



Children's Choices

A cooperative project of the International Reading Association
and the Children's Book Council

Team Leader Application

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Team Leader for Children's Choices, a project of the International Reading Association (IRA)-Children's Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee. There are numerous factors involved in choosing teams to participate in the Children's Choices review activities. Considerations of geography alone may put a prospective Team Leader "on hold" for a number of years. The Joint Committee keeps all Team Leader Applications on file, and the file is periodically updated; we ask all applicants if they are still interested in participating whenever the file is updated. Team Leaders must be members of the International Reading Association. If you wish to be considered as a Team Leader, please print out, complete, and return the form below. The Committee appreciates your interest.

IRA membership number: _____

Name: _____

Job title and professional affiliation (e.g., school, university, school district): _____

Preferred mailing address (if this is your work address, be certain it is the complete mailing address, even if it repeats information provided above):

Daytime telephone number: _____ Fax number: _____

E-mail address: _____

What is/are the best time(s) to reach you during the working day? _____

Optional: Home telephone: _____ Home fax: _____

Home e-mail: _____

Teams (young readers) consist of 2,000 children, no more, no less. 750 are readers in grades K-2, 750 are readers in grades 3-4, and 500 are readers in grades 5-6. This balance is fixed so that each team has the same number of participants at each reading level. The figures are firm. Ideally, readers should be heterogeneous, representing a variety of communities and socioeconomic populations. Please describe the schools and the student bodies that you project will comprise the team you will assemble. This is an important consideration in selecting Team Leaders, so please be as thorough as possible in your description. Use additional space on the back of this sheet as necessary.

Other factors essential to the success of a Children's Choices team are noted below. Please tell us how you intend to manage these aspects of the project. You may use the back of these sheets or append additional sheets if needed.

There must be a lot of cooperation, support, and enthusiasm for Children's Choices from at least three sources other than Team Leaders:

- A. Would the administrators of participating schools, or of the appropriate departments if a university is involved, wholeheartedly support this project?

- B. Teams have repeatedly advised us that the activity can break down in the classroom if teachers are not enthusiastic supporters. Are you sure that classroom teachers and, when applicable, building-level librarians would be active members of your team?

- C. There is a great deal of work involved in this activity, e.g., keeping records of receipt of books and where they are in circulation, transporting boxes of books from school to school, collecting and tabulating votes, etc. Do you have sufficient clerical staff or parent volunteers to assist your team with this work?

- D. All teams must prepare materials for Children's Choices. The IRA-CBC Joint Committee provides all the books tested in the project and reproducible copies of the Children's Choices logo by Tomie dePaola for

use in the preparation of related materials. Teams must prepare all additional materials, such as ballots, reading record folders, and bookmarks. These materials have proved to be important to teams. While they need not cost a great deal to produce, there must be some funds for preparation. Funds should also be available for supplies such as containers for circulating books through participating classrooms. Teams tell us they spend between \$300 and \$1000 for materials for the project. Do you have, or will you be able to secure, funds for this purpose?

- E. If you are selected as a Team Leader, you or someone in a significant leadership role on your team would have to attend the Team Leader Orientation Session at the IRA convention preceding the beginning of your service. This three-hour session reviews the responsibilities of Team Leaders and the logistics of the project and provides essential information from retiring and continuing Team Leaders.

It is also necessary to attend this meeting at the IRA convention in advance of the second year of your team's participation and the convention following the completion of your team's term. In both these two years, you will be expected to participate in the Team Leader Orientation Session and a special one-hour Children's Choices program during the conference. Can you make this commitment?

If there is anything else you would like to let the committee know about your proposed plans as a Children's Choices Team Leader, you may use the space below or the reverse of this sheet.

Signature

Date

**Please return this form to:
The Children's Book Council, Inc.
Attn.: Children's Choices Team Leader Application
12 West 37th Street
New York, NY 10018-7480**