

Patriot Story Hour Instructions

Your **Patriot Story Hour Kit** is designed to give you the tools to plan, schedule and hold two story hour events. The resources and suggestions that we provide in the kit and on our Patriot Story Hour Resource page at cplaction.com/storyhour are just ideas to help you.

You are the host of your story hour. Child Protection League (CPL) is not in any way affiliated with, cohosting or sponsoring Patriot Story Hour (PSH). **You are hosting PSH as a member of your local community, not on behalf of CPL or any other organization.**

PRE-EVENT

- Call or visit your local library and inquire about reserving their conference room for one hour. Most libraries have rooms available. Be sure to do this **at least two weeks in advance** so you can advertise your event.
- Other places to hold Patriot Story Hour: Parks, coffee shops, community centers, city hall.
- You may need to fill out forms with various libraries or other venues. Do that as **individual members of the local community, not as part of any organization**. Venues may want to know if you are part of an organization and then charge you a fee. You are independent, local citizens wanting to read patriotic books to children.
- **Put together a team to help you. Successful story hours need much promotion!** Having three people to run the event itself is adequate but have more if desired. You're the boss!
- Fill out your advertising flyer with *when*, *where* and *time* and ask if the library will post it for you on their community bulletin board. Libraries might not allow soliciting of events inside, but they might post your event info, once approved. Try to advertise everywhere!
- Places to promote: day care centers, coffee shops, ice cream shops, parks, local bulletin boards, churches, local businesses and gas stations. Share on social media and by email/text message using the graphics that match your flyers available on the Resource page cplaction.com/storyhour.
- Be sure to check out the room ahead of time so you can see what is available to use for the hour. If there are tables, chairs, and even a US flag, you will be able to use them.
- Your **Patriot Story Hour Kit includes:**
 - 10 flyers.
 - 20 cello goody bags and an assortment of stickers (cut the strips into groups of two).
 - Two pages of invitations that can be cut and handed out as reminders.
 - Four patriotic children's books.
- **Additional Patriot Story Hour Kit Resources at cplaction.com/storyhour!** More flyers, invitations, social media graphics, and ideas for activities including how to fold the American flag, coloring pages, song sheet music and more!

DAY OF EVENT

- Arrive 1/2 hour before the start of your event. Arrange the room for where you will sit to read to the group and for chairs nearby for moms or dads to sit on. Set out 'simple' coloring sheets and crayons on a table for the kids to color. If a US flag is in the room, have it stationed near where you will read. Also, bring a US flag if you plan to teach children how to properly fold the flag. Set the flag on a table - remember US flags should never touch the ground.
- Introduce yourself and get to know the names of your guests first.
- **Sample Schedule**
This is your story hour and you can run it however you want. These are just ideas!
 - Read one of the stories aloud, lots of expressions!
 - After the first story, go to coloring area – allow children to have time to start and finish their coloring page.
 - Read the second story aloud.
 - Teach how to fold the US flag (downloadable instructions are at cplaction.com/storyhour)
- **Be creative.** It is your story hour. Use your own style. Be sure to visit the Resource page cplaction.com/storyhour for more activity ideas or design your own!
- If you are planning a second (or third!) story hour, be sure to tell your guests when it will be. Have invitations prepared so they can take one with them.
- Many inexpensive trinkets can be found at local dollar stores or craft stores. The Patriot Story Hour Kit gives you what you need to get started but feel free to add to it.
- Once you do a couple of story hours, we hope you will be inspired to keep going! A list of additional books that we identified that might be good to use are listed on our Resource page cplaction.com/storyhour. Many of these books can be purchased at discount book sellers online. Why not check your own bookshelves or ask friends to donate books for 4–9-year-olds that would be appropriate in a group setting?

After the Event

- Leave enough time for packing and cleaning up the room.
- Plan another story hour or pass your kit on to someone else. The kit is yours to do with as you wish.
- Consider sending CPL an email with your feedback and suggestions. We'd love to hear from you! Send your comments to <https://cplaction.com/contact/>.
- Would you consider taking our Patriot Story Hour Survey? It will help us improve! Find the survey on the Resources page cplaction.com/storyhour.