PI BETA PHI’S
read > lead > achieve
MONTH TOOLKIT

pibetaphi.org/literacy
Every September, Pi Beta Phi celebrates Read > Lead > Achieve® Month. As Pi Phi’s philanthropic effort, Read > Lead > Achieve inspires a lifelong love of reading. Throughout the month, we’ll celebrate the literacy service of our members, clubs and chapters; highlight the impact our members can make through support to our Foundation; and share helpful literacy resources and ways members can continue to make a difference in their communities.

Every Pi Phi can be ONE who will participate, donate and advocate for literacy with us. This toolkit provides you with tips and ideas to get involved during Read > Lead > Achieve Month within your club or chapter or as an individual member.

We love sharing stories about the relationships you’re building with organizations in your area. Visit pibetaphi.org/submit to tell us about the great work you’re doing in your community. And, share your passion for literacy by using #readleadachieve or tagging Pi Phi on social media.

Questions? Please reach out to Pi Beta Phi’s Engagement Coordinator, Carolyn Loper, at cloper@pibetaphi.org. You can also find more information at pibetaphi.org/literacy.

**TIP**

Make sure you’re following Pi Phi on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter!
Participate

APPLY FOR AN FDS500 GRANT
Each year, clubs and chapters can nominate organizations to receive grants through Pi Phi’s FDS500 program. The grants are used to purchase up to $1,000 worth of books from First Book®, which are then given to children in need. Grant nominations are accepted from September 1-15, 2021, at pibetaphi.org/literacy.

HOST A VIRTUAL BOOK OR SUPPLY DRIVE
If you can’t gather with sisters to host a traditional book drive, consider holding a virtual drive instead. Connect with an educator, school, library or literacy organization in your community to determine what books and supplies they need. Then, make an online wish list through a site like Amazon and share it with friends to help fulfill those needs.

VOLUNTEER AS A READER
Work with a local elementary school or community organization to volunteer to read aloud to students in the classroom. If in-person classroom visits are not yet possible in your area, you can record yourself reading with a computer or smart phone and share the video. Consider reading classic children’s literature, a book featuring diverse characters or a bilingual title.

CAR IS BACK!
We’re excited to offer the Champions are Readers® program for the 2021-2022 academic year! Clubs and chapters can find more information and order materials on the Pi Phi website.
Donate

MAKE A GIFT TO PI BETA PHI FOUNDATION
Through gifts to The Literacy Fund and The Friendship Fund, our Foundation supports all Read > Lead > Achieve reading initiatives, including Champions are Readers®, Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events, FDS500 grants and more. These gifts also prepare Pi Phi to act when major needs arise — such as our tripled financial commitment to First Book in 2020, helping to distribute seven million books to children in need as schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPLY FOR A LOCAL IMPACT GRANT
Through our Foundation’s Local Impact Grants program, Pi Phis can strengthen the future of their communities by supporting literacy programs close to home. As chapters and clubs fundraise for The Literacy Fund, they’re able to nominate 25% of their gifts to a local nonprofit organization with a mission or special program focused on literacy. Our Foundation then matches that 25%, dollar for dollar.

DID YOU KNOW?
During the 2019–2021 biennium, grants from our Foundation fully funded all Read > Lead > Achieve programs thanks to the generous support of our donors.
**Advocate**

**EDUCATE YOURSELF**
Access to books is critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. Learn more about barriers to literacy and learning by researching educational statistics and trends in your area, the United States and Canada. The resources provided at First Book, First Book Canada and the National Center for Educational Statistics are great places to start.

**ADVOCATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY**
How can you work to inspire a lifelong love of reading among children in your area? Attend in-person virtual school board or parent/teacher association meetings, research volunteer opportunities with local schools and libraries and partner with community leaders to provide more support for community reading programs.

**INSPIRE OTHERS TO JOIN YOU**
Share literacy statistics, stories, photos and quotes on your social media throughout the month. You can reshare content from Pi Phi’s social media accounts or post the ready-to-use graphics below. (Click to download them from the Pi Phi website.)

**SHARE THE POWER OF READING**
Celebrate what we can accomplish — together — through the power of reading by watching and sharing the literacy impact video from Pi Phi’s 2021 Convention.

**SAVE THE DATE**
Fraternity Day of Service Signature Events will return in 2022! The events are scheduled to take place February 25–26, 2022. Watch our social media and visit pibetaphi.org/literacy for more information.
Pi Beta Phi believes in the power of reading

We believe reading always has been — and always will be — a powerful step toward a life of enduring impact. We believe when one in four children grows up unable to read, that’s one child too many.

We believe in inspiring readers, sparking imaginations and igniting the desire to learn, that readers become leaders and that reading is the foundation of all we can achieve in life.

For more than a century, we’ve committed ourselves to creating a more literate and productive society ... one child ... one moment at a time ... one life changed forever.