

PRISON BOOK PROGRAMS RESOURCE LIST



ABOUT THE PRISON LIBRARY PROJECT

The Prison Library Project (PLP), sponsored by the Claremont Forum is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that sends free books and educational materials to prisoners nationwide. Located in Claremont, California, the PLPs mission is to promote reading, literacy, and education among incarcerated men and women.

We know that books are essential to you. Books are the gateway to education as well as self-discovery and reflection. By sending books, we hope that you understand that there are people who care about you, your wellbeing, and your personal growth.

ABOUT THE RESOURCE LIST

This resource guide is sent free of charge to prisoners throughout the United States. It is also available to friends and family online at prisonlibraryproject.org.

Help us keep this guide current. Send corrections to:

Prison Library Project ATTN: Resource Guide Updates
915-C W. Foothill Blvd, PMB 128,
Claremont, CA 91711

ABOUT OUR BOOK PROGRAM

Nearly all the books that we send are donated by the community. Our ability to fulfill a specific request depends on our current, available, inventory. We prefer that requests for books are by topic, author, or specific subject areas (for example: science fiction, self-help, United States history, etc.)

OTHER PRISON BOOK PROGRAMS

There are other books-to-prisoners programs across the country. Each organization has their own rules and guidelines regarding where they can send books and what kinds of books their project supports.

Hopefully, this resource list helps you find other book programs to contact.

Feel free to write to the Prison Library Project again. Prisoners can receive books from our organization every six months.

ADVICE FOR CONTACTING ANY PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

Follow these guidelines and you will have a better chance of receiving a book.

- Always print clearly. Include your full name, ID number and address. It is helpful if you include that information in your letter - not just on the envelope.
- Write to the organization directly. Do not have someone request a book for you. Most of these organizations will only send books when requested directly by the prisoner. Friends and family members cannot request a book on your behalf.
- Let the organization know if your institution has unique restrictions (such as not accepting hardcover books) and double-check that they allow books to be sent from that specific organization.
- Be general. Let them know the subjects were types of books that you are interested in. The vast majority of these organizations rely on donated books so they are often unable to fulfill specific requests.
- Be patient. Volunteer organizations work hard to help prisoners access books. It is typical for book programs to take several months to answer requests.
- These organizations do not send books that are racist, sexist, homophobic, violent, etc.
- Thank you notes are always appreciated. Let the volunteers know that their work makes a difference. Also, let them know if there were any difficulties receiving the book at your institution.

“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”
Mason Cooley

ACTIVE PRISON BOOK PROGRAMS

The organizations below are currently active and are sending books to prisoners. Help us keep our list up to date. Let us know if you have any corrections or information about any of the organizations below. **Note: we attempt to contact every organization on this list. An organization must have an active website or social media page in order to be included. We cannot guarantee that the organizations below will send you a book.**

ALABAMA BOOKS TO PRISONS PROJECT
P.O. Box 130699 Birmingham, AL 35213
Sends books to prisoners in **Texas** and **Alabama**.
LGBTQA friendly.

APPALACHIAN PRISON BOOK PROJECT
PO Box 601, Morgantown, WV 26507
Sends books to prisoners in **Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia**.

ASHEVILLE PRISON BOOKS
67 N. Lexington c/o Downtown Books & News
Asheville, NC 28801
Sends books to prisoners in **North Carolina and South Carolina**, including county jails, detention centers, state prisons, and federal facilities.

ATHENS BOOKS TO PRISONERS
30 1st Street, Athens, OH 45701
Sends books to prisoners in **Ohio**.

BIG HOUSE BOOKS
PO Box 55586, Jackson, MS 39296
Sends books to prisoners in **Mississippi**.

BOOKS BEHIND BARS - NEW JERSEY
PO Box 2611, Wildwood, NJ 08260
Sends books to prisoners in **New Jersey**.

BOOKS BEHIND BARS - VIRGINIA
Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Library
Attn: Books Behind Bars
1500 Gordon Ave. Charlottesville, VA 22903
Sends books to prisoners in **Virginia**

BOOKS THROUGH BARS
4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143
Sends books to prisoners in **DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA & VA**.

BOOKS TO PRISONERS (SEATTLE)
c/o Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street, Box A, Seattle, WA 98101
Serves prisoners across the country.

CHICAGO BOOKS TO WOMEN IN PRISON
4511 N. Hermitage Ave., Chicago, IL 60640
Sends books to female prisoners in **AZ, CA, CT, FL, IL, IN, KY, MS, MO, and OH**

CONNECTICUT PRISON BOOK CONNECTION

PO Box 946 Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0946
Sends books to prisoners in all states.

DC BOOKS TO PRISONERS

PO Box 34190, Washington, DC 20043
Serves state and federal prisoners in 34 states, and federal prisoners in Arizona. With the exception of DC residents in federal prisons, they do not serve prisoners in CT, FL, IL, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA, or WI

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS AT UCSD

0323 UCSD Old Student Center, La Jolla, CA 92037
Sends books to prisoners in all states.

HUMAN KINDNESS FOUNDATION c/o THE PRISON-ASHRAM PROJECT

PO Box 61619 Durham, NC 27715
HKF provides free spiritual books and newsletters to those who are incarcerated and to prison/jail staff members in all states

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT

PO Box 301029, Austin, TX 78703
Sends books to prisoners in **Texas**.

ITHACA COLLEGE BOOKS THRU BARS

**IC Books Thru Bars c/o Ithaca College Library
PO Box 113 Brooktondale, NY, 14817**
Sends books to prisoners in **NY, NY, VT, MA, RI, CT, NJ, and PA**.

