

I Love My  
Librarian!  
2015 Award

**Nominee: Courtney Kincaid**  
**Hood County Library**  
**Granbury, Texas**

**Nominator: Jennifer Kochis**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award.**

This young lady stood up against attempted censorship with amazing intelligence and grace. A group of Hood County citizens attempted to ban LGBT books from our library. The story achieved national headlines.

**2. Please list a few ways in which the nominee has helped you and made your experience.**

Ms. Kincaid responded and continues to respond to threats against her and her library with calm positivity. The way that she has handled this situation has been completely professional, even though faced with those that would have her discredited and would have her ban books. She is truly inspiring!

**3. How has the librarian made a difference in the community? Please be specific.**

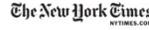
In the face of the National attention that this attempted ban on LGBT books has received, our Librarian has made Hood County and those that support and believe in libraries proud! She has attended all meetings, stood for against censorship and for the freedom of speech in our community with a kind wisdom, that often times was not afforded to her.

**4. How has the library, and the nominee, improved the quality of your life?**

She stood up and maintained her stance against censorship. This has allowed books to remain in our library which I personally can use to teach my own children the importance of tolerance and inclusion.

**5. How does the nominee make the library a better place?**

I know that I can bring my children to our library and they will have the opportunity to read and explore. I know that our Librarian will be there to take a stance against those attempting to interrupt Freedom of Speech, and our right to have access to a diverse range of books!



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**Nominee: Courtney Kincaid  
Hood County Public Library  
Granbury, Texas**

**Nominator: Brittney Stoudenmire**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award.**

Courtney is a constant professional and a wonderful librarian. She has turned our library from a horrible place to a warm, inviting, and pillar of the community. She has recently been in the news and under pressure for standing up against censorship and for the rights of her patrons.

**2. Please list a few ways in which the nominee has helped you and made your experience.**

This librarian has made our library a place where the love of reading is evident. She has children summer reading programs that have helped instill my son's love of reading. She has taught me to stand up for my beliefs by volunteering at the library and helping her with her fight against censorship. She has also inspired me, through her passion and courage, to get a Library Science MA. She is a treasure, and I am proud to know her.

**3. How has the librarian made a difference in the community? Please be specific.**

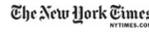
Before she came along, our library was a joke in the community. Her predecessor did all she could to run the place in the ground. When Courtney became our librarian, it was as if a cloud lifted. She has started numerous programs to bring the community together. She is currently fighting a tough battle to protect the community's right of Freedom to Read and is battling censorship.

**4. How has the library, and the nominee, improved the quality of your life?**

It has brought many programs, including Summer Reading Series for children. The library now provides a safe and cool spot for the Healthy Kids lunch program during the summer with Boys and Girls Club. They also sponsor work out classes for adults during the fall. I could go on for days!

**5. How does the nominee make the library a better place?**

She is always there with a smile. Because she never falters in professionalism and kindness, her staff reflects that attitude. During this time of discontent with the library's choice to not censor LGBT themed children's books, she shouldered all the responsibilities of this. She did this so her staff could continue to run smoothly. She stood as a pillar of strength during this time and continues to do so.



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**Nominee: Courtney Kincaid**  
**Hood County Library**  
**Granbury, Texas**

**Nominator: Elizabeth Boyes**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award.**

Ms. Kincaid is always friendly and professional in the up most way. She sets an excellent example for our community by standing up for two books that were recently challenged to be banned. She provides a welcoming atmosphere for all in Hood County!!

**2. Please list a few ways in which the nominee has helped you and made your experience.**

Our librarian strives to help everyone she encounters at the library. She recommended a series of books for my children and continues to inspire a love for literature. She also genuinely cares for all who enter the library, setting aside time to help those with special needs children along with adults and senior citizens. She is a beautiful example of how one person can make such a lasting impression on all around her.

**3. How has the librarian made a difference in the community? Please be specific.**

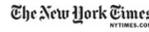
Recently, two books were challenged about alternative lifestyles. Ms. Kincaid acted in a most professional manner with the way this situation was handled. The books in question offer a guide to tolerance and respect, which are qualities all children should be able to learn freely. They also encourage others not to bully. These are traits that are important to our young ones and to see a librarian fight to save these books is amazing. And she would do this for any book, no matter the topic(s). She is a perfect example of someone who supports her community in every way.

**4. How has the library, and the nominee, improved the quality of your life?**

Ms. Kincaid has provided our community with a role model as how we should all strive to be in our lives. She is a true public servant and seriously does her best to help everyone around her. She has provided a comfortable atmosphere for my family to come to as much as possible. I am a happier person knowing Ms. Kincaid and all she does for our community.

**5. How does the nominee make the library a better place?**

Our library is very user-friendly. The staff always goes out of their way above and beyond to make sure all needs of the public are met with a smile. If I have trouble locating a book or resource, they are more than happy to point me in the right direction, as well as walk me there. This includes Ms. Kincaid. The library is filled with children (especially during the summer), which is a very welcoming site! It is a wonderful feeling being part of such an important hub in the community. Our library is always changing to meet the needs of the public, including offering search iPads and new community computers. There is truly something for everyone!



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**Nominee: Courtney Kincaid  
Hood County Public Library  
Granbury, Texas**

**Nominator: Rebecca Lucas**

**1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award.**

#CKismyhero. This is the hashtag being used in our community after OUR librarian stood up to the Censorship attempts of a group of religious activists who challenged two award-winning books in the Children's section of our library. Courtney exemplified professionalism and knowledge and class in her education of the Library Board, the governing Commissioner's Court and- when most needed- to the public in a very high-profile media case. She was the face of our community, radiating competence and kindness and intelligence. She inspired a community coalition of people who are invigorated and encouraged by her principles and will continue the fight to ensure the Freedom to Read!

**2. Please list a few ways in which the nominee has helped you and made your experience.**

I was a high-end user of Public libraries for much of my life. I admit to visiting less and less frequently in recent years as my kids grew up and my Kindle became an easy way to read. I learned about the challenge by certain community members to free speech and equal access by banning books and became involved in a grass-roots movement to prevent this censorship attempt. During the course of online and in-person meetings and discussions, I was impressed over and over by Courtney's professionalism and knowledge and outstanding demeanor in the face of sometimes quite personal attacks. By being the face of the Library, Courtney reminded me of the absolute importance of the Library as a community space, and how much I have missed being there. I will definitely become a more active patron and try to be involved in maintaining our #Freedom and supporting the library in my hometown!

**3. How has the librarian made a difference in the community? Please be specific.**

Courtney has led a transition period for the Public Library in our rapidly growing community. We are a small town getting bigger and experiencing all of the growth pains that make managing a public resource such as a library challenging. She has an excellent

reputation within the community and with the governing bodies of the library, including the County Commissioner's Court and the Library Advisory Board. She has excelled in managing the budget using taxpayer monies, by all reports making our library one of the most efficient in the state while focusing on increasing the public awareness and social presence of the library as a wonderful resource in our community. In our most recent very public controversy, she made so many people in our community PROUD to be Hood County residents, represented by Courtney, a picture of grace under fire and accountability to ALL citizens and advocating for the freedom vital to all libraries.

**4. How has the library, and the nominee, improved the quality of your life?**

Inspiration. Grace under Fire. Standing up to Censorship. Restoring my faith in the American Bill of Rights and the importance of free speech. Making me proud of my hometown....when I really wasn't.

**5. How does the nominee make the library a better place?**

Open, welcoming, and able to help...ALL people.