market the program to FRG, Ombudsman/Key spouse and families at home.



Leveraging the United Through Reading App to Save Storytime Recordings

SELF SERVICE USING THE UTR APP

- Readers can download the UTR App prior to departure.
- Readers make recordings using the UTR App on their device. Add a recipient and SAVE the recording.
- Readers can upload their recording(s) where Wi-Fi or cellular service is available.*
- Recipients will receive the recording and instructions for receiving their FREE book, courtesy of UTR.

**Carrier charges may apply*



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



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FAQ

Q: What is United Through Reading ?

A: United Through Reading (UTR), the nation's first nonprofit to promote the read aloud experience, provides a meaningful opportunity for Service Members to stay connected to the children in their lives via video recordings of them reading aloud. These powerful emotional connections help relieve the stress of time apart, increase Service Member and family morale, and help increase literacy and a love of reading. We currently serve all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Q: Who can participate?

A: This program is for ALL Service Members and Veterans (Active Duty, Reservists, and National Guard) to read to ANY child in their lives that they might be separated from due to military service (deployments, schools, medical reasons) Parents can read to their children, older siblings can read to younger brothers or sisters, uncles and aunts to nieces or nephews. You define your family; we provide United Through Reading to keep you connected to them.

Q: Why is it important that I read with my children?

A: Reading aloud with children strengthens your bond, encourages communication, reduces your stress AND your loved one's stress and promotes a joy of reading. All of these benefits have long range impacts, for example, reading aloud has also been shown to be the single best predictor of a child's future academic success.

Q: Do I have to be a parent to participate?

A: No. You define your family; we provide United Through Reading to keep you connected to them. This program can be utilized by all military personnel who want to read aloud to the children who are special to them younger brothers or sisters, nieces or nephews, grandchildren, or even children they are mentoring or volunteering with while on deployment or during any other separation. A great benefit of the program is the bond it creates between the children and the person who is away for long periods of time, and the continuity of connection.

Q: Can I make United Through Reading videos for my spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend?

A: Our mission is to encourage literacy and facilitate supportive relationships for children through families and friends reading aloud with them. Other uses of a site's equipment are not part of the United Through Reading program.

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Thank You!

You are the key to uniting military families facing physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud together.

Thank you for your dedication and all your efforts.



FOR MORE INFO

Contact us at military@utr.org

