



Wisconsin Educational Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Distant Pals Program

Distant Pals is a unique program that matches students who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind from around the state with another peer with hearing loss. Students correspond throughout the year by sending six or more letters and projects to each other through the Distant Pals Program. **New this year: Each mailing must contain at least five sentences.** This year we'd **also like to add a video call between pals**, whether it's using a videophone, FaceTime, Skype, etc. The Distant Pals Coordinator will help facilitate this process.

Distant Pals rewards students for making progress towards their six letter commitment. Each time a letter or "letter project" is completed, students will earn points towards prizes!

Point System

- Filling out and returning the "Meet Me" sheet: **2 points**
- Any **hard copy mailing: 2 points**
 - Art, cards, puzzles, hand written or computer generated letters
- **Electronic mailing: 4 points**
 - Captioned videos, PowerPoints/Prezi, StoryKits, etc.
 - **These must be sent electronically.** Ex. If a PowerPoint is made and then printed, it will still only receive 2 points because it is a hard copy.
 - If you would like help with brainstorming more technology ideas, feel free to contact the Distant Pals Coordinator!

Deadlines and Incentives

- **5 points by Thanksgiving:** Culver's Scoop Coupon
- **12 points by Winter Break:** a book with a deaf character
- **25 points by May 15:** a \$10 Barnes & Noble gift card
- **Completing the six promised mailings by 05/15/15:** stationery/writing supplies

To Register for Distant Pals 2014/2015

SUPERVISING ADULTS:

- Complete **Distant Pals Information Sheet** (only one per adult)
- Discuss **Program Rules/Commitment** with participating students; copy for each student
- Send completed **Meet Me!** and signed **Permission to Photograph/Videotape** for each student
- **Return all forms** for each participating student no later than **September 30th.**

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS:

- Sign and return **Program Rules/Commitment**
- Complete and return the **Meet Me! Form**

Check our website in August and September for registration forms: www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/out_distantpals.cfm

Or contact the Distant Pals Coordinator, Lindsay Raclaw, at lindsay.raclaw@wesp-dhh.wi.gov

WESP-DHH Outreach Distant Pals Coordinator - Lindsay Raclaw
N25W23131 Paul Rd, Suite 100
Pewaukee, WI 53072



Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Distant Pals Program

Rules for Participation

Supervisors, please discuss the following topics with your students and provide explanations or examples as necessary.

- Being a good role model.
 - Using positive language (no cursing or rude comments), using words of encouragement.
 - Talking about positive topics.
- Being a good friend.
 - Committing to send six or more letters/projects to their Distant Pal.
 - Being respectful of their Distant Pal. Disagreeing with their pal is okay, as long as it is done in a polite way.
 - If there is a need for your student to withdraw from the program for any reason, have them personally write to their Distant Pal and explain that they won't be receiving any more mail from them.
- Keeping personal information confidential.
 - They will not give out personal information, such as last name, school, address, email, phone number, or any user names / profiles (Instant Message, Gaming IDs, Twitter, Facebook, Skype, etc.)
 - They will not ask for their Distant Pal's personal information, such as last name, school, address, email, phone number, or any user names / profiles (Instant Message, Gaming IDs, Twitter, Facebook, Skype, etc.)

I have discussed the Rules for Participation with my student. They agree to follow the Rules for Participation for the Distant Pals Program. I/They understand that if they break the rules, then they may lose their Distant Pal privilege.

Supervising Adult's Name

Date

Supervising Adult's Signature

Supervising Adult's Email Address



THE DISTANCE



A Newsletter for Distant Pals

Deadlines

For Supervising Adults:

Please make sure to have your student info sheet completed, Meet Me! forms filled out, and all permissions signed and in the mail by **9/26/14!**

For Pals:

11/21: 6 points needed to earn a **Culver's FREE SCOOP coupon**

12/19: 10 points for a **BOOK WITH A DEAF CHARACTER**

05/15: 25 points for a **\$10 BARNES & NOBLE GIFT CARD**

DOING ALL SIX MAILINGS: STATIONERY / WRITING SUPPLIES

Point System

2 points: Any "snail mail" (letter, card, picture, etc.)

4 points: Using technology! These must be sent via email to the Distant Pals Coordinator who will send them to your pal!

Technology Ideas

Wondering how you can include technology? Try out some of our ideas:

- Email
- PowerPoint
- Movie (don't forget the captions!)
- Use apps to make Storykits, postcards, comics, photos!

Welcome Back!

It's that time of year again! Everyone is back from a nice, long break; It's exciting to see friends again; We're all ready to learn!

We have new and exciting updates for the Distant Pals program!

We will be continuing the use of **technology** in our mailings! You all did such a **great job** last year, we want you to **keep it up!** You will also be able to **chat with your Pal FACE-TO-FACE!** That's right, we're hoping to include a day where Pals can connect by videophone, FaceTime, or Skype, so you can put a face to a name!

There will also be **new prizes** this year! See the information in the sidebar to the left under Deadlines for program prizes.

What should we talk about?

Sometimes it can be a challenge to think of topics to talk about with your new pal. Think of all the things you like, chances are your pal will like some of them too! Here are a few others:

- What you did over summer break
- What you're most looking forward to at school this year
- Books you've read, or movies you've watched
- Places you traveled / visited
- Your favorite memory
- If you could go anywhere, where would it be and why
- Your favorite superhero/cartoon/book character

Have questions about Distant Pals?

Contact the Distant Pals Program Coordinator, Lindsay Raclaw, at:

lindsay.raclaw@wesp-dhh.wi.gov

