

Q&A

Q: If I didn't volunteer last year, am I at a disadvantage?

A: Nope! You'll be great regardless of whether or not you've volunteered before!

Q: I don't have enough letters to write! (Or too many) What do I do?

A: Due to the unpredictability of how many letter requests the project will receive during the week-long event, we unfortunately can't control exactly how many letter requests each volunteer receives. It'll likely be in a range between 10 - 20.

Q: I'm not receiving as many letter requests as I thought. Why?

A: Be sure to add confirmation@snailmailmyemail.org to your address book/contacts to ensure the arrival of letter requests and check your junk/spam folder frequently - just in case!

Q: I don't feel comfortable with the content of the letter. Do I still have to send it?

A: All letters are screened for obscene/vulgar content before they are sent to the volunteers but occasionally one may slip through. If you come across something that makes you uncomfortable, please contact your organizer immediately and he/she will take care of it.

Q: What should I use as the return address?

A: This is 100% up to you. Some volunteers like to write their return address so the recipient knows where the letter is coming from. Others choose to leave it blank. You can use that extra real estate for another doodle or to write "SnailMailMyEmail.org".

Q: Can I request letters that are only sent within my home country?

A: This year we are switching to an automated system that cycles through the letter requests and distributes them equally to all of the Letter Artists across the globe in real time. This is a good thing overall, but unfortunately means we no longer can control the destination country of your letter requests.

Q: Ack. I have another question. Are you mad?

A: No way! Organizers are here to support you guys and make this process as fun and streamlined as possible. Ask away! Don't forget that all of your questions should be directed to your organizer versus a more general email address as we're trying to keep the main inbox as organized as possible.



The Snail Mail My Email project was created in 2011 by artist Ivan Cash, during which 234 volunteers collectively sent 10,457 letters to 70 countries over a month-long span.

The project has since transitioned to a week-long, annual event. To date, a total of 610 volunteers have collectively sent 16,568 letters all across the world. The next SMME event takes place November 10-16, 2014.

LETTER WRITING TIPS FROM PAST VOLUNTEERS

“Add a creative touch: for instance try writing upside down, using a variety of colors, taking to the letter with a pair of scissors, anything to make it more personal.”

— Terry

“Don’t wait to the last minute and have fun with it! Writing a letter takes considerably longer than writing an email, but the result is 10 times more meaningful.”

— Lauren

“Don’t be scared by a strange request. Some of my favorite letters ended up being those letters that had a challenging request, like: make it look like a wolf ate it. The project is so much fun, so take a deep breath and jump in!”

— Gia

“If you commit to the project, be sure you can commit to doing the letters in a timely fashion. Pick up some international stamps.”

— Beth

“Use the label/folder system on your email, especially if you use Gmail. I recommend not deleting anything till the end of the project, so be sure to mark off the ones you’ve already completed.”

— Heather

“Be ready for the one of busiest but most rewarding weeks of your life.”

— Jon



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SPREADING THE WORD

Snail Mail My Email is volunteer-run. We don't have a fancy PR person. No media budget. But what we do have is heart: we have YOU.

To help Snail Mail My Email IV be the best it can be, we're asking for your help in spreading the word: On Monday, Nov. 10th (project launch), we're asking you to share the following:

Snail Mail My Email is a collaborative art project where volunteers (like me!) transform emails into handwritten letters, for free. From now until November 16th, submit your letter to be sent anywhere in the world.

<http://snailmailmyemail.org>

Share this image along with your post:

<http://snailmailmyemail.org/images/smme-iv-share.jpg>



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