North Carolina Library Association
2014 Student Library Ambassadors

Jacob Botros – NC Congressional District 9
Jacob is from Waxhaw, North Carolina and is an 11th grader at North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. His riveting video tells his personal story of how libraries helped him and then proceeds to share profound thoughts from many people across the state. View More

Marlisha Blakeney - NC Congressional District 9
“As I think about the true importance of a building filled with books, pamphlets, computers, and great information for all people, I begin to appreciate all that such an amazing place has to offer me and my community. The library is well known for building communities, educating, building art centers, and empowering the youth.”

Marlisha is from Monroe, North Carolina and is a 12th grader at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Her essay delves expertly into the various ways quality libraries are interwoven into the fabric of modern day society. View More

Alex Blumenthal – NC Congressional District 5
Alex is from Salisbury, North Carolina and is a 5th grader at Overton Elementary School. His video details the essential value of libraries to him and all of North Carolina. View More
Caroline Burnette - NC Congressional District 10

“When I was younger, I was told that, “Reading is the magic key to take you where you want to be,” and I’m inclined to agree with that statement.”

Caroline is from Shelby, North Carolina and is an 11th grader at Carolina Pines Academy. Her essay describes how libraries have been a significant part of her life since early childhood. View More

Samuel Kostiuk – NC Congressional District 10

Sam is from Cherryville, North Carolina and is a 5th grader at WB Beam Intermediate School. His video does an excellent job talking about the value of libraries for him and his friend Winnie the Pooh. View More

Benjamin Warlick - NC Congressional District 10

Ben is from Black Mountain, North Carolina and is a 9th grader at Charles D. Owen High School. His website has excellent design and content and most impressively direct input from his fellow students about the importance of libraries. View More

www.nclaonline.org and www.nclibraryadvocacy.wordpress.com
David Simmons, Jr. - NC Congressional District 5

“For me, libraries are a calming place to be in because of their quiet atmosphere and comfortable settings. They are amazing places that I enjoy being in. They are amazing for one simple reason - it accommodates all types of people and no one is exactly the same.”

David is from Wilkesboro, North Carolina and an 8th grader at West Wilkes Middle School. His outstanding essay details a poignant story of how libraries were there for him and his family during hard times. View More

Brenna Loendorf - NC Congressional District 10

Brenna is from Stanley, North Carolina and is an 11th grader at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Her excellent video interviews users of her public library and they share why libraries are important to them. View More

Jessica Slattery - NC Congressional District 9

“…the library eventually helped me overcome my anxiety toward reading when I was introduced to the animal books in the children’s section.”

Jessica is from Morrisville, North Carolina and is an 11th grade homeschooler whose outstanding essay talks about how her relationship with libraries went from a place of fear and anxiety of reading to a place of discovery and window to the world as a homeschool student. View More
Andy Killebrew - NC Congressional District 8

“In my eyes, libraries are incredibly important to educate the future leaders of North Carolina. As a child of a librarian, I have a firm belief that a love of reading at an early age can permanently leave a child with an appreciation for learning, which is a valuable trait for someone to be successful.”

Andy is from Lexington, North Carolina and is a 9th grader at Central Davidson High School. His essay eloquently talks about how his relationship with libraries and love of reading has shaped the person that he is today. View More

Alea Mitchell - NC Congressional District 5

Alea is from Wilkesboro, North Carolina and is a 2nd grader at Millers Creek Elementary. Her video does an excellent job of detailing why she loves libraries and why they are fun places to do pretty much whatever she likes to you – especially read! View More

Alizdair Sebastien Ray - NC Congressional District 7

“Because of early reading skills, I started writing for a children’s newspaper at 6 years old. I’m still a contributing writer and it’s 2014. Also, I started debating last year and really had a great time with it.”

Alizdair is from Hope Mills, North Carolina and is a 5th grade home school student. His excellent essay talks about how he began learning how to read at an early age and how much of a positive impact this has had on him. View More
Ruth Ramirez - NC Congressional District 5

“Libraries play a big important part in the political life of a community. Libraries provide the immigrants like my family with helpful information and help them improved their language in English.”

Ruth is from North Wilkesboro, North Carolina and is a 7th grader at West Wilkes Middle School. Her essay details how important libraries are to her and her family as an immigrant to our country. 

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Samuel Chatley - NC Congressional District 13

Sam is from Youngsville, North Carolina and is a 2nd grade home school student. His video shows how important the library is for him and his family as a homeschooler and how much he likes both his library’s books and programs. 

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Stacy Kostiuk – NC Congressional District 10

“I love it here, I feel at home. I feel no fear, Free to roam.”

Stacy is from Cherryville, North Carolina and is an 8th grader at John Chavis Middle School. Her poem eloquently describes how important libraries are to her and our society in so many different ways – a place for books, a place to have fun, and place to find jobs, a place for solace, peace, and safety. 

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