

TUG-OF-HELP SCRIPT

The Tug-of-Help is a special assembly conducted by community leaders to launch the WITS LEADS Program for children in Grades 4 to 6. Community leaders can use the script below to present the Tug-of-Help.

THE TUG-OF-HELP

The COMMUNITY LEADER stands at the front of the room. He is accompanied by another community leader (e.g. a large student athlete) who will play the role of THE BULLY. As students assemble, the community leader lays out a long piece of rope on the floor.

While everyone is assembling, the community leader discretely selects a CHILD VOLUNTEER from the audience, asking for the child's name and then explaining quietly to him or her - ensuring no one else can hear - that they are going to do two rope pulls between the child and the bully. In the first rope pull, the child will lose. The second time, however, he or she will win. The community leader then asks the child to remain seated with his or her classmates until he or she is called for.

The community leader also selects three WITS LEADERS to participate in the skit. These leaders are students in Grades 5 or 6 who are familiar with the WITS Programs and can explain what it means to be a WITS Leader in the school.

COMMUNITY LEADER

As you can all see, there is a rope lying on the floor in front of me. This is a special rope because it represents our rights. Our rights are very important and nobody should take away our right to feel safe at school.

I would like to demonstrate how you can prevent people from taking away your right to feel safe at school, but first I need a volunteer. Is there someone in the audience who could come up here and help me?

The community leader selects the child volunteer who has been prepared in advance for the role.

COMMUNITY LEADER

Thanks for volunteering, _____
(child volunteer's name). My other volunteer is my partner The Bully.

Now audience, let's just imagine for a moment that The Bully is a new student here at _____ (name of school). He/she is a little taller and a little bigger than most students at _____ (name of school). The Bully also likes to pick on people who are smaller than he/she is.

The Bully sees _____ (child volunteer's name) and decides to bully him/her. When The Bully picks on _____ (child volunteer's name), he/she takes away his/her right to feel safe at school.

_____ (child volunteer's name), could you please pick up that end of the rope and hang on to it tightly?

The child volunteer picks up one end of the rope.

COMMUNITY LEADER

The Bully is going to pull the other end of the rope as hard as he/she can because he/she is taking away your right to feel safe. You are going to defend your rights and try to protect them from The Bully. So pull hard, okay? Let's see what happens.

The bully grabs the other end of the rope and effortlessly pulls the child volunteer across the floor.

COMMUNITY LEADER

So, audience, how do you think _____ (child volunteer's name) did when he/she tried to protect his/her right to feel safe by him/herself?

The community leader pauses for audience feedback.

COMMUNITY LEADER
_____ (child volunteer's name),
how do you think you did when you tried to
protect your right to feel safe from The
Bully?

The community leader pauses for the child volunteer's
response.

COMMUNITY LEADER
Audience, do you think that _____
(child volunteer's name) may have been able
to protect his/her rights if he/she had had
some help defending them?

The community leader pauses for the audience's response.

COMMUNITY LEADER
Wouldn't it be nice if there were people out
there who could help _____ (child
volunteer's name) keep his/her rights and
stop The Bully from taking them away?
Is there anybody out there who could help
_____ (child volunteer's name)?

The community leader selects the three WITS Leaders and
directs them to stand behind the child volunteer and grab
the rope.

COMMUNITY LEADER
Wow, it looks like these young people are
very eager to help! Who are you?

WITS LEADER #1
We're the WITS Leaders!

WITS LEADER #2
We are students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 who are
out on the playground to help you (points to
audience) when you have a problem with other
kids!

WITS LEADER #3
We are here to help you keep your right to
feel safe at school!

COMMUNITY LEADER

It looks like _____ (child volunteer's name) is really lucky to have help from the WITS LEADERS. But you know there are other people that can help _____ (child volunteer's name) too. They are adults, like a playground supervisor, a teacher or a parent.

Could we have a playground supervisor come up here? What about a teacher? Is there a parent here who can come help _____ (child volunteer's name)?

The community leader and the child volunteer select a number of adults from the audience and direct them to the front of the room, where they stand behind the WITS Leaders and grab the rope.

COMMUNITY LEADER

The adults are also going to help _____ (child volunteer's name) keep his/her right to feel safe.

Wow! Look at all the people who can help _____ (child volunteer's name). Let's see what happens now when The Bully tries to take away _____'s (child volunteer's name) rights.

The bully tries hard to pull the rope but is unable to win the rope pull due to the strength of the other team.

COMMUNITY LEADER

Audience, how do you think _____ (child volunteer's name) did this time?

The community leader pauses for audience feedback.

COMMUNITY LEADER

_____ (child volunteer's name), how do you think you did this time?

The community leader pauses for the child volunteer's response.

COMMUNITY LEADER

So when _____ (child volunteer's name) had help from the WITS Leaders and adults, he/she was able to hold onto his/her rights!

Sometimes it is hard to keep your rights when the bully is bigger or stronger, but nobody should ever take your rights away from you. If you are having trouble with a bully, don't hesitate to seek help and find people who will help you keep your rights!

These young people here are just three of the WITS Leaders at your school. They can...

WITS LEADER #1

Help you when you have a problem on the playground!

WITS LEADER #2

Help you to solve problems with other kids!

WITS LEADER #3

Help you seek help from an adult!

COMMUNITY LEADER

If you are in Grades 4 to 6, you are going to be learning all you need to know to become a WITS Leader in the WITS LEADS Program.

Who knows what WITS stands for?

The community leader pauses to allow the audience to reply:
Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out and Seek help.

COMMUNITY LEADER

And does anyone know what LEADS stands for?

Well, LEADS stands for the things you need to do to protect everyone's rights to feel safe at this school: Look and listen, Explore points of view, Act, Did it work? and Seek help!

You'll be learning more about these in your class, but I can tell you that these are the same things I do in our work every day to help others. And as WITS Leaders, you'll get to do the same! THE END