

Camp NaNoWriMo at Fayette County Public Library FAQs

1. What is NaNoWriMo?

NaNoWriMo is short for National Novel Writing Month. It started out as a fun writing challenge every November, when writers around the world would race to the goal of a 50,000 word novel in just 30 days. Later, Camp NaNoWriMo challenges were added in April and July.

2. How is Camp NaNoWriMo different?

During Camp months, writers can set their own goals: both for word count and for writing type. That means that you can still write a novel if you want, or you could write a play or screenplay, songs, poems, or a graphic novel. The sky's the limit! Set your word count goal for whatever feels appropriate for you personally and for your project.

3. How do I sign up?

You'll need to sign up online, either at nanowrimo.org or ywp.nanowrimo.org, where you'll create a username and password for your account. Then you'll announce your project for July, and we'll celebrate your lofty goals!

4. What kind of information will I need to give to sign up?

Not very much! It does depend on which website you're using, though. If you sign up on the youth site, first you'll be asked if you're a youth or an educator. You're a youth! Then, you'll be asked for your birthday, to make sure that you're really under 18. Next, you'll be asked if you already know our classroom code. You can ask for it first at the library, or you can go ahead and sign up without it and join in when and if you like. If you use our code at sign up, you won't need to enter an email address. If you don't use our code right away, you will need an email address – your own if you're over 13, your parent or guardian's if you're under 13. They'll also ask for your time zone so that you can squeeze in the absolute maximum of last minute writing frenzy on the last day!

To sign up on the regular site, you'll enter your email address and create a username and password. You'll also enter your time zone for extra last minute excitement!

Then you'll be able to create a fun profile with your favorite books and authors and announce your project to the world! Or be mysterious and tell them nothing...

5. Wait, there are two websites? Why?

There are two options for registering for this exciting challenge, depending on your age. While all ages are welcome to participate, there are two different websites: nanowrimo.org and ywp.nanowrimo.org. The first website is for participants who are at least 13 years old. The second website is for young writers only, and it is restricted to writers under 18. If you fall in the overlap of ages, you are eligible to sign up on both websites, lucky you! If you do, it's totally ok to work on the same project on both sites and take advantage of twice the awesome resources.

On the adult site, the library will only see your username and whatever you put in your profile. On the youth site, we will also see your username and profile, plus your first name if you join the classroom. If you're in the classroom, you'll have the choice of writing your novel directly into the website, copying and pasting your work into the website, or just updating your word count manually. If you write directly into the website, the library admin could access it, but she won't. This feature is for teachers who use the site for classroom writing activities, but the library will never grade you, we promise!

6. So how is the Fayette County Public Library participating in this awesomeness?

On both websites, the library will have some private space for chatting, encouragement, goal-setting, and general fun. On the youth site, this will take the form of a "classroom," but we promise it won't be like school! On the regular site, the library will have a private group, kind of like our own virtual camp cabin. The library will also try for a first-ever write-out! It'll be a little like a write-in (a gathering of writers writing together, with occasional writing games, races, competitions, and general silly encouragement), but outside and socially-distanced, as long as the weather and circumstances allow.

7. How do I sign up to be in one of these amazing library spaces?

For the youth site, there's a super-secret code, so you'll need to ask a librarian by phone, email, or in person (770.461.8841, library@fayettecountyga.gov). For the adult site, you'll need an invite from our admin, who will be writing along with you all month long. You can find her on the nanowrimo.org site under the username hasmartz, or you can email her your username for an invitation to the cabin (hmartz@fayettecountyga.gov).

8. Say I'm an introvert, and I don't want to join your group. Do I have to?

We get that, and it's ok. You can still participate without the group activities! You'll just sign up on the appropriate website(s), create your project, and do your own thing. We're just happy to see you writing up a storm!

9. Ok, but what if I'm super tired of being online. Can I still write something amazing in July without registering online?

Absolutely! The library will have a limited number of paper logs for tracking your personal writing goals available for pick-up (inside or curbside, if you call ahead). If you do choose to participate offline, please email us to let us know, so that we can email you to congratulate your hard work at the end of the month!

10. But wait, I have more questions!

No problem! There are some great answers on both websites (<https://nanowrimo.uservoice.com> and <https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/pages/faq>), or you can ask a librarian for help. That's why we're here! Heather Martz will be facilitating the groups on both sites, and she would be happy to answer any additional questions. You can reach her directly at 770.305.5334 or hmartz@fayettecountyga.gov.