



## International Literacy Day - September 8, 2025

International Literacy Day, observed each year on September 8, was established by UNESCO in 1966 to raise awareness about the vital role literacy plays in building inclusive, empowered, and sustainable societies. Literacy is more than just the ability to read and write—it encompasses a broad set of skills needed to navigate and thrive in the modern world, including digital literacy (the ability to effectively use technology and digital tools) and health literacy (the ability to understand and apply health information for better well-being). As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and reliant on digital communication and complex healthcare systems, these forms of literacy are essential for personal autonomy, informed decision-making, and full civic participation. Despite progress, over 770 million people globally still lack basic literacy skills, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized communities. International Literacy Day shines a light on these disparities, celebrates achievements, and encourages governments, communities, and individuals to take action through inclusive education and lifelong learning initiatives. Recognizing this day reminds us that literacy in all its forms is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of global development.

### HOW CAN WE CELEBRATE?

- **Donate books** to schools and libraries
- Start or **join a book club**
- Attend an event at your **local library**
- Visit **[www.readingpartners.org](http://www.readingpartners.org)** to learn about volunteer opportunities
- Learn about **digital and health literacy**



THIS YEAR'S DEI THEME IS...

## INTERSECTIONALITY

Learn more at [www.bit.ly/Proliance\\_Surgeons\\_DEI](http://www.bit.ly/Proliance_Surgeons_DEI)