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**NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH'S  
YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM**

***THE LARGEST WRITING EVENT FOR KIDS AND TEENS IN THE WORLD!***

**Oakland, Calif.**—<http://ywp.NaNoWriMo.org>—**November, 2009**—There are some who say writing a novel takes awesome talent, strong language skills, academic training, and years of dedication.

Not true. All it really takes is a deadline—a very, very tight deadline—and a whole lot of encouragement.

Welcome to **National Novel Writing Month's Young Writers Program**: a nonprofit literary crusade that encourages aspiring young writers all over the world to write a novel in a month. On Nov. 1, more than **25,000 kids and teens in over 600 classrooms worldwide**—poised over laptops and pads of paper, fingers itching and minds racing with plots and characters—will begin a furious adventure in fiction. By Dec. 1, thousands of them will be novelists.

**NaNoWriMo** is the largest writing event in the world. In 2008, over 100,000 adults, and 20,000 kids and teens took part in the free challenge, making it the YWP's biggest year yet.

"These kids were becoming authors and they knew it!" said Luke Perry, a middle school teacher in Battle Creek, Michigan, talking about his NaNo-experience. "Students from every grade level, from every clique, from every socio-economic bracket, before our very eyes became writers who knew they could write and liked to do it!"

NaNoWriMo's YWP was created in 2004 and gives teachers and students a safe and kid-oriented place to spend an exhilarating month bashing out their books. Through our site, budding young authors can connect with participants all around the world. The program also offers creative writing curricula for educators, workbooks for students, and incentive kits for classrooms, including posters, progress charts, stickers, and buttons. Writers also receive encouraging pep talks from the YWP staff and from authors our participants know and love. Last year's pep talk authors included **Jerry Spinelli** and **Phillip Pullman**, among many others.

If you would like more information about National Novel Writing Month's Young Writers Program please visit our website at <http://YWP.NaNoWriMo.org>, or contact Tavia Stewart at [Tavia\\_Stewart@NaNoWriMo.org](mailto:Tavia_Stewart@NaNoWriMo.org).