



Virtual StoryTent Info for Administrators

About

Traveling Stories: Empowering Children to Achieve their Dreams

We are a nonprofit organization that has been active in San Diego since 2010! Traditionally we've served children through weekly, in-person StoryTents at farmers markets and malls in underserved communities. In 2020, due to COVID-19, we pivoted to an online model.



Watch the video!

<https://youtu.be/tsFtl-orpl4>

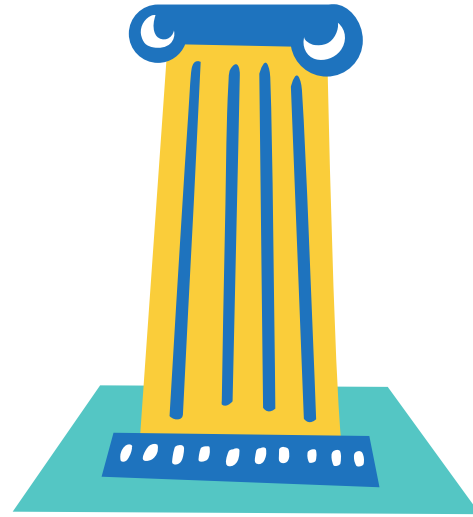


Virtual StoryTent

Developed in response to Covid-19, the Virtual StoryTent matches children entering K-2nd grade with reading mentors for weekly, one-on-one video StoryTent sessions. During sessions, children read and chat about books with their mentor.

For every book read, children earn Virtual Book Bucks, which may be redeemed for prizes through Traveling Stories' new online prize store. The program duration is six weeks with one 30-45 minute session each week. Parents may re-enroll their children in the program.

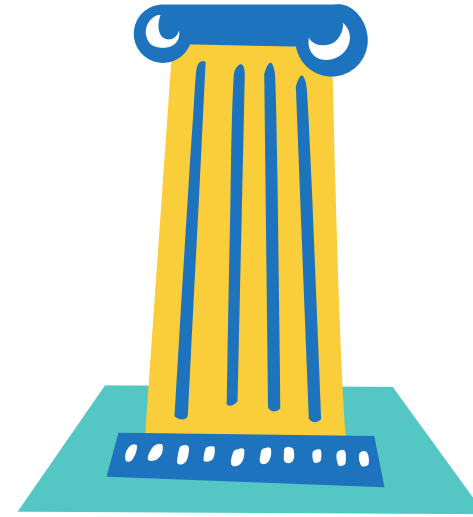
Program Pillars



Literacy

Children fall in love with reading and develop reading proficiency.

Children are more likely to enjoy school and engage in learning.



Mentorship

Children build trust with a dependable community member.

Children become more confident and learn strong communication skills.



Goal-Setting

Using Book Bucks and prizes, children set goals and work with their mentor to achieve them.

Children learn delayed gratification and believe in their ability to achieve.



Volunteers

Who are the Virtual StoryTent Volunteers and how are they vetted?

**All Volunteers
must
complete the
following
requirements:**

- Be at least 15 years old
- Complete a Volunteer Application
- Pass a Level 2 Advance Criminal Background Check - Run by Sterling Volunteers
 - **If additional background check is needed, we would be willing to comply**
- Complete a Virtual video Interview with Traveling Stories
- Complete 2+ Hours of Virtual Training covering topics including:
 - Child development and engagement
 - Program Safety
 - How to make reading fun virtually
 - How to use the Virtual StoryTent platform



Program Sessions

When does the program take place?

Here our expected program start dates for 2021:

Mid February / enrollment opens Feb 1
Mid April / enrollment opens April 1
Mid June / enrollment opens June. 1
Mid August / enrollment opens Aug. 1
Mid October / enrollment opens Oct. 1

What is the Program Schedule?

When parents register a child for the program, they will have the opportunity to select the day and time of their child's weekly session from the following options:

Wednesdays at 3pm, 4pm or 5pm PST
Saturdays at 9am, 10am, or 11am PST

Do you send Parents reminders?

Yes! When parents register for the program they also sign up for reminders by phone or email. Every week, parents get reminders the day before and the day-of their child's session. This has proven to increase program engagement!

Do parents participate?

For safety reasons, at least one parent or guardian must be home and within the child's earshot during sessions. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend sessions, but they are not required to.

Impact Evaluation

Our goal is to help each child achieve the following results:

- Greater love of reading
- Higher reading level
- More self confidence
- Ability to set a goal and achieve it

We collect data using the following tools:

- Registration form completed by parents
- Reader Development Report - filled out by volunteers after every session
- Surveys filled out by parents and volunteers

What is the data used for?

1. Program evaluation - data is reviewed internally by Traveling Stories staff and used to make program improvements
2. Progress reports for participating schools or organizations
3. Grant applications and reports - as a nonprofit, we rely on grants to subsidize the cost of the program



We value program participant's privacy and follow a strict confidentiality and privacy policy. All personal information is stored securely in accordance with HIPAA.

Is there a cost?

Parents may apply for a scholarship or pay what they can afford on a scale from \$5 to \$50.

If a school or organization elects to participate as a program research partner, Traveling Stories can waive program enrollment fees for all children participating in the research study.



Getting Started

Next Steps:

1. Contact Traveling Stories to register your school or organization as a program site.
2. Market the program to your students and parents with materials provided by Traveling Stories.
3. Collect the names/contact info of parents who are interested in signing up.
4. When enrollment opens, send the program registration link to parents. The link will be provided to you by Traveling Stories.

After registration, Traveling Stories manages all program logistics. At the end of the 6-week program, Traveling Stories will make an impact report available to the participating school or organization.

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