



# Sequoyah BOOK AWARDS

## 2018 LESSONS + ACTIVITIES

### Sequoyah Book Award Week is Here!

Get your students reading and involved in the third-oldest youth-choice literary award program in the nation. Your students can help determine the winners of the 2018 Sequoyah Book Awards during voting next spring.

#### Day Four: Preparing for the Big Vote!

##### A Decision to Participate

Providing students with the power to make decisions can inspire a commitment to a particular school project. The Sequoyah Book Award masterlists already provide students with choice: out of all of these titles, which three do you want to read?

A “voter registration” form that lets students “agree” to read three books and then to vote on their favorite title can be another choice. Although some instructors may require participation for grade purposes, most teachers view the Sequoyah program as one of choice, where young people pick books to read just for the pleasure of it.

##### Sequoyah Voter Registration Form may be downloaded at:

<https://libraries.ok.gov/PDFs/sequoyah-voter-registration.pdf>

While some teachers may choose to have students register at the beginning of the program, others may start the registration process a few weeks before the big vote. Not only will this provide a list of potential voters, you can use the registration process to encourage students who are close to becoming eligible to vote by reading another book or two.

For high school students, you could invite a representative from the local election board to talk about the voter registration process, and also have Oklahoma voter registration applications available for eligible students. [Visit [elections.ok.gov](http://elections.ok.gov)]



##### Share the History of the Sequoyah Book Awards

Helping students understand that they are part of a program that has a long and rich history can also inspire participation. The Oklahoma Library Association's Sequoyah Book Award program is the third oldest youth-choice literary award program in the country. The award, first presented in 1959, is named in honor of Sequoyah for his unique achievement in creating the Cherokee syllabary, the 86 symbols representing the different sounds of the Cherokee language. A cabin built by Sequoyah as part of a United States government grant still stands near Sallisaw. This grant was the first given for literary achievement in the United States. His statue is one of the two representing Oklahoma in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

## Promote Sequoyah Voting Day

Set a date for students to vote. Build excitement by encouraging students to create “Get Out the Vote” posters and other announcements reminding voters about the big day. Incorporate social media to remind students that the voting day is approaching.

## Set up one or more voting booths

Tri-fold boards set up on tables are excellent for creating private polling places. Search “voting booths” on Pinterest for more ideas for creating voting booths. Set up paper ballots or an electronic ballot using an online survey. Create excitement by hosting “watch parties” in which voting results are announced throughout the day. Provide each voter with an “I Voted” sticker. (Sequoyah “I Voted” stickers will be available at the Encylo-Media conference in October.) Ask local businesses to donate prizes to students who vote.

## Enlist student volunteers

Students of all grade levels will be more involved in Sequoyah voting if they feel an ownership of the process. Use students to register voters, create posters and videos, and set up and work voting booths.

## Celebrate!

Invite all students who vote to attend a Sequoyah celebration. Provide snacks, games, photo booths, and other activities to celebrate the announcement of the award winner.

## Want more lessons and ideas for the Sequoyah Book Awards program?

Visit [nie.newsok.com](http://nie.newsok.com) and click “curriculum.” Then search for “Sequoyah.” You’ll get access to six years of lessons from 2012 to the present!