LGBT BOOKS TO PRISONERS

**1202 Williamson St #1 c/o Social Justice Center
Incubator, Madison, WI 53703**
Sends books to LGBT-identified people in prison across the US (except those in TX). Will send books in Spanish (enviar libros en Español).

LIBERATION LIT

PO Box 45071, Kansas City, MO 64171
Sends books to prisoners in **Missouri** and **Kansas**.

LOPEZ BOOKS

PO Box 327, Lopez Island, WA 98261
Sends books to prisoners in **Washington** and **Alaska**.

LOUISIANA BOOKS 2 PRISONERS

3157 Gentilly Blvd. #141, New Orleans, LA 70122
Sends books to prisoners in **Louisiana, Alabama,** and **Arkansas**. Women and LA prisoners are prioritized.

LOUISVILLE BOOKS TO PRISONERS

**c/o McQuixote Books and Coffee
1512 Portland Ave. #1 Louisville, KY 40203**
Sends books to prisoners in **Kentucky** and **Virginia** only.

MIDWEST BOOKS TO PRISONERS

1321 N Milwaukee Ave, PMB #460, Chicago, IL 60622
Sends books to prisoners in **IL, IA, KS, MI, MO, NE, OH, ND, SD & WI**.

MISSOURI PRISON BOOKS

**c/o Subterranean Books
6271 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130**
Sends books to prisoners in **Missouri**.

NYC BOOKS THROUGH BARS

**c/o Bluestockings Bookstore
116 Suffolk Street, New York, NY 10002**
Sends books to prisoners in all states *except* AL, FL, LA, MA, MI, MS, NC, PA, OH, and WI, with a priority for NY.

PITTSBURGH PRISON BOOK PROJECT

PO BOX 71357, Pittsburgh PA 15213
Sends books to prisoners in **Pennsylvania**.

PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

**c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore
1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100, Quincy, MA 02169**
Sends books to prisoners in all states *except* California, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada or Texas.

PRISON BOOK PROJECT

**c/o OPEN BOOKS BOOKSTORE
1040 N. Guillemard St., Pensacola, FL 32501**
Sends books to prisoners in **Florida**.

PRISONERS LITERATURE PROJECT

**c/o BOUND TOGETHER BOOKS
1369 Haight St, San Francisco, CA 94117**
Sends books to prisoners in all US States *except* MA.

PROVIDENCE BOOKS THRU BARS

5 Angell St., Providence, RI 02906
Sends books to prisoners in all states *except* AL, AR, FL, IL, KY, LA, MA, ME, MS, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, WA, WI

READ BETWEEN THE BARS

**c/o Daily Planet Publishing
P.O. Box 44014, Tucson, AZ, 85733**
Sends books to prisoners in **Arizona federal detention centers**.

SAXAPAHAW PRISON BOOKS

**c/o Center for Social Justice
1425 Russell St., Orangeburg, SC 29115**
Sends books to prisoners in **South Carolina** and **Georgia**.

UC BOOKS TO PRISONERS

Box 515 Urbana IL 61803
Sends books to prisoners in **Illinois**.

WISCONSIN BOOKS TO PRISONERS

1202 Williamson St. #1, Madison, WI 53703
Sends books to prisoners in **Wisconsin**.

WOMEN'S PRISON BOOK PROJECT

3751 17 Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407
Sends books to incarcerated women & transgender prisoners across the US

ARE YOU A WRITER?

ANNUAL PRISON WRITING CONTEST – GUIDELINES

PEN America Center sponsors the Annual Prison Writing Contest as part of PEN's Prison Writing Program. Anyone incarcerated in federal, state, or county prison in the year before the September 1 deadline is eligible to enter. (After September 1 entries go to the following year.)

Prizes of \$250, \$150, \$100, and \$25 are awarded for first, second, third, and honorable mention places. Winners are also published on the PEN America website (pen.org). Authors retain all rights to their own writing.

Incarcerated writers may submit material in the genres of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama (screen/stage play). No application or form is necessary, though a short cover letter with your name, address, and the title(s) of your piece(s) is very helpful. Authors may not submit more than one entry in each category, except in poetry, which has a 20-page limit. The maximum number of pages per submission for fiction, essay, memoir, and drama is 25. No complete novels, please, though short excerpts from novels are fine. Any topic that moves you is fit for our contest, and no entries will be disqualified based on content.

Manuscripts in all formats are accepted, but we encourage typewritten copies if a computer or typewriter is made available to you. Handwritten entries should be neatly printed. Also, if possible, please submit a copy of your work rather than the original material. This request protects you, the writer, in the unlikely event that your work is misplaced or otherwise not returnable. Please include all pertinent contact information in a legible format. If possible, we will attempt to return work that includes a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) with sufficient postage for your submission.

The Prison Writing Mentorship Program pairs established writing mentors with incarcerated mentees. To become eligible for the program, one must first enter the annual contest. Winners are offered the opportunity to participate in the mentorship program and, in some instances, writers who do not win an award but whose efforts are recognized also offered a mentor.

Winners will be selected and notified in the spring of the following contest year. You can request a list of the contest winners by writing to us.

DEADLINE:

Rolling, entries received by September 1 will be submitted to that year's contest

SUBMIT BY SENDING WORK TO: PEN AMERICA PRISON WRITING PROGRAM

**ATTN: 2022 ANNUAL CONTEST ENTRY
588 BROADWAY SUITE 303
NEW YORK, NY 10012**