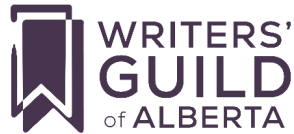


# WordsWorth 2024

## Participant Handbook:

### Week 1



Hello, dear friends of WordsWorth! If you've joined us before, whether it was at Kamp Kiwanis, Drink the Wild Air, or online at Circuit Tree, welcome back. If it's your first time being a part of the magic, welcome. We're so glad you're here. WordsWorth is a special place, and we're thrilled to get to share that with you. This handbook will answer many of the questions you might have, so strap in and take a look - there's lots to know. Many things have changed over the past few years, and we've done our best to account for everything, but just like you we are always learning. If anything is missing or if you have other questions not answered here, please email us at [mail@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:mail@writersguild.ab.ca) and we'll fill in the gaps as soon as we can.

#### **COVID-19 POLICY:**

This year, in line with standard practices, we will not be issuing mandatory nasal swab tests on arrival or through the program unless symptoms present in attendees or staff. Wearing masks indoors will be optional, and we will have plenty available for those that so desire. We will also have a supply of tests should participants wish to test daily. We are also exploring the possibility of having some dorm assignments around higher risk/sensitivity individuals who would like to test daily or mask at all times - if you require special consideration in this, please let us know in advance by contacting us at [mail@writersguild.ca](mailto:mail@writersguild.ca).

**If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, cough, or shortness of breath, stay home.**

In the event a participant becomes ill, parents and/or guardians will be contacted as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency, our staff are trained in First Aid and there is an onsite nurse available.

#### **Location and Arrival:**

Sunday July 14 @ 3:00 PM MT  
Red Deer Polytechnic  
100 College Blvd, Red Deer, AB T4N 5H5  
Main Doors

**\*\*Please arrive on time to ensure we have ample opportunity to test participants and get them settled in their dormitories\*\***

## REGISTRATION

Course registration will be held at 4:00 PM MT on Sunday, July 14, 2024 for students aged 11–14. We will be meeting at the main doors of Red Deer Polytechnic (attached map, pg. 12). Aim for a 3:00 PM MT arrival so we can sort out your dorms before course registration. If, for any reason, you are going to be arriving late, please email [mail@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:mail@writersguild.ab.ca) with as much advance notice as possible.

Participants will select courses, meet the Creative Team and other young writers, and get situated in their dorm rooms. The remainder of the day will be devoted to awesome literacy-related, let's-get-this-week-rolling activities.

**NOTE:** Classes will not begin until the following day at 8:45 AM MT.

## WORDSWORTH 2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

One of the first things you'll notice when you arrive at Red Deer Polytechnic is that WordsWorth days are full. A Creative Team Member will wake you no later than 7:30 AM MT. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM MT. 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, followed by nightly shows, fire-less campfires, and bedtime stories are what to expect each night. Your Creative Team has many exciting extra-curricular activities planned. In other words, be prepared for busy, full days!

**The full schedule is on pg. 8**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Parents and guests are invited to our final **WordsWorth Camp Life Sampler Platter** on **FRIDAY July 19, 2024**. The experience runs from 3:00 –5:00 PM MT. Tell your parents to be prepared to get involved in camp activities that you sign them up for. Refreshments will be served.

## WORDSWORTH STAFF

As a WordsWorthian, you will work with the Creative Team and the Instructors during the program. The Creative Team Members will be responsible for you during all out-of-class activities and will see to it that you get up in the morning and get to sleep at night.

## WORDSWORTH AT RED DEER POLYTECHNIC

This year we are happy to be operating out of Red Deer Polytechnic. We have access to hiking trails, a full library, classrooms, a theatre, and more. During orientation campers will be given a full tour and a map to fill in as we explore together. The accommodations are apartment-style with 4 separate bedrooms, a shared bathroom, and a common area. All residences and activities at Red Deer Polytechnic are supervised by our highly-qualified Creative Team.

