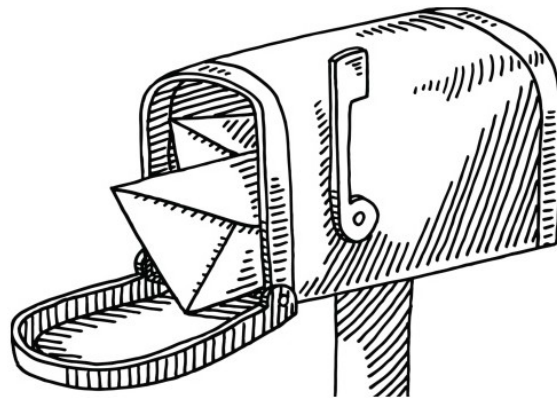


Guilford Winter Pen Pals



What is Guilford Winter Pen Pals?

This is an opportunity to combat the tendency of isolation and cabin fever during the winter, and to build connections throughout our community, by exchanging letters “pen pal” style. The set up is simple: participants will be given the contact info of a correspondence partner. When you send the first letter, you are off!

What will I write about?

Writing prompts will be provided to help get things started, but the whole idea is to simply have an ongoing conversation. What do you think about on a snowy day? When was the last time you saw a moose? Have you read a good book lately? What was your favorite food growing up? Don't worry about the length of your letter, a quick note works too. If you find a blank sheet of paper intimidating, maybe add some art or try a postcard. Remember, this is not meant to feel like a chore – it's supposed to be fun!

How often will I need to write?

To start things off, we are suggesting a weekly schedule. Try to mail out your letter by Friday, and it should arrive at your pen pal's early the following week. Then they respond by that Friday, and it will be back to you the following week. And so on. That gives a framework to work from, but the exact timing is not so important. Again, remember that we are doing this for fun and connection. Probably, you will sometimes be ahead of the game, and sometimes behind. Don't sweat it.

How long will this go on? How does it end?

Guilford Winter Pen Pals will run from January through April. If you would like to do less, just let your pen pal know. On the other hand, you might not want to stop and that is okay too!

Who can sign up? Who will I be exchanging letters with?

All ages and interests are welcome! You can sign up as a group, a household, or an individual. Since we will be exchanging written letters, those who have trouble with reading or writing should be given assistance or be a part of a group. (Of course, it doesn't all have to be written. Drawings or other artwork can be included too!) An emphasis will be placed on inter-generational connections. If you have a preference for the age or interests of your partner, let us know and we will do our best to accommodate.

How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy! We just need your name and mailing address, but you can add your age, interests, and pen pal preferences. A digital form is available on the library website: <https://www.guilfordfreelibraryvt.org/>. There are also paper forms available at the library, or you can simply send the info in a letter!:

Guilford Pen Pals, c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301

We will start connecting pen pals together January 1st, so sign up soon!