



Youth Programming FAQ

General FAQ Answers/Base Info

WordsWorth

- ❖ WordsWorth runs **July 14 – 26, 2024**
 - Week 1 (ages 11-14) runs **July 14 – 19, 2024**
 - Week 2 (ages 15-19) runs **July 21 – 26, 2024**
- ❖ Registration opens **April 2, 2024**
 - Early Bird rate: \$590 until **April 30, 2024**
 - Regular rate: \$630 starting **May 1, 2024**
- ❖ **Bursaries** are available
- ❖ WordsWorth will be held at **Red Deer Polytechnic**
 - It is an overnight camp lasting five nights
- ❖ This year's theme is **DRAGONSONG**
- ❖ WordsWorth has been active since 2011
 - Past three years have been at Red Deer Polytechnic
- ❖ Website: <https://writersguild.ca/programs-services/wordsworth/>

Drink the Wild Air

- ❖ Drink the Wild Air runs **March 15 – 17, 2024**
 - Ages 11-19
- ❖ Registration is **currently open!**
 - Deadline to register is **March 8, 2024**
- ❖ **Bursaries** are available
- ❖ Drink the Wild Air will be held **online**
- ❖ Website and registration: <https://writersguild.ca/drink-the-wild-air/>

Circuit Tree: Rebooted

- ❖ Circuit Tree: Rebooted runs throughout the year

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- Can register for individual single-day workshops
- Ages 11-19
- ❖ Registration is open for workshops at least a month in advance
- ❖ Currently **online**, but in-person workshops may be available in the future
- ❖ Website and registration: <https://writersguild.ca/wordsworth-presents-circuit-tree/>

Teacher FAQs

What do the kids typically get out of the experience? Is there a final project that they are working towards?

- ❖ **WordsWorth:** While there is a Camp Life Sampler Platter at the end of each week for campers to show their parents/guardians what their time at WordsWorth was like, each course tends to have its own goal that campers work towards throughout the week. A past example of this was writing a play in the Collaborative Writing course. To describe the experience as a whole, WordsWorth is a week-long sleepover creative writing residency for young artists who believe in the power of words and storytelling. Campers will be completely immersed in the creative and diverse world of writing. Guided by established and respected artist-instructors, the young artists will experience writing through fiction, nonfiction, poetry, spoken word, music, movement, and more. But the experiences don't begin and end with the classes; WordsWorth is a place where young artists come together to celebrate writing through friendship, campfire stories and songs, concerts, open mic sessions, hikes, haiku, and semi-competitive games outside of class.
- ❖ **Drink the Wild Air:** Because we can't offer WordsWorth all year long, we have the whirlwind weekend of creativity unleashed that is Drink the Wild Air. From prompting walks through snow-covered grounds and (digital) fireside readings to inspiring sessions from professional writers, Drink the Wild Air offers a mini-WordsWorth experience to a community of budding creatives that is sure to be a breath of fresh air as winter draws to a close. This year we will once

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again come together online to take workshops with working professionals, play games, share our stories, our songs, our poems, and our art.

- ❖ **Circuit Tree: Rebooted:** With the success of online programming and the desire for more programming for youth throughout the year, Circuit Tree: Rebooted is an ongoing series of single-day creative writing workshops for youth ages 11 – 19. Join us online to learn something new or get a refresh on some tips and tricks from working professionals. You will also gain access to our youth Discord server where discussions, collaboration, sharing of art, and more digital adventures await! While each workshop has its own goals for participants to work towards, the main goal of the programming is to foster creativity in the youths of Alberta.

What is the cost to attend?

- ❖ **WordsWorth 2024: DRAGONSONG**

- ☐ **\$590 Early Bird** available from **April 2 – 30, 2024**
- ☐ **\$630** starting **May 1, 2024**
- ☐ The prices are the same for Week 1 (ages 11-14) and Week 2 (ages 15-19).

- ❖ **Drink the Wild Air: \$140**

- ❖ **Circuit Tree: Rebooted:** Cost is dependent on the length of the workshop, but is typically \$20 - \$40.

Who can attend? What is the participant age range?