## CONTACT WHILE ATTENDING WORDSWORTH

If you need to contact the WordsWorth administration prior to arrival, email [colin.matty@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:colin.matty@writersguild.ab.ca). During WordsWorth, this email will be monitored outside of the Writers' Guild of Alberta's regular business hours. Another option is to phone the Writers' Guild of Alberta at 780.422.8174, however, WGA staff are working remotely and may not be available to answer the phone.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Writers' Guild of Alberta's office hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM MT and might not be able to answer questions outside those hours.

**Please do not bring cell phones to camp.** Calling home from your dorm room while homesick (it happens) makes this feeling worse! So, I'll say it again. **We ask that you don't bring your cell phone.** If there is any sort of emergency, Colin Matty will share his phone and take incoming calls.

**Letter Writing:** Letter writing? What? We know it's quaint but it *is* camp and writing camp at that. Outgoing mail will be collected and sent daily. Incoming mail, on the other hand will have to be emailed to [colin.matty@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:colin.matty@writersguild.ab.ca) to be printed and then will be hand delivered (likely with some fanfare). Give it a try and bring some stamps and envelopes!

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO WORDSWORTH?

### Clothing: (Sufficient for one week)

- Clothing for use in movement (leggings, sweatpants, loose-fitting clothing, etc.)
- Casual clothing for out-of-class time
- “Dressier” clothes for activities like the open mic
- Jacket for cool and/or rainy days/nights (long sleeves will help protect you against mosquitos during outdoor nighttime events)
- Running shoes for walking and outside play
- Rubber boots for mucky conditions
- Footwear for inside use
- Swimsuit or clothing that you are okay with getting wet
- Costume for LARPing (must be safe for running in, so nothing that impedes your vision or feet extensions)

### Linens:

- Single fitted sheet
- Single sheet
- Pillowcase
- Pillow
- Blankets or a sleeping bag
- Bath towel
- Hand towel
- Face cloth

### Toiletries:

- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Deodorant/antiperspirant
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent

### Materials and Supplies:

- Writing notebook/journal
- Pens/pencils
- Eraser
- Paper
- Envelopes and postage stamps
- Camera (only acceptable use for phone)
- Favourite board game
- Musical instruments
- Sheet music for the piano
- Short stories, novels, poems, ideas you’ve begun
- Travel dictionary and thesaurus
- Coffee/tea mug
- Flashlight (labeled with your name)

### Money: (Optional)

Participants could bring approximately \$30 - \$60 in smaller bills and coins, as making change is difficult, for some/any of the following (a Square card reader will be available for WordsWorth/WGA merch):

- WordsWorth T-shirts, if not pre-paid (\$25)
- WordsWorth Tote bags

- WGA Notebooks
- WordsWorth Water Bottles
- WordsWorth Stickers
- Books/CDs/works for sale by our instructors

If you so choose, cash can be given to the WordsWorth Director, Colin Matty, for storage in a safe box. Please put money in an envelope with your name marked on the outside. When you require access to any of the items in your envelope, inform Colin.

### **Writing for the Blue Pencil Café:**

Do you have specific questions about a piece of writing that you would like to ask an author, a poet, a playwright, an editor? Consider signing up for a Blue Pencil Café session. Some of the writers on staff may be available through the week to review, discuss and offer you one on one advice on your writing. But you have to be prepared. **Bring a copy of your work on paper.**

## **WHAT NOT TO BRING**

*Please keep in mind that part of the mandate of WordsWorth is to foster a nurturing, creative environment and this can be negatively affected by the distractions caused by plugging in and tuning out. We ask that there be no texting, game playing, or internet surfing during class time or during any large group activities such as meal times or Jam Sessions.*

Unless you require a device to assist your writing process, do not bring laptops, tablets, handheld gaming devices or consoles, or other expensive electronics; leave them at home. Try to leave your cellphone at home too. Where you're going and what you're doing there, it would only be an interference, and you will be told to put it away. You will gain more from your experience if you leave it at home. Go the week without texting or talking to your parents. The only acceptable use of a cell phone is as a camera during free time.

**ABSOLUTELY NO CONTRABAND** (alcohol, drugs, weapons)

**NOTE:** Please understand that we are not responsible for items lost or left behind at the conclusion of WordsWorth, although we make every effort to return those items we do find. Attaching a permanent or semi-permanent label to your belongings is a good idea.

