

Project Background

Young Adults' Choices began in 1986 as an annual project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and is currently a joint project of ILA and the Children's Book Council (CBC). Each year, approximately 12,500 students (grades 7–12) from different areas of the United States read hundreds of new titles donated by North American publishers and choose 30 of their favorites.

Project Goals

- Develop an annual annotated reading list of high-quality new books that young adults enjoy
- Give young adults an opportunity to voice their opinions about books written for them
- Help educators, librarians, booksellers, families and caregivers, and others find books that will encourage young adults to read more
- Showcase a diversity of cultures, races, gender identities, and abilities, reflected through authors and illustrators of YA literature

Previous Young Adults' Choices annotated lists are available at <https://literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists/young-adults-choices-reading-list>.

Project Areas

Young Adults' Choices team leaders are selected from five areas of the United States:

- Area 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington
- Area 2: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont
- Area 3: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas
- Area 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Area 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Becoming a Team Leader

ILA members within the United States interested in joining this exciting and worthwhile project are encouraged to apply to become a team leader. To qualify, you must:

- Be employed as an educator in a school or university
- Want to help teachers use young adult literature in the classroom
- Have contacts within local school districts in your state
- Live or work within a reasonable distance of participating schools
- Attend both the project's planning session and the project session during the ILA Conference for all three years of your term
- Possess excellent organizational skills
- Adhere to project deadlines

In addition, team leader applicants must not currently be involved in any other Choices project during the term for which they are applying.

As part of ILA's commitment to diversity, representation, and inclusion, we strongly consider the following areas as part of the vetting process:

- Geographical distribution across the states within the region
- Size and type of project participation group (e.g., college/university/school district; urban/suburban/rural; socioeconomic status)
- School networks with student populations reflecting historically underserved students or minoritized groups

Team Leader Responsibilities

- Commit to a three-year term as a team leader
- Recruit a team of approximately 2,500 students across grades 7–12
- Recruit a diverse group of field leaders among your participating school network and ensure that they collect reviews in a timely fashion
- Receive and inventory 300–500 titles before distributing them to the field leaders
- Distribute books at each participating school and rotate them for maximum and broadest student access
- Promote both your school network's participation in the project, as well as the benefits to students and schools, and the published reading list throughout your professional network and across social media throughout the year
- Annotate books selected for the Young Adults' Choices list
- Participate in Choices-related project programming and events at the ILA Conference
- Communicate closely with program cochairs, including reporting periodically on project progress

If you are committed to high-quality literature for young adults and possess the necessary qualifications, please visit our website (literacyworldwide.org/choices) to fill out the team leader online application form.

For more information, please contact choices@reading.org.