



## **A Letter to Faculty/Adult Advisors from the Harry Potter Alliance Chapter Coordinator**

Dear Advisor,

It is a wonderful thing when students are able to take a love of literature, apply it to their world, and work to create change. The Harry Potter Alliance is privileged to work with students like these every single day. They constantly amaze us - they are passionate, dedicated, and determined to get out in their communities and begin to make a difference. They are full of ideas and energy, and are eager to get involved.

With this passion and dedication comes a great sense of responsibility for the individual as well as the group. Because of this, we ask each student-led chapter to find a Faculty or Adult Advisor for their chapter. This contact is someone who can serve as a mentor to the chapter and provide supervision and guidance during chapter activities. We know that taking on this role places additional responsibility on you, and we greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of our chapters.

The following information is meant to help you as you work with your Harry Potter Alliance Chapter.

### **About the Harry Potter Alliance:**

The Harry Potter Alliance is a non-profit organization that draws on parallels from the *Harry Potter* books to mobilize young people to take social action. In essence, it is a new and creative way to think about social justice. Our many campaigns to promote this link between the Harry Potter world and our world continue to be very effective. (More information about each of these projects can be found on our website, <http://www.thehpalliance.org>.)

In the Harry Potter novels, Harry leads a group of students in a movement called "Dumbledore's Army," named after his mentor Dumbledore, with the vision of waking the world up to certain injustices. The HP Alliance aims to be a "Dumbledore's Army for the Real World" - a group of people who come together to fight for causes they believe in, all based on the motto that love - for ourselves and for other people - is the most powerful weapon of all.

We take this message directly from Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, who both recognizes and applauds the work of the Harry Potter Alliance. In the Time Magazine article that named her runner up to Person of the Year in 2007, Rowling honored the Harry Potter Alliance with her words, "It's incredible, it's humbling, and it's uplifting to see people going out there and doing that in the name of your character."

# THE HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE



The Weapon We Have is Love

---

Our work has also been featured in the LA Times, MTV, the front covers of both the Chicago Tribune Business Section and Politico, and books by policy experts. Our Chapters program is centered on the idea of taking this link between the Harry Potter world and our world and using it to take action in local communities. We encourage chapters to get involved in causes supported by the Harry Potter Alliance as well as local projects they find worthwhile. Chapters around the world have taken this in many different directions, from holding book drives to starting recycling programs, educating

## **How We Work with Chapters:**

We challenge Harry Potter Alliance chapters to promote specific Harry Potter Alliance campaigns in their own communities. Each of our Chapter Organizers (COs) is part of an online network that helps provide them with the resources they need to stay up-to-date on recent Harry Potter Alliance projects. This network includes other Chapter Organizers and Harry Potter Alliance Staff Members. Contact within this network involves:

- Email Communication with the Harry Potter Alliance Chapter Coordinator about chapter activities and programs, goals, brainstorming, etc.
- Monthly newsletters with resources and tips to help Chapter Organizers
- Access to a private Chapter Organizer group on our Common Room website at <http://thehpalliance.ning.com/group/chapterorganizers>. This group is accessible ONLY to Chapter Organizers and conversations are moderated to include only those relevant to leading a chapter. Much of this forum is dedicated to brainstorming, sharing of resources (fliers, info sheets, program write-ups, etc.), and updates on Harry Potter Alliance projects

Our online network of Chapter Organizers is geared at creating a positive and productive atmosphere. Each CO has the chance to find his or her own balance and place in this network, and chooses to use each resource in a way that most benefits their chapter. This is an incredible resource, and helps tremendously as they brainstorm and swap ideas, share feedback on the success of their programs, and develop the leadership skills to run their chapters.

If you are interested in receiving the monthly newsletter or accessing the Chapter Organizer Group, please email [chapters@thehpalliance.org](mailto:chapters@thehpalliance.org).

## **How You Can Help Your Chapter:**

Your involvement provides the encouragement and guidance to help a Harry Potter Alliance Chapter succeed. While we at the Harry Potter Alliance strive to provide the resources and ideas to motivate chapters, we leave it to you to help them carry out their programs and events.

# THE HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE



The Weapon We Have is Love

---

The best way to help your chapter is by remaining present! Physically, your presence adds necessary supervision and lets your chapter know that you care about what they are doing. In addition, your guidance will help chapter members develop their own leadership skills and achieve their goals. Use your presence in a way that feels natural to your chapter - step in when necessary, but try to give students the space they need to brainstorm and experiment with their ideas.

Above all, let them know that you're involved and excited about their chapter! The more fun you have, the more fun they'll have - and the more motivated they will be to work on the social issues that they are passionate about in the future.

Please feel free to contact [chapters@thehpalliance.org](mailto:chapters@thehpalliance.org) at any time if you have questions about the Harry Potter Alliance or your local chapter.

Thank you for everything you do,

Karen Bernstein  
Chapter Coordinator  
The Harry Potter Alliance