## **WORDSWORTH RULES AND REGULATIONS**

(The fun stuff)

The success of the WordsWorth program depends upon the strength of the community formed each year. Participants and staff gather in a retreat-like setting to share common interests and ideas and to develop skills. In order to create this community, the following rules apply:

- Participants are encouraged to associate with all members of the WordsWorth community outside of class.
- Bring your best self to WordsWorth! Treat others as you would like to be treated. You'll be amazed at and inspired by the atmosphere we collectively create.
- We ask that you try all the activities and events even if what we offer is something you don't typically do, or it causes some anxiety. At WordsWorth we will provide a safe environment, but we will challenge you and we hope you accept challenges as writers do with the intent of gathering materials for stories, developing the character required to be a writer AND to develop fictional characters. REMEMBER, you can't write all the time. Living is important, too (this advice was given by the late Robert Kroestch to Aritha van Herk).

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ARE FORBIDDEN:**

Any participant found to be in possession of alcohol, cannabis, or any illegal substance, will be sent home immediately without a refund.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

Participants must attend classes and arrive on time, participate fully and learn without interfering in the learning of others. Staying up late at night must not affect class participation.

### **ILLNESS/INJURY:**

In the case of illness or injury, participants must notify a Creative Team Member immediately. If the condition is serious, the participant will be accompanied to a medical clinic or the hospital. We are unable to provide long-term medical treatment and supervision for ill participants during the program, and, therefore, if a medical condition prevents a participant from attending more than one day of classes, arrangements will be made for the participant to return home.

### **RESIDENCE AREA:**

Rooms must be kept neat and tidy. Certain areas of the site are off limits to participants (i.e. areas in use by another group on campus, staff residences and offices, and the Director, Program Assistant, Instructor, and Creative Team accommodations).

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Smoking is permitted in designated smoking area only. You must have parental permission to smoke, or be of legal age. Also, don't smoke.
- Participants who bring their cars to WordsWorth are NOT permitted to use them during the program or to give rides to other WordsWorth participants during the program.
- Participants are expected to attend all evening activities and are not to leave the Red Deer Polytechnic campus at any time, day or night.
- We operate on a buddy system—talk to your Creative Team Member if you'd like to plan a group hike or walk.
- Any questions regarding these rules should be directed to the Director, the Program Assistant, or any Creative Team Member.

**CAFETERIA:** Red Deer Polytechnic cafeteria staff provide nutritious and appetizing meals and snacks.

**NOTE:** Any special dietary needs or restrictions must be brought to our attention prior to your arrival at camp: Contact the Writers' Guild of Alberta at [mail@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:mail@writersguild.ab.ca) if further information is needed.

## FULL WORDSWORTH 2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

And now...for what is happening! For more information on the courses being offered, go to:

<https://writersguild.ca/2024-wordsworth-instructors-courses/>

### Sunday Night Kick Off:

Always something fun, writerly, community building and outdoors!

**WEEK ONE:** (times and course block options subject to change, all times in MT)

	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUES</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THURS</b>	<b>FRI</b> *afternoon shortened to accommodate WordsWorth Camp Sampler Platter
8:00AM	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:30AM	Warm up Activities follow breakfast before first class, led by Creative Team Members				
Block 1 8:45AM	<b><u>Miranda Krogstad – Quickfire Creativity</u></b>  <b><u>Ainsley Hillyard – Introduction to Action Theatre and Improvised Movement!</u></b>				
10:15AM	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>
Block 2 10:25AM – 11:55AM	<b><u>Louise Casemore – Places, Spaces, and Settings</u></b>  <b><u>Sophie Torro – The Exciting World of Self-Publishing</u></b>				
Noon	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
12:45PM	Blue Pencil Café! Larping! Hiking! Sports! Other Stuff!				<b>12:30PM – 2:00PM</b> Block 3
Block 3 2:00PM	<b><u>Johnny MacRae – The Spoken Word Poem</u></b>  <b><u>Marin Perlette – Illustrating for Poetry and Prose</u></b>				<b>3:00 – 5:00pm</b>  Camp Life Sampler Platter And



