

National Novel Writing Month Powers Up with Half a Million Writers

Berkeley, CA (October 7, 2013) — In its 15th year, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) expects a historic 500,000 writers to join the largest writing event in the world. The challenge? To write 50,000 words of a novel in the 30 days of November. Half a million people on all seven continents (including one very chilly writer at Antarctica's McMurdo Station) will set aside the time to write their stories this November.

Through the Young Writers Program, NaNoWriMo will also provide free resources and curriculum to more than 80,000 students and educators in 2,000 classrooms around the world. Additionally, 692 volunteer Municipal Liaisons will host write-ins and events in 500 regions around the world. [For a full list of their regions click here.](#)

“NaNoWriMo is an unbeatable way to write the first draft of a novel because it’s such a powerful antidote to that horrible foe of creativity: self-doubt,” said Grant Faulkner, Executive Director. “NaNoWriMo is a rollicking conversation about all aspects of writing, and an invitation to dare to do what seems impossible. As many NaNoWriMo writers have discovered, the best way to learn to write a novel is by simply plunging in to write a novel.”

NaNoWriMo 2013: New and Powered-Up

NaNoWriMo version 2013 boots up as an 8-bit adventure that encourages writers to "Power Up Your Story. Power Up Your Voice." This year's art comes courtesy of Jake Fleming, cofounder of Piasa Games.

NaNoWriMo 2013 also offers a newly-designed website. "We've redesigned our site to be more intuitive for both new and experienced users: it will guide them through the entire NaNoWriMo journey from start to finish. We've also integrated a responsive layout for phones and tablets, so writers can be inspired anywhere," says Chris Angotti, Director of Programs.

The 2013 Published Author Line-Up

An incredible line-up of authors will support writers participating in NaNoWriMo with letters full of wisdom and encouragement. These Pep Talkers includes James Patterson, Lev Grossman, and Rainbow Rowell, who wrote the first draft of her critically-acclaimed YA novel, *Fangirl*, during NaNoWriMo 2012. [For a full list of pep talkers, click here.](#)

NaNoWriMo 2013 will also have five published authors take over its Twitter account as NaNoWriMo Coaches, answering questions and cheering on participants as they write, including Jason Hough, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Darwin Elevator*, first drafted during NaNoWriMo.

Expanded Programs

For the first time, Come Write In, a program that offers free resources and support to literacy-related spaces, will expand beyond libraries and bookstores. Three-hundred and ninety spaces, including cafes and community centers (and even an American-style pizza restaurant in Japan), will become local beacons for creative writing through NaNoWriMo.

Debbie Millman, president of the design division at Sterling Brands, returns to run "30 Covers, 30 Days", which challenges designers to create a book cover for a participant's novel-in-progress in 24 hours. A celebration of the collaboration between design and writing, this program will inspire authors and provide prints for an Art of NaNoWriMo event in winter 2014.

National Novel Writing Month is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that believes stories matter. Through our programs, including the Young Writers Program, the Come Write In program, and Camp NaNoWriMo, we work hard to empower and encourage vibrant creativity around the world.

Press Contacts

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