



National Novel Writing Month Blasts Off on a Literary Adventure

Berkeley, CA (October 25, 2016) — One part writing boot camp, one part rollicking party, [National Novel Writing Month](#) (NaNoWriMo) celebrates its 18th year of encouraging creativity, education, and the power of the imagination through the largest writing event in the world.

This year, NaNoWriMo expects nearly 500,000 people—including K-12 students and educators on our brand new [Young Writers Program website](#)—to start a 50,000-word novel in the month of November, guided by this year’s theme: Your Novel, Your Universe.

To Boldly Go Where No Novel Has Gone Before

“Too many people think they’re not a ‘creative type,’ but to be human is to be a ‘creative type’. NaNoWriMo teaches you to believe that your story matters, to trust the gambols of your imagination, and to make the blank page a launching pad to explore new universes. That’s important because when we create, we cultivate meaning. Our stories remind us that we’re alive, and what being alive means,” says Grant Faulkner, Executive Director of NaNoWriMo.

Last year, NaNoWriMo welcomed 431,626 participants in 633 different regions on six continents. Of these, more than 40,000 met the goal of writing 50,000 words in a month.

This year, participants will be inspired by weekly “pep talks”, penned by published authors, including Jenny Han, Alexander Chee, and Maggie Steifvater. NaNoWriMo has also partnered with We Need Diverse Books to provide participants access to mentorship from authors including Heidi Heilig and Nita Tyndall.

Reaching for the Stars with the Young Writers Program

This is the 11th year of NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program (YWP), which brings creative writing into classrooms.

This year, NaNoWriMo unveils a brand new website for the Young Writers Program.

"We're incredibly excited to launch a beta version of the new YWP website in 2016. For the first time, students will be able to draft their novels and track their progress directly on our site—plus use all of the inspiring resources we provide every year. In addition, teachers have brand-new virtual classroom spaces to facilitate the program. We're so proud to continue to tell students, through our new site and all of our materials, that their stories matter," says Chris Angotti, Chief Operating Officer.

This website will provide free Common Core-aligned curricula, student workbooks, classroom resources, virtual classroom tools, and mentorship from published authors. In addition NaNoWriMo sends out 2,500 free classroom kits each year to help teachers offline as well.

A Universal Support System

This November, 930 Municipal Liaisons (MLs) will coordinate hundreds of local, in-person writing events, working with local businesses, libraries, and community centers to bring creative writing into cities and regions across the globe. Our Come Write In program (CWI) includes partners at almost 900 libraries, bookstores, and other community spaces.

"Our local volunteers work with libraries, bookstores, and other community spaces to forge powerful creative communities that act as a source of support and motivation to writers all over the world. The experience of writing in such an inspiring environment is remarkable," says Sarah Mackey, Director of Community Engagement.

[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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