

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in volunteering to lead a writing workshop with NY Writers Coalition (NYWC). We provide free and low-cost creative writing workshops throughout NYC to people from groups that have been historically deprived of voice in our society. By creating a community of writers and leaders from all economic backgrounds, races, ages and sexual orientations, we encourage people to gain confidence and a stronger sense of self, find and expand their voices and discover the value of their own stories.

Volunteer workshop leaders are required to participate in our extensive training and support program before beginning to lead workshops. This program includes: 1) 20 hours of training; 2) setting up and leading one practice workshop; 3) attending quarterly meetings of workshop leaders; 4) regular contact with your NYWC support person; and 5) completing any necessary paperwork. Because supporting each workshop leader requires a great deal of NYWC's resources, **we also ask that workshop leaders commit to a minimum of six months of leading workshops with NYWC.**

Our next training session will be in Fall 2010, but the exact dates haven't been set yet. Trainings take place at NYWC's offices in Fort Greene Brooklyn. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, so the earlier you submit, the better.

Space in the training is limited, so not everyone who applies to volunteer will be accepted. Preference will be given to those with: experience in writing groups of some sort; a history of community involvement; ties to the community they propose to serve; facilitation, leadership or teaching experience; a commitment to and understanding of NYWC's philosophy of creating a respectful and positive atmosphere for people to write in; and a flexible schedule with some weekday availability.

Please answer each of the questions on the following pages as fully and concisely as possible. Feel free to attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

Thanks again for your interest.

Date_____

Name_____ Daytime Phone_____

Address_____ Evening Phone_____

_____ E-mail_____

Are you over 21 years old? Yes_____ No_____

Are you willing to submit to a standard background check?

Yes_____ No_____

Which training session are you interested in?

____ Fall 2010 _____ Future dates

Are you willing to commit to a minimum of six months of leading workshops with NYWC? Yes_____ No_____

Are you fluent in any language other than English?

Yes_____ No_____ If yes, which one(s)? _____

Briefly describe any previous volunteer and/or social service experience you have had.

Briefly describe the role writing plays in your life.

What experiences have you had in writing workshops as a participant and as a leader/facilitator?

What does the phrase “safe space for writing” mean to you?

In your opinion, what is the distinction between “teaching” and “leading” or “facilitation”?

Please describe any life experiences you have had that you think will be helpful to you in leading writing workshops with NYWC, or that have led you to want to volunteer with NYWC.

What groups are you most interested in working with? Are there any groups that you do not feel comfortable working with (this won't be held against you in considering your application, so please answer honestly)?

What is your schedule generally like? When would you be available to lead a workshop?

How did you hear about NYWC? _____

Please list two references that can speak to your work with writing, volunteerism, social service or any other field you feel is relevant. Please do not use a family member, spouse or partner as a reference.

Name	Relation	Phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I hereby certify that everything set forth in this application is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If there is anything else you'd like us to know about you, please attach a note with this application. **Please also attach a resume.**

Please send your completed application to NY Writers Coalition, 80 Hanson Place #603, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Feel free to contact Aaron Zimmerman at (718) 398-2883 or aaron@nywriterscoalition.org if you have any questions. Thank you.