

SummerWrite: Overview

Thriving since 1985, SummerWrite, Writers & Books' flagship program for youth K-12, provides accessible pathways to imaginative self-expression and critical thinking, builds bridges of cultural understanding, and inspires lifelong reading and writing for pleasure and knowledge.

Historically, July-August, SummerWrite delivers 70 half-day and full-day camps, each lasting one-two weeks. Led by experienced teaching artists versed in cultural competency, camps support participants' reading and writing skills while tapping into their creativity and encouraging them to stretch beyond their comfort zones. Our teacher/student ratio is 1:6-12.

SummerWrite's thematic foci are diverse. Age-appropriate camps range from such social justice topics as "Afrofuturism and Black Panther" and "Everyday Heroes: Creating Characters Who Fight for Justice," to hands-on art-making ("Writers & Cooks: Around the World," "Produce a 90-Second Newbery Film," and others), to such perennial favorites as "Fiction in a Flash" and "Hogwarts Academy." Our partnerships with local museums, cultural centers, commercial kitchens, television stations, and nature preserves provide field trip opportunities and inter-sectional experiences.

Our SummerWrite team comprises Director of Youth Education Sally Bittner Bonn, a SummerWrite Coordinator, 10-12 Apprentices (ages 16-21), and two college Interns. As of 2020, we are partnering with Rochester's Summer Youth Employment Program to mentor 10 Junior Apprentices, ages 14-15, in job preparedness and literary arts enrichment.

25% of SummerWrite campers receive full or partial need-based scholarships. Auto-calculated awards are based on NYS poverty line metrics and also take into account such out-of-pocket expenses as medical bills, tuition, and child support.

SummerWrite 2020

Due to COVID-19, **SummerWrite 2020 will be delivered in the virtual classroom via Zoom.** We have reimagined and are excited to deliver 51 camps as interactive virtual experiences.

Cost: Week-long camp fees range from \$46 to \$148. All are eligible for scholarships.

Materials: In most cases, paper and pencil are all that are needed. When arts-and-craft supplies are required, WAB will provide materials, either drop-shipped, or distributed at central pick-up sites.

Opportunity and Challenge

Thanks to Zoom, we have the opportunity to reach under-served families in urban and rural areas where transportation has been an obstacle in prior years. At the same time, **campers must be able to access [Chromebooks or similar devices](#) and wifi hotspots in order to participate.**

Goals in 2020:

- Outreaching and serving families living in **Act for Education's (ACT)** 22-district service area.
- Raising \$29k in scholarship funds to serve more families (\$18,250 raised to date).
- Delivering high quality camps that bring out the best in both reluctant and avid young readers and writers, and prevent "summer slide."

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