3:30PM	<b>Pod Meeting</b>	<b>Pod Meeting</b>	<b>Pod Meeting</b>	<b>Pod Meeting</b>	Sendoff!
3:45PM	<b>Camp Wide Writing Time</b> Homework? Need to nail down that earlier bout of inspiration? Now's the time!				
5:15PM	<b>Supper</b>	<b>Supper</b>	<b>Supper</b>	<b>Supper</b>	
6:45PM	<b>Jam Sessions!</b> One off activities lead by the Creative Team, Instructors, and possibly...you!!				
8:00PM	The Mentors Performance	TBA	Open Mic Night At the Spotlight Cafe!	TBA	
9:15PM	Campfire and bedtime story				
10:00PM	--ZZZZ--				

## COURSE SELECTION THINGY

Hey look! You can use the chart below to keep track of and remember your choices. This is NOT a form that you will hand in for class selection, it is simply a device for you to make notes about which courses in which you wish to enroll.

8:45 – 10:15 AM      First Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

10:25 – 11:55 AM      First Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2:00 – 3:30 PM      First Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE:** WordsWorth registration begins at 4:00 PM MT. We will draw names from an impartial hat to decide who selects their classes first. Example: whoever's name is drawn first chooses their class first, and we will continue until everyone has selected their class; and the last name drawn will be the first person to pick for the next class. So, there is no need to come early. You can sleep in, say a long goodbye, stop for doughnuts (Canadian spelling, eh?) and we'll see you at 3:00 PM MT. sharp. Remember; creativity often erupts unexpectedly with fantastic results when you move out of your comfort zone. Don't get the class you want? Then take on the challenge of the class you get. I guarantee you will benefit in ways you couldn't have imagined.

## PARENTS' PAGE

### WordsWorth 2024

(Week 1, July 14 – 19, 2024)

**Sunday, July 14:** Check in from 3:00–4:00PM MT. Haul in their bags, make sure you're at the right camp, say good-bye to your young writer.

**Friday, July 19:** Pick up and Camp Life Sampler Platter at 3:00PM MT! Bring your outdoor shoes and sense of adventure...your young writer is going to sign you up for some camp fun! Food and refreshments follow with the more Now-I-Sit-And-Listen-to-the-Literary-Brilliance-that I'm used to kind of reading.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The WordsWorth staff cannot be responsible for participants beyond 6:00PM MT Friday, July 19, 2024. After that we teach anyone left behind how to build a lean-to, give them a good book and hope for the best.

**PHONES:** We highly encourage our campers to leave their cell phones at home during camp. Opportunities for people, especially youth, to unplug and be in one place for an extended period of time are so rare. Camp is a place for people to connect with one another, with nature, with themselves, and their craft. Cell phones act as a portal away from the immediate environment and bring with them all the intrusions of daily life. Please consider sending your child to camp without a cell phone—an idea that was not so strange even a few years ago. There will be a phone available to receive incoming and send outgoing emergency calls 24 hours a day.

#### **Important Contact Information:**

**WordsWorth Director: Colin Matty**

P: 780.993.7878—emergencies only

E: [colin.matty@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:colin.matty@writersguild.ab.ca)