- ❖ While we have a focus on creative writing, our youth programming is open to anyone ages 11 – 19 who has an interest in storytelling, whether that be through writing, visual arts, or another capacity.
 - ☐ WordsWorth Week 1, July 14 – 19, 2024: ages 11 – 14
 - ☐ WordsWorth Week 2, July 21 – 26, 2024: ages 15 - 19

Who do you typically hire? When do applications for hiring open?

- ❖ We are always looking for experienced instructors to teach youth classes and workshops! Visit <https://writersguild.ca/want-to-teach-at-one-of-our-youth-camps/> and fill out the form to

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submit your application. Instructors will be contacted as positions become available. We hire instructors in a wide variety of art forms to inspire storytelling.

How do I get more information about the program?

- ❖ You can request to join the mailing list for youth programming by emailing mail@writersguild.ca. You can also find most other information by visiting the website.
 - **WordsWorth:** <https://writersguild.ca/programs-services/wordsworth/>
 - **Drink the Wild Air:** <https://writersguild.ca/drink-the-wild-air/>
 - **Circuit Tree: Rebooted:** <https://writersguild.ca/wordsworth-presents-circuit-tree/>

Student FAQs

How do I register? Is it first come, first served, or is there a selection process?

- ❖ Registration is first come, first served. Returning participants are typically given a chance to register early, but registration is open to all participants on **April 2, 2024**. To register, you will out an **online registration form** (see program links above to find your program's form) that includes parent contact, emergency contacts, dietary restrictions, and medical information (Alberta Health Care number required, or equivalent for out of province participants).
- ❖ New participants must include a creative writing sample and a 300 words statement in their own words explaining why they wish to attend WordsWorth. This is not for a competitive selection process, but to get to know new participants. If there are concerns, the WordsWorth Director will contact the student's parents to discuss if WordsWorth is a good fit for the student.

Do I have to pay all at once? What if I can't afford it?

- ❖ We have **bursaries** available that typically cover 25% - 75% of the registration fee. To apply for a bursary, email mail@writersguild.ca explaining your financial need and how much funding you need (parents can write this) and why you wish to attend WordsWorth (student should write this). The amount of bursary funds we can provide depends on donations, but we do our best to accommodate everyone. If you are unable to attend without a bursary covering 100% of the fee, please let us know and we will see what we can do.
- ❖ The registration fee may be paid in **instalments**. Email mail@writersguild.ca to arrange this.

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What if I haven't written anything/prefer visual arts?

- ❖ That's okay! If you are interested in trying something new, you are more than welcome to attend any of the programs. You might even find a new passion for telling stories through a medium that you've never thought about trying before.

What is the schedule typically like/how busy does the program get?

- ❖ **WordsWorth:** One of the first things you'll notice when you arrive at WordsWorth on Sunday afternoon is that the days are full. Throughout the week a Creative Team Member will wake you bright and early for breakfast. After breakfast, you will attend a day of amazing classes with breaks for writing, exploring, chilling, and playing. The evenings don't slow down either! Jam sessions (short creative explorations like crafts), followed by nightly shows, campfires, and bedtime stories are what to expect each night. Your Creative Team have many exciting extra-curricular activities planned. In other words, be prepared for busy, full days!
- ❖ **Drink the Wild Air:** Drink the Wild Air runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon and can be quite busy with three workshops and group activities outside of those classes, but there are well-spaced breaks and a nice chunk of personal time in the evening to help space out the screen time.
- ❖ **Circuit Tree: Rebooted:** These are single-day workshops that take place on weekends, so you will only need to block out a few hours for each workshop.

What are the accommodations like? Can I pick my room/who I room with?

- ❖ Students stay in suite-style dorms at Red Deer Polytechnic, where each student has a private bedroom and shares a living area and bathroom with three others. This is a great opportunity to see what living in a post-secondary residence is like! Students will need to bring their own linens, pillows, and towels, which will be indicated in a packing list sent out in advance of the camp. Dorms will be assigned on the arrival day, you may let us know then if you and your friends wish to room together, and we will do our best to accommodate requests.

Do you offer transportation to and from Red Deer Polytechnic?

- ❖ We don't offer transportation, but we can help arrange carpools with other students or instructors in your area. Email mail@writersguild.ca if you are in need of a ride or are willing to give other students a ride.