



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

Dear Stranger is a statewide letter-exchange project that Humanities Nebraska is introducing this summer. Modeled after a program by the same name at Oregon Humanities, Dear Stranger encourages people to reflect on their experiences and beliefs and make new connections by writing letters to strangers: write a letter, get a letter, and make a new connection.

How it works:

As a starting point, this summer's prompt is:

When you look back at your life in 2020, what stories do you think you will tell about this time and what you learned about yourself?



Instructions for Participants:

1. Write a letter addressed to “Dear Stranger.” If you’d like, feel free to include a photo or a drawing or a recipe—anything that will fit in an envelope.
2. Mail your letter and [signed participant form](#) to “Dear Stranger,” c/o Humanities Nebraska, 215 Centennial Mall South Ste 330, Lincoln, NE 68508 **by July 31, 2020**. Anyone, of any age, may participate, and to do so anonymously should they choose. We also ask participants to complete the [participation form](#) indicating their understanding that Humanities Nebraska is not responsible for the content of letters and that, if they are under 18 or younger, they have a parent or guardian’s permission to participate. This is a one-to-one exchange; each writer receives the letter written by the person who receives theirs. All letters are screened for offensive content and we may, with permission, publish letters or excerpts on our website.
3. If a participant wants to respond to the Dear Stranger letter they received, we ask them to include a return address in the body of their reply and mail it to us so we can send it on to the person they were paired with. If they would also like to continue correspondence, the parties can continue their exchange directly.

Questions about Dear Stranger?

Please email DearStranger@humanitiesnebraska.org or visit our website and click on “Dear Stranger” under programs.

Sponsorship Opportunities

While this is a relatively inexpensive program for HN to run, there are costs related to postage and staff time. HN seeks sponsors ranging from \$250 to \$1,000. Benefits of sponsorship include visibility in promotional materials (i.e. press releases, eblasts), recognition on the HN website, and in our statewide outreach to media outlets, libraries, and literary organizations and other organizations. For sponsorship questions, please contact Heather Thomas via email at heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.