**Writers' Guild of Alberta**

11759 Groat Road

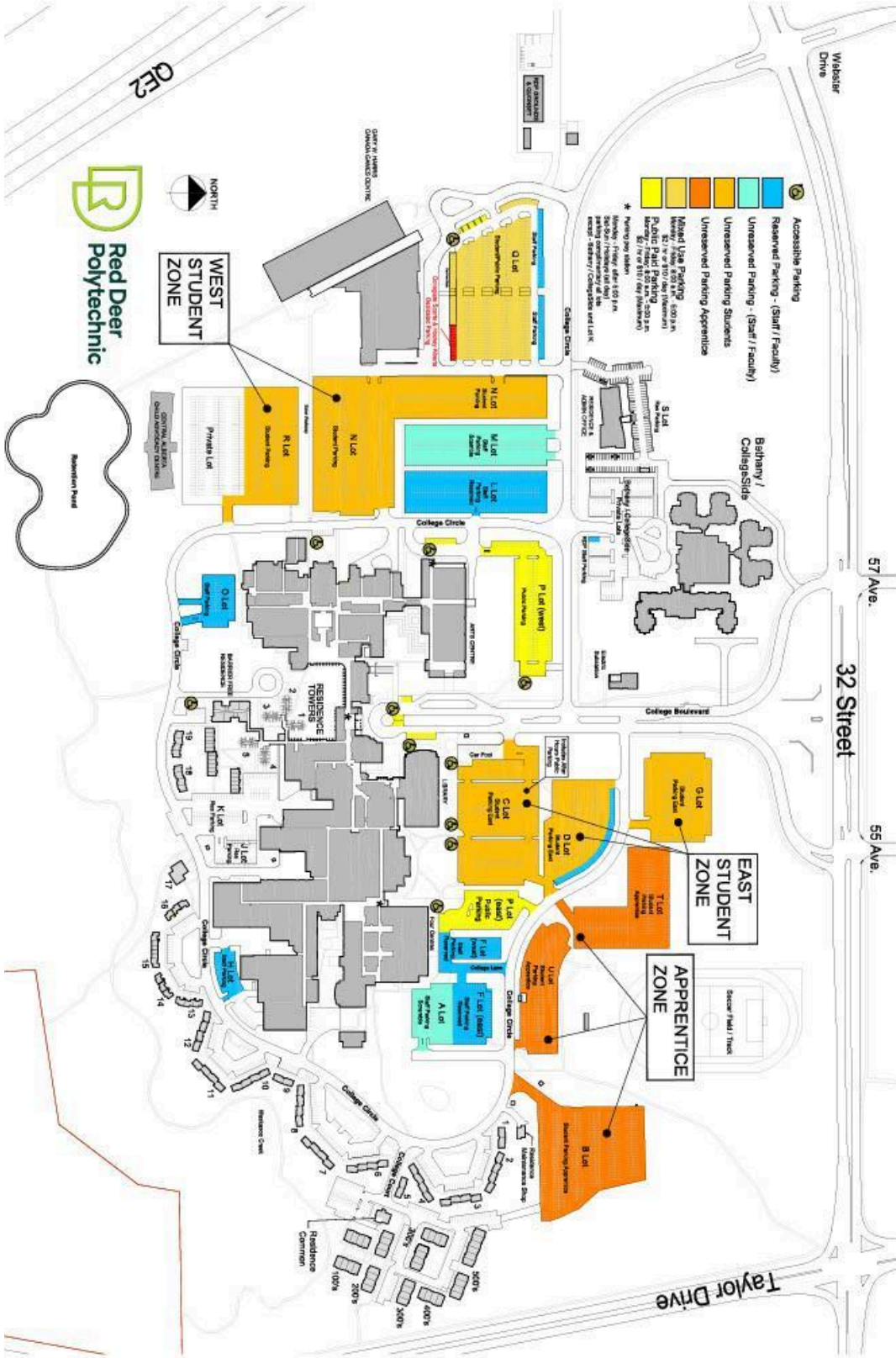
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

780.422.8174

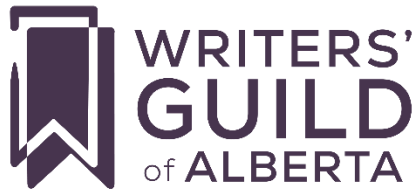
1.800.665.5354

[mail@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:mail@writersguild.ab.ca)

RED DEER POLYTECHNIC MAP



WordsWorth 2024 would not have been possible without contributions from the following people and organizations:



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

*We acknowledge the support of the  
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remercions le Conseil des arts du  
Canada de son soutien.*

**And to the following people who have contributed funds, time, and donations in kind to years of WordsWorth past:**

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Don't you feel the love?

**From all the WordsWorth participants, instructors, and staff:**

**Thank you very much for your generosity!!**

**Tag us on social media!**

**Instagram: wordsworth\_wga**

**Use the hashtag #WordsWorth2024 and share your favourite WordsWorth 2024 moments!**