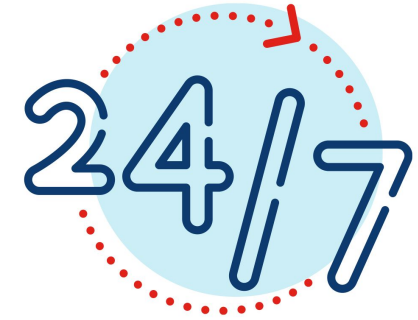




Why Shared Storytime On-Demand Matters



- Recorded Videos create an **On Demand** experience. Children of all ages can feel connected, maintain routines, and experience shared storytime, even when their service member is unavailable.
- Shared storytime helps younger children establish reading routines.
- Connecting to tweens and teens can be HARD. Shared storytime provides an opportunity to connect and create a positive experience.

Key Talking Points for Promoting Your Story Station



- Our **On Demand Storytime Recordings** are there every day for families, no matter the time of day and no matter the distance.
- United Through Reading helps children feel connected to their parent or caregiver and provides a sense of normalcy and comfort during any challenging time.
- Children of ALL AGES benefit from Storytime Recordings, even tweens and teens – they may need it the most!
- This is a **FREE** service for Active-Duty, Guard, Reservists and Veterans. With United Through Reading, military moms, dads, aunts, uncles, older siblings, godparents, and mentors can **video-record themselves reading storybooks** to ANY CHILD in their lives.
- 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.

Story Station Coordinator Responsibilities

Recording Site Checklist

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



Story Station Tool Kit



Supplies and Equipment

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

Resources

- Command Communication Templates
- UTR Volunteer Resources Site
- Programmatic support throughout deployment
- Pre-deployment recording event facilitation (in some locations)
- Pre-Deployment support when referred
- UTR App How to Guide

Preparing For Deployment



Prepare Your Story Station

- ✓ Inventory books, SD cards, and envelopes. 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 the Story Station at Command and Resource Fairs, briefs, and other events
- ✓ Schedule a pre-deployment Recording Day, your UTR Program Manager can help in some locations
- ✓ Encourage service members to download the UTR App prior to departure

During Deployment



Encourage Participation

- ✓ Create a sign up for service members
- ✓ Market the program during All Hands, POD, morning muster
- ✓ Host birthday and holiday recordings each month
- ✓ Engage with FRG and Ombudsman to promote the program to families at home

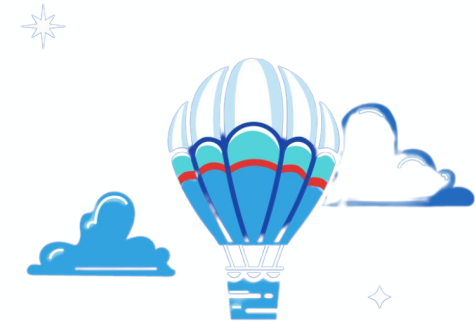
During Recording Events

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 the SD card and book to the child or upload video when made on a personal device.



Tracking Recordings and Volunteer Hours



Story Station Coordinator

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

UTR Staff

- ✓ Provide LOA/COA for volunteers upon request
- ✓ Send additional supplies as needed
- ✓ Market the program to the broader community

Using the UTR App



UTR APP Sends Recordings Directly to Families

- Readers can download the UTR App when WiFi or cellular connection are available.
- Readers make recordings using the UTR App on their device. Add a recipient and SAVE the recording.
- Readers can upload their recording(s) for email and App delivery to recipients when connected.
- Recipients will receive the recording and instructions for receiving their FREE book, courtesy of UTR.

**Carrier charges may apply*

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 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! United Through Reading is here to keep you connected to them through deployment or any other separation.

Q: Why is reading with my children so important?

A: Reading aloud with children strengthens family bonds, encourages communication, reduces your AND your loved one's stress and promotes a love of reading. All of these benefits have long range impacts. As an example, research shows reading aloud 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. This program can be utilized by all military personnel who want to read aloud to children who are special to them: younger brothers or sisters, nieces or nephews, grandchildren, or even children they mentor or volunteer with. 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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