

SLTC: Get Involved

Everything you need to know to become a part of SLTC!

About Us/The Roles of New Representatives

First things first, here's everything you need to know about SLTC. Feel free to refer back to this page at any time.

SLTC is a teen-led nonprofit based in the Bay Area whose goal is to provide underprivileged children with learning resources, and to spread awareness. SLTC has many plans that we hope to achieve within the upcoming months with the help of you guys! Our most major event is our "national" book drive. With the help of new chapters and project managers, we hope to set up multiple book drives across the country- with all books donated going to children in need. Our executive directors will assist you with promotion, set up, and shipping alongside any other inquiries.

We also plan on holding local literacy awareness weeks where SLTC representatives could possibly speak at their school or library, and distribute pins, stickers, tshirts, etc. That whole week is all about awareness! We want to draw attention to the gaps in literacy and encourage others to help.

Lastly, representatives can donate their time or resources to children locally. We have email templates to send to your local libraries or elementary schools to get you guys started!

Steps to Starting Your Own Chapter

After reaching out to us on our Instagram, or via our website or email wait for us to give you the okay to get started!

The first step would be setting it up. Email or direct message SLTC with your name(s), your current grade in high school, your city and state (so we can help you find places to hold your book drives, volunteer at, etc.).

At this point you can set up your own **Instagram account** (for example if you live in Houston, Texas you should call it @sltc.houston, @spreadingliteracyhouston, or anything else along the lines). This step is optional, if you do not want to promote the organization on your main account. Here's some information we'd want you to include if you go through with this:

Name: Spreading Literacy to Children (City or School Name)

Bio: This is the (city name) chapter of @spreadingliteracy, a teen led nonprofit dedicated to giving learning resources to children, and spreading awareness.

Link our website: <https://sltcorganization.wixsite.com/sltc> and for the location add your city and state.

Remember- you have full creative control over this account! You can post quotes, repost any pictures involving awareness, and definitely post pictures of you guys and what you guys have done. We want to see pictures of your book drives, of you guys reading to children, you name it!

As soon as you're done we'll give you a shoutout and hopefully post information

about the chapter leaders!

Next step would be making an email for your chapter. Again, this is optional but it's ideal for keeping all of your emails organized and separate from personal things. Also, others are more likely to reach out to an email like this. If you go through with it, the email should be something along the lines of (again using the Houston example) sltc.organization.houston@gmail.com, stlc.houston@gmail.com, spreadingliteracyhouston@gmail.com, etc. Whatever you like best works just fine! You can also include this email in your Instagram account.

Leadership positions, and member applications are totally up to the chapter president. We want you guys to run the chapter in a way that's convenient for you!

Setting Up a Book Drive in Your City

This is the largest responsibility for Chapter Presidents or volunteers of SLTC. Holding a book drive in your city involves promotion, finding a place to hold it, asking people in your neighborhood or school, picking up the donations from time to time, and more.

- 1) **Finding a location.** This is one of the most important parts of the drive. Finding a place willing to host your drive can be difficult, but if you reach out to several places you should see good results. Write emails to recreation centers, care homes, elementary schools, middle or high schools, and libraries. Through persistency you should be able to find a place to hold your drive.
- 2) **Spreading awareness.** Next you need to make sure everyone knows about the drive. The best way to do this is through social media, or through community facebook groups with parents willing to donate books they have lying around the house. Our executive directors will assist chapter presidents with making flyers to post or distribute. These will include the dates of the drive as well as the location(s).
- 3) **Boxes.** That's right. Step three is just called boxes. Get together with your friends or family and have fun decorating a big box for donations. You should tape your flyer on the side, and labels we will design on the front. These boxes don't need to be amazing but they should clearly show the cause.
- 4) **Checking up on the box(es).** Once the drives start, be sure to check up on the donations as often as you can. Safely bring them home or another safe

area to make sure all the items stay together and the box doesn't get overfilled.

- 5) **Other means of donations.** It's also important to ask your friends, neighbors, peers, and family if they have any books lying around willing to donate. Most households have **at least** one book or workbook lying around so every person you ask counts.
- 6) **The end.** After the drive is completed, this is when you sort through to books. Make sure the books are in "okay" condition and sort them based on age level. From here what you do is up to you. You can either ship the books back to the SLTC Headquarters in California (we are looking into donating to a third world country and will cover international shipping costs), or look for a shelter or elementary school nearby willing to accept your donations. If you opt for this **make sure to take pictures!! We love to see it.**
- 7) **The actual end.** Be sure to thank everyone who donated, and post on your social media pictures and the number of books donated. We may give t-shirts to the chapter who donated the most books! And also dm us or email us the pictures so we can add them to our website or post them. Our goal is to gather more awareness to make sure the next drive is successful!

Additional Information

Our website: <https://sltcorganization.wixsite.com/sltc>

Our Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/spreadingliteracy/>

Here is the article Julia Tan of Build the Future Blog wrote about us! She captured our start and our purpose quite well:

“The gaps in society continue to grow, causing more underprivileged children to not have access to learning material. Shriya Gattapally and Jheel Gandhi are 16-year-olds from Fremont, California. With their entrepreneurial mindsets, they were able to create Spreading Literacy to Children (SLTC), a teen-led nonprofit based in the Bay Area.

From research, Shriya and Jheel learned that 65% of all jobs in the economy will require postsecondary education. However, students who aren’t at a proficient reading level by 4th grade aren’t likely to continue their education after high school. In order to get to that ultimate goal, students need to build a strong foundation at a young age which they can do by developing their reading and writing skills.

Shriya and Jheel realized how many people do not have equal access to literacy, causing a large gap. This inspired them to make a change, where they could motivate more students to be interested in reading and writing, and to allow underprivileged children to have proper access to learning material.

SLTC was officially created on March 27, 2020, and since then, they have spread awareness about the gaps in literacy, since knowing the facts is the first step toward addressing the problem at-hand. SLTC has also supported other non-profits, and has helped several others set up their own book drives where they live, including in California, North Carolina, and Morocco. Due to COVID-19, they have had the time to reach out to many authors and ask for donations.

SLTC plans to donate books to libraries, elementary schools, hospitals, and shelters. They also want to hold workshops at local libraries where they would read to children to plant a seed of interest so they're motivated to take that extra step to grab a book and well, read it! SLTC hopes to achieve this goal with the help of their community.”