



400,000 Writers, 2,000 Classrooms, 200 Countries: National Novel Writing Month 2014 is Boundless

Berkeley, CA (October 16, 2014) — National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is celebrating its 16th year of empowering diverse voices, supporting writers in the classroom, and building creative-writing communities around the world.

NaNoWriMo challenges people to write 50,000 words of a novel in the 30 days of November. NaNoWriMo 2014 is the year of "Your Boundless Novel," with gorgeous design from Simon & Schuster children's book designer Elizabeth Doyle.

Empowering Diverse Voices

This year, NaNoWriMo expects 400,000 participants from 616 affiliated chapters across six continents. "Every year, we're reminded that there are still stories that have yet to be told, still voices yet to be heard from all corners of the world," says Executive Director Grant Faulkner. "NaNoWriMo helps people make creativity a priority in life and realize the vital ways our stories connect us. We are our stories."

This year, six published authors will be writing pep talk letters to mentor these storytellers. These authors include **Veronica Roth**, **Jim Butcher**, and **Tamora Pierce**. In partnership with **We Need Diverse Books**, NaNoWriMo is also providing resources to participants interested in writing diverse representation into their novels.

Debbie Millman, president of the design division at Sterling Brands, returns to run **30 Covers, 30 Days**, which provides both NaNoWriMo and Young Writers Program participants the unique validation of professionally designed book covers for their novels-in-progress.

Teaching Writing Self-Efficacy

To fully develop as writers, students need to develop a belief in their writing ability alongside basic skills. **NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program** focuses on developing this self-efficacy

in the classroom, while also teaching writing fluency, effective goal-setting, and project management.

This year, NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program expects 100,000 students and educators to participate, using our virtual classroom management tools, closed social network, and free Common Core-aligned curriculum.

Kate Schatz, chair of the School of Literary Arts at the Oakland School for the Arts says, "NaNoWriMo is a chance for my students to experience a sustained and focused project. Perhaps most importantly, it's an experiment in tamping down the voice that makes them doubt and delete."

NaNoWriMo YWP will also send 2,000 free classroom resource kits to educators and students around the world.

Christina Broderson, library assistant at the Zurich International School, says, "Parents visit the library and tell me how they've watched their child grow with NaNoWriMo, becoming more confident with each word written."

Building Communities

This year, **816 volunteers, called Municipal Liaisons**, will coordinate in-person write-ins, turning their local coffee shops, bookstores, and living rooms into writing havens.

"Many of our participant writers aren't content with creating worlds on the page. They graduate to building amazing, creative, local communities, who are actively engaged with their neighborhood organizations and businesses," says Sarah Mackey, Director of Community Engagement.

In addition, our **Come Write In program** will partner with 700 libraries, bookstores, and other neighborhood spaces, providing free resources to help build their local creative communities.

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

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