

Writing Project to Participate in Partnership Events in Nation's Capitol

As part of its partnerships with two of the country's most prestigious learning institutions, the National Writing Project will participate in Smithsonian Teachers' Night on September 19 and the Library of Congress's National Book Festival on October 4.

Almost 2,000 educators are expected at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., for September's Teachers' Night. The free event, sponsored by the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies, gives teachers a chance to meet museum educators and learn about the educational resources offered by the world's largest museum and research complex. Representatives from the NWP and local writing project sites will be on hand to distribute information about the writing project and its programs to attendees.

Smaller Teachers' Night celebrations will be held at two Smithsonian partner museums as well—the Challenger Space Center outside Phoenix, Arizona, and the Kansas Space Center and Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas—as this year's theme celebrates the centennial of flight.

Representatives from writing project sites will be on hand at those events as well. NWP's partnership with the Smithsonian is based on the theory that literacy efforts can be enhanced and supported by working with museums.

NWP will also participate in the Library of Congress's third National Book Festival on October 4. Approximately 30,000 people are expected at this year's event, sponsored by the Library's Center for the Book and held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The event will feature a range of activities from author signings to storytelling performances. Representatives from NWP and local sites will be present to distribute information on writing project programming. NWP is one of more than 90 partners in the Center for the Book's reading promotion program, designed to promote books and literacy nationally and internationally.

For more information on the Center for the Book, please visit <http://lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/>. For more information on Smithsonian Teachers' Night, please visit http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/professional_development/teachers_night.html.