



WE INVITE YOU TO
PARTICIPATE IN OUR

Homebound Letter Writing Program



Want to make a positive impact with a handwritten letter?

Join our Homebound Letter Writing Program and get paired up with a homebound senior citizen as a pen pal to exchange letters and form a connection. Due to health or physical restrictions, many of these elderly patrons can't leave their homes even during a normal year. Like many of us, although they are keeping safe by social distancing, many homebound patrons are struggling to stay active and find an outlet to be socially connected to others.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

OPTION 1: Sign Up & Attend our Next Teen Advisory Board Meeting

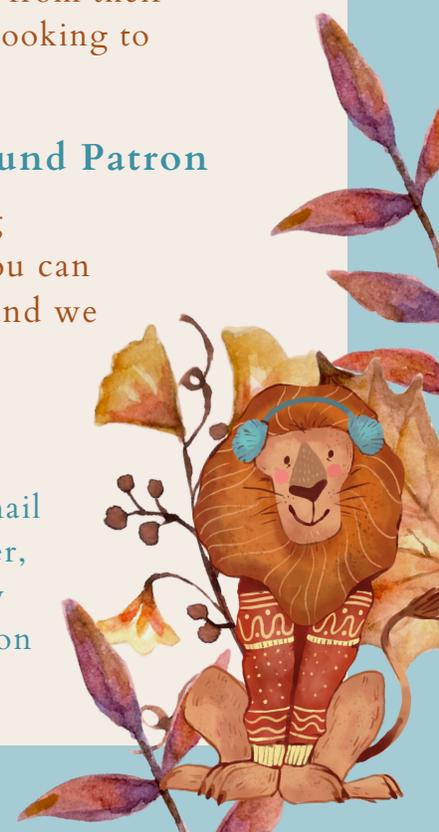
Sign up online to join us at our next TAB meeting through zoom on Sunday, December 6th from 2:00-3:30 pm. The teens who are a part of our TAB group will be spending our meeting time hanging out together as they write their letters to their assigned homebound pen pal, ask questions, and get inspiration from their peers for what to write about. This is a great opportunity if you are looking to connect with other service-oriented teens

OPTION 2: Email Us to Get Partnered with a Homebound Patron

Can't make it to the TAB meeting or you don't feel like attending another zoom meeting? That's okay! If you want to participate, you can also email Shanon Barton at sbarton@kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org and we will make sure to get you partnered with a homebound pen pal.

How to Return Your Letter

Whether you choose to attend our TAB meeting or email us to sign up, once you are finished writing your letter, you will return it to the Kirkwood Public Library by pulling up to curbside and calling 314-821-5770 Option 4 and a Youth Services Librarian will collect it.



LETTER WRITING Guidelines

- When signing your name on the letter, give only your first name and first initial of your last name (or the name you feel comfortable going by i.e. Shanon B.)
- Do not share personal information such as full name, address, phone number, email address, social media, etc.
- Do not ask for personal information about the person you are writing to. This means, do not ask them for their full name, address, phone number, email address, social media, etc.
- Do not curse or use profane language.
- Parents/guardians of teens who are participating are responsible for the nature of the content in their letters.
- Agree with your pen pal on how often you would like to exchange letters. For example, 1-2 times a month is a reasonable guideline for a beginning pen pal exchange. You can always make the decision together to write more/less frequently.
- Respond to your pen pal in a reasonable amount of time – no one wants to feel forgotten!

IDEAS FOR WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT:

- What are some activities that you enjoy doing during the winter?
- What is a favorite memory you could share about winter in your childhood?
- What are your hobbies or interests? Do you have favorite books or movies? Why are these your favorite things?
- What are some things that bring joy or positivity into your life that you could share?
- What are some questions you have about the person you are writing to? (Remember, only ask the types of questions that you would feel comfortable answering also.)

