

Virtual Engagement for National Novel Writing Month

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USA::Wisconsin::Elsewhere Municipal Liaison

Some Nomenclature!

- **NaNoWriMo**: National Novel Writing Month (shortened to NaNo)
- **WriMo**: A person who participates in NaNo
- **ML**: Municipal Liaison; Regional coordinators.
- **CWI**: “Come Write In”. A CWI is a community partner (like you!)
- **YWP**: Young Writer’s Program.

What is NaNoWriMo

- 1999: NaNoWriMo established as a challenge to write 50,000 words in 30 Days.
- 2006: NaNoWriMo became a 501(C)3 Nonprofit organization
- Supports more than a million writers with the help of over 900 volunteers, and thousands of community partners like libraries and community centers.
- Used in 5,920 classrooms
- Multiple Events, including Camp NaNoWriMo

Why NaNoWriMo?

- NaNoWriMo offers a supportive community for writers.
- HQ in the Bay Area , California, now a world-wide event.
- Featured established authors offer Pep Talk mentoring including: Gene Luen Yang, Roxane Gay, John Green, Veronica Roth, and Brandon Sanderson.
- Can lead to traditionally published and indie-published novels, including many in our libraries!
 - The Night Circus (Morganstern)
 - Fangirl (Rainbow Rowell)
 - Cinder (Marissa Meyer)

No In-Person Events for 2020

Official notice from Program Director, Tim Kim, August 18th:

“As we realized that, our thinking shifted from “How can we safely hold events?” to “Can we safely hold events?”

We quickly reached the conclusion that a single ML or Wrimo contracting COVID-19 due to a NaNoWriMo event was an unacceptable outcome.”

Announcement met with mixed results, but overwhelming WriMos are supportive of this decision and are looking forward to virtual offerings.

What Can Libraries Do?

- Work with me (or your regional ML!)
 - Hosting online Write-Ins
 - Speaking Events
- Spread the Word
 - Create, borrow, or steal infographics from NaNoWriMo or other participating libraries.
 - Share links to your region's virtual gathering places.
 - Share virtual events locally.

What Can Libraries Do?

- Create Displays
 - Bulletin boards
 - Published NaNo Novels
- Writer Aids/Kits
 - Simple/Cheap: Random Challenges in an Egg
 - Complex/Cheap: Put together 'Writer Emergency Kits' containing a writing book from your shelf, something light/funny (like a picture book), and some kind of encouragement.
 - Complex/Expensive: Goodie Bags with fun pens or pencils, stickers, candy, coffee/tea, encouragement 'somethings', etc.
- Pep Talk!

Hosting a Virtual Write-In

- Pick your platform and audience accommodation
 - Large, Face-to-Face
 - Small, Face-to-Face
 - Streaming/LIVE broadcast
- What is the goal of your write-in?
 - Writing
 - Socializing
 - Combination

Picking Your Platform

- BigBlueButton, Google Meet, Jitsi, and Zoom
 - Familiar face-to-face style. Many of us are already using one of these for virtual programs. Intuitive, easy to set up, but may lack for free users.
- Discord
 - Offers text, voice, and video chatting options.
 - Easy to set up, 24/7 access via mobile apps, Bot moderation possible
- Houseparty, Signal, Skype, Whatsapp
 - Mobil apps. Offer “Limited Seating” for small groups. Use options vary.
- Facebook Meeting Room for Groups
- Twitch, YouTube, Facebook or Instagram LIVE
 - Collaborating potential for Twitch using “Raiding” method.

Hosting a Virtual Write-In

- Word Sprints/Wars: Set a timer for an amount of time. Writers focus on writing, then report back a word count. Hosts give time left, as necessary.
- Word Crawls: “Choose Your Own Adventure”. A combination of sprints and challenges to follow a story.
- Conversation: It’s great to be social, but sometimes you may have to steer people back to writing. Or maybe you just let them talk about whatever! Up to you.

Tweaks for LIVE platforms

- “Talking To Yourself” – Encourage people to comment and engage with you and others
- Good for short crawl or sprint challenges; not long ones.
- Offer challenges (“In your next scene, write an explosion.”)
- Pep Talk: “I believe in you!”, “The only failure in NaNoWriMo is never starting.”
- Call out successes: (“Shout Out to Susan who hit 10K today!”)
- Twitch: “Raiding”

Resources and Contact

<http://www.tinyurl.com/nano4libs>

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NaNoWriMo: Samma Jaye

NaNo Forums: Samma_Jaye