

NaNoWriMo

National Novel Writing Month

What is NaNoWriMo?

- An annual world-wide event where participants attempt to write a 50,000-word novel in 30 days
- 1,667 words per day (approximately 1.1 words per minute)
- All novels must be started from scratch & may not be started before 12:00am on November 1st
 - Pre-planning is allowed but not required (NaNoPlanMo)
 - NaNo Rebels
- Final word counts must be submitted by 11:59:59 pm on November 30th
- In order to win, you must write at least 50,000 words
 - You're challenging yourself, not competing against other writers
 - Can be thousands of winners each sessions

Camp NaNoWriMo

- Held twice a year (April and July)
- Offers participants more flexibility
- Set your own word count goal
- Set a revision goal
- Permissible to work on a pre-existing WIP (no rebelling required...)

Young Writers Program

- For writers under 18 and K-12 educators
- Can be done individually or as part of a group/classroom project
- Offers smaller writing challenges year-round

A Brief History of NaNoWriMo

- Started in July 1999 in San Francisco Bay Area with 21 participants (6 winners)
- Moved to November the following year (140 participants across two countries, 21 winners)
- Year Three had 5000 participants
- November 2019 event had over 455,000 participants across six continents
- Camp NaNoWriMo debuted in July 2011 (12,000 participants, 1,755 winners)
- Camp NaNoWriMo 2019 event had over 70,000 participants
- Achieved non-profit status in 2006 (donated over \$20,000 to charity that year)

Traditionally published novels created during a NaNoWriMo session

- *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen
- *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- *Wool* by Hugh Howley
- *The Darwin Elevator* by Jason M. Hough
- *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell
- *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer

NaNoPlanMo

- Takes place in September and October
- Offers step-by-step guides
 - Developing story ideas
 - Creating characters
 - Constructing plot
 - World building
 - Organizing your life for writing
 - Time management
- Course PDF available for free download

Reasons to try NaNoWriMo

- The experience (you may end up surprising yourself...)
- Expand your writing community
- Let your imagination run wild
- Can help you break a harmful inner editor habit
- Can help you establish a writing routine
- Bragging rights & shiny badges

How To Survive NaNoWriMo

- Don't worry about quality— that's December's problem
- Don't edit/delete as you go (as much as possible...)
- Limit social media/other distractions (as much as possible...)
- Try to establish a set time to work everyday
- Write in short bursts
- Reward yourself when you reach goals
- Practice self-care

Participating in NaNoWriMo

- Sign up online at www.nanowrimo.org
- Find friends & join regional groups to find participants near you
- Participate in online forums with wrimos all over the world
- Attend write-in events (All official 2020 events will be virtual)
- Follow NaNoWriMo on social media (links available on the website)
- Receive pep talks from famous authors (past authors include Dean Koontz, Roxane Gay, Neil Gaiman, John Green, and N.K. Jemisin)
- **HAVE FUN & WRITE WITH ABANDON!**