

Quotes from Pen Pals:

"I learned a lot from having a Senior Pen Pal...I learned to be a better writer and better at my punctuation marks and for some reason I think I got smarter. I also think it's wierd how this person I don't even know cares about my grades, cares about how I am doing in basketball, and stuff like that...I have a cool pen pal."

—Natasha, student Pen Pal

"Over the years my pen pals have had a wide range of writing skills. This program helps youngsters understand a broader view of the world and connects them with an adult who will encourage them to do their best."

—Henry, senior Pen Pal



SHARE is a project of the
Volunteer Center of the Redwoods
& RSVP.

Contact us to learn how you can become
a classroom volunteer, a Resource
Speaker and/or a Pen Pal.

Call: 707-442-3711

Email: volunteer@a1aa.org

SHARE, the Volunteer Center of the
Redwoods, and RSVP are programs of
the Area 1 Agency on Aging

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Volunteer Center of the Redwoods
& RSVP
3300 Glenwood Street
Eureka California 95501



PEN PALS



SHARE School Volunteers



Who is involved?

- ☐ Seniors who enjoy staying involved with today's students.
- ☐ 5th & 6th grade students and classroom teachers in local schools.

What is the Purpose?

- ☐ To form friendships between younger and older generations
- ☐ To share similar interests such as hobbies, pets, music, travels, family events, etc.
- ☐ To inform the student about life experiences in a different era
- ☐ To give students an opportunity to develop and strengthen writing skills.

How do I become a Pen Pal?

- ☐ Call VCOR/RSVP at 442-3711
- ☐ Complete the interest questionnaire sent by VCOR/RSVP
- ☐ Return the questionnaire as directed.

About the Pen Pal Program...

How does it Work?

- ☐ Seniors are matched with students and given the student's interest questionnaire
- ☐ The adult writes the first letter; student's response follows
- ☐ Senior's letter should be enclosed in a small envelope, addressed with the student's first and last name; senior writes own first and last name (no address) in the upper left corner. Mail this in a larger envelope to the classroom coordinator and remember to write a return address on the large envelope
- ☐ Senior's letter, *due before the first of each month*, is sent to the classroom coordinator.
- ☐ All letters are delivered together to the classroom by the coordinator, *on the same day*. Each student in class must receive a letter. *Prompt receipt of your letter by the classroom coordinator is important.*
- ☐ Often students share letters with other class members or their parents.
- ☐ Students know only the Pen Pal's name; not their address or phone number.

What are my commitments?

- ☐ Write one letter each month to your student pen pal during the school year.
- ☐ Promptly return your letter to your classroom coordinator by the indicated due date each month.
- ☐ Make every effort to attend the end-of-the-year Pen Pal party.
- ☐ Contact classroom coordinator if:
 - you are concerned about your student
 - you cannot meet a letter's due date
 - you are unable to attend the party at the end of the school year (please plan to meet your Pen Pal at school at another time.)
- ☐ Refrain from gift-giving. This is more equitable to all students. Stickers, postcards, & photographs are acceptable.
- ☐ Send a postcard or your regular letter when you are out of town.

Your involvement:

- ☐ Begins with the first letter to the student and extends throughout the school year.
- ☐ Ends with a Pen Pal Party in May or June where senior & student Pen Pals meet. (Pen Pal correspondence may continue following the party, with parents' permission.)