



National Novel Writing Month invites you to check out your imagination...

Nonprofit also celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Young Writers Program

Berkeley, CA (September 21, 2015) — National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) invites you to check out your imagination and write a 50,000-word novel this November!

Every year, NaNoWriMo unveils a new theme; this year NaNoWriMo is throwing open the doors to "The NaNoWriMo Library", where the imaginary stacks eagerly anticipate the first-draft novels of 300,000+ participants around the world.

Check out your voice with NaNoWriMo

“National Novel Writing month is a wonderful opportunity for people to dive into their imaginations and do one of the most crucial things in life: *create*,” said Grant Faulkner, Executive Director of National Novel Writing Month. “Everyone has a story that needs to come to life, so the shelves of the NaNoWriMo library stretch endlessly. NaNoWriMo helps people find their voice in the act of writing and through the encouragement of the writers in the NaNo community.”

Last year, NaNoWriMo welcomed 325,142 writers, including 80,000+ students and educators participating via our Young Writers Program. Of those participants, 58,917 writers hit their goals, completing a 50,000-word draft of a novel in November 2014.

This year, published authors, including **Gene Luen Yang**, **N. K. Jemisin**, **Stephanie Perkins**, **Charlaine Harris**, and **Diana Gabaldon**, will offer mentorship and advice to NaNoWriMo participants through weekly "pep talks."

In partnership with author **Kami Garcia** and nonprofit **We Need Diverse Books**, NaNoWriMo will also provide online webinars for participants to develop writing skills and provide guidance to those emerging writers who are writing stories in diverse contexts.

The 10th Anniversary of NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program

NaNoWriMo celebrates the 10th anniversary of its **Young Writers Program (YWP)**, which brings creative writing into classrooms, and focuses on developing writing fluency, student-confidence, and effective goal-setting.

“NaNoWriMo’s Young Writers Program empowers students to dive into the writing process and tell their stories,” says Rebecca Stern, National Novel Writing Month’s Director of Programs. “By participating in NaNoWriMo, students gain confidence in their writing abilities, a sense of accomplishment, and, most importantly, a strong belief that their stories matter.”

Since its inception, the Young Writers Program has been providing free Common Core-aligned curricula, student workbooks, classroom resources, virtual classroom tools, and mentorship from published authors to more than 420,000 students and educators.

This year, authors **Mac Barnett** and **Kate Schatz** will offer guidance specifically for our YWP participants. NaNoWriMo expects to send 2,000 free classroom resource kits to schools around the world.

Check out your writing community

This November, **926 volunteer Municipal Liaisons will** coordinate hundreds of local, in-person writing events, working with their local businesses, libraries, and community centers to bring creative writing into 575 cities and regions. Our **Come Write In program** includes partners at nearly 600 libraries, bookstores, and other community spaces.

"Our local volunteers help people explore their imaginations in libraries, bookstores, and other community spaces all over the world. The creative communities they build serve as a remarkable source of inspiration and camaraderie," 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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