



Park Ridge Public Library

Letters to America:

Tell Your American Story | June 1 - August 31, 2026

What is Letters to America?

As we reflect on 250 years as a nation, the Library invites you to put your American story to paper. Write a letter to America, submit it to us, and it will become part of the collected history of Park Ridge.

When does this program start and end?

We are accepting letters from June 1 – August 31, 2026.

Who can participate?

All ages may participate.

What should I write about?

Please feel free to use any or all of these prompts to inspire your writing:

- Write about what life is like in Park Ridge today. What would you like future Americans to know about life in 2026?
- What are your predictions for the future? What do you expect the next 50 years to look like?
- How has living in Park Ridge shaped your American experience? Write about a place that means something to you or a lesson you learned through family, school, work, or daily life in Park Ridge.

How and where do I submit my letter?

Please bring your letter on paper to the Reader Services or Reference desks before August 31.



Guidelines

These letters will **not** be displayed at the Library, but they may be accessed by the public upon request starting in 2027.

With this in mind, we ask that you respect the following guidelines:

1. Respect and Courtesy

All letters should be written in a respectful and civil tone. Submissions may not include:

- Harassment, threats, or intimidation
- Hate speech or discriminatory language based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic
- Personal attacks or inflammatory remarks

2. Appropriate Content

Letters should be suitable for a general audience. Submissions must not contain:

- Obscene, sexually explicit, or graphic language
- Violent content or encouragement of harm
- Profanity intended to insult or demean others

3. Focus on Ideas, Not Individuals

Participants are encouraged to express opinions and ideas thoughtfully. Criticism should address issues or viewpoints rather than targeting specific individuals with insults or accusations.

4. Privacy and Safety

To protect everyone's privacy and safety:

- Do not include personal contact information (such as phone numbers, emails, or home addresses)
- Do not share private or identifying information about yourself or others without permission

5. Program Purpose

Submissions that are clearly unrelated to the subject matter may not be accepted.

The Library reserves the right to decline submissions that do not adhere to these guidelines.