



AHG Pen Pal Program Parent FAQ

What is the American Heritage Girls Pen Pal Program?

The AHG Pen Pal Program is a unique and fun opportunity for girls in AHG to make friends in other Troops across the nation. All Program Levels can participate, and each girl will be matched up with a girl in a different state at the same Program Level. (i.e. Tenderheart with Tenderheart). Girls can write letters, send pictures and cards by mail, or they can choose to communicate by email. Older girls, with their parent's permission, can also communicate through other means such as texting and social media.

How does the sign up work?

The families of all 2020-2021 AHG Girl Members will receive an email invitation to join the 2021 Pen Pal Program on October 1, 2020. Simply follow the email link to sign up to register. Registration is from October 1st through November 30th, 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time.

What is the cost?

There is a non-refundable \$8 registration fee per girl and \$6 per additional girl. This fee covers the patch, the mailing of the patch as well as the cost of administration and technology.

What are the expectations of being in the AHG Pen Pal Program?

Girls are expected to write their pen pals AT LEAST once a month for the 2021 calendar year – January through December. AHG encourages “old fashioned” letter writing especially for younger girls as it develops a special understanding of written communication and a sense of excitement with the daily mail. Girls may show how much they care about their pen pal by sending additional letters or cards for birthdays and holidays. Also, an AHG Pen Pal Pinterest board will be made available to all pen pals for creative communication options (i.e. did you know you could mail a flip flop like a postcard?). Girls also have the option to communicate via email or other means with their parents' permission.

Most importantly, pray for one another! Spiritual encouragement is the best form of support a girl can give to her new friend.

When do girls get their pen pal?

A girl will receive the contact information for her pen pal via her parents' email in January.

Why are the matches going out in January instead of December as in years past?

It was decided to send the matches in January to avoid the busy Christmas season when pen pal emails are having a much higher chance of getting lost or unread. This also allows girls to continue to communicate with their 2020 pen pal.

Can girls earn a patch?

Yes, Pen Pal Patches will be sent to your Troop Coordinator before the end of the Program Year. Patches are worn on the back of a girl's vest or sash. Remember that receiving your patch does not mean that your pen pal commitment is complete.

Why must a girl be registered for the current Program Year in order to participate in the AHG Pen Pal Program?

AHG values the safety of Girl Members. All girls participating in the AHG Pen Pal Program must be AHG Members to ensure that girls are connecting with the appropriate people.

Is there a discount if more than one girl in the same family signs up?

Yes, there is a discount for multiple daughters to sign up at this time. It is \$8 per girl and \$6 per every additional girl, and the cost is nonrefundable.

What if I don't receive the email invitation to join the 2021 AHG Pen Pal Program?

First, confirm with your Troop Coordinator that your daughter is a registered AHG Member for the 2020- 2021 year. Families of Girl Members will receive an email invitation to join as long as they are registered with AHG by October 1, 2020. Also, check your email junk or spam folder.

If the November 30th deadline is missed, is it too late to sign up?

Yes, the registration deadline is November 30, 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time. This is to allow ample time to match up pen pals and email the matches in January.

Can a girl keep her current pen pal?

No, a girl will receive a brand new pen pal every year she participates in the program. AHG encourages girls who already connected via the AHG Pen Pal Program to continue to connect outside the program.

Can a girl choose a previous pen pal? Can a girl request a specific girl to be her pen pal?

No, a girl can neither request a pen pal from a prior year nor can she request a specific girl to be her pen pal. The time it would take to ensure that would happen would delay the match process considerably.

Will you be giving out my email address?

The only person who will receive your email address is the family of a girl's pen pal. This will be the primary contact you will use to reach out to the family of your daughter's pen pal. In the event that a girl's pen pal does not respond, please attempt contacting the parent of your daughter's pen pal before contacting your Troop's leadership or the AHG Office.

What if a girl decides to leave AHG?

In the event that a girl leaves AHG, she should still honor her commitment and continue to write her pen pal. If she is simply not able to do so, she should contact the AHG Office via the following link: [Pen Pal Form](#). An AHG Staff Member will try to find a replacement pen pal. This is not guaranteed.

What happens if a girl's pen pal does not write?

AHG encourages a girl to persevere in her commitment to writing her pen pal each month. Please email the pen pal's parent to understand why she is not writing. There may be unforeseen circumstances that prevent a girl from writing. Parents are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the girls fulfill their commitment. Encourage your daughter to keep writing and praying for her pen pal.

What if I don't get a response from the family of my daughter's pen pal after I email?

If you are not hearing from your daughter's pen pal or her parents after reaching out via email, the next step is to contact the AHG Office via the following link: [Pen Pal Form](#). An AHG Staff Member will follow up with the Troop Coordinator to be sure everything is okay with the Pen Pal family. In the event that a girl cannot continue, an AHG Staff Member will try to find a replacement pen pal. This is not guaranteed.

What do I do if a girl's family does not get a pen pal match?

Everyone should have a pen pal assigned by the end of January. If you have not received a pen pal match, check your junk or spam folder. If the match is not in any of your email folders, please fill out the [PenPalForm](#)

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Questions should be directed to the [Pen Pal Form](#)