

# How Do I Become a Project LIT Chapter Leader?

## Jarred Amato

1. Follow us on Twitter (@projectLITcomm) and participate in our #ProjectLITchat (every other Sunday at 6:00 p.m. central) to get a better sense of what we are all about!
2. Complete our chapter leader application: [www.goo.gl/forms/djYj8hyuoWK752ny2](http://www.goo.gl/forms/djYj8hyuoWK752ny2)
3. If accepted, you will gain access to all Project LIT Community resources, checklists, and materials that will help you and your students launch a Project LIT chapter.
4. From there, you will continue to connect and collaborate with fellow chapter leaders (both online and in person) to increase book access and improve reading attitudes in your school and community.

## How Can I Support Project LIT Community?

Our goal is to one day have a successful Project LIT chapter, led by passionate students and teachers, in every community in the country. Please follow us on Twitter (@projectLITcomm) and contact us at [projectlitcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:projectlitcommunity@gmail.com) with any questions!

As David, one of our student leaders, wrote recently: “I never would have started reading without the help of this organization, and now it is an honor to spread that love of books with others in our community. Kids need examples out there, people who bring hope into their lives. Many children crave a book to own and keep, but don’t have that luxury. Fortunately, we can fix that. I am so proud of the hard work and dedication we have put into this organization over the past two years. It is not common to see students bond together like we have. We are determined to save the next generation, and we encourage other schools and communities to join our movement.”

## The Journey

From the beginning, Project LIT Community has been led by our students. After reading about book deserts, we created a logo, drafted a mission and vision, and then got to work solving that problem. Our first step was to launch a book drive, so we wrote persuasive problem-solution letters to local businesses and organizations, created a video to share on YouTube, and began a social media campaign.

The ask was simple—drop off books, used or new, to Maplewood High School Monday through Friday—and, as donations came in, we would spend our lunch period opening boxes, sorting and counting books (we had a running tally on the board), and taking pictures to share out as a way of saying thanks. It didn’t take long for books to feel like presents.

We quickly reached our goal of 5,000 books by Thanksgiving, surpassed 10,000 by Christmas, and stopped keeping track after we hit 15,000 in early 2017. From there, we placed these books in our “LIT” libraries, which were converted *USA Today* newsstands, and set them up in a dozen community centers and YMCAs across Nashville, so that more children could fall in love with reading.