



LETTER WRITING: FIRST RESPONDERS

Thank you for volunteering with Operation Gratitude to write letter of gratitude for First Responders. Please follow these guidelines when writing letters:

- **Write Letters for:**
 - Law Enforcement, Firefighters and/or Emergency Medical Services
- **Address letters to the following:**
 - "Dear First Responder", "Dear Hero" etc.
- **Express your thanks for their selfless service to the community:**
 - These letters will be sent to First Responders across the nation, so please refrain from mentioning your specific community.
- **Keep messages positive:**
 - Suggested topics include: expressing gratitude for their service, sharing hopeful messages, well wishes, and positive thoughts.
 - Prayers are welcome, however please avoid excessive religious comments, scripture and religious imagery
 - Share about yourself, family, hobbies, work, school, pets, travel, interests, etc.
 - Abstain from writing about violence, killing, injury, death and dying, etc.
 - Avoid all mention of politics
- **Refrain from including contact or distinguishing information for anyone under the age of 18:**
 - This includes last name, home or email address, phone numbers, school information, and social media usernames.
- **If you are over 18, you may include your contact information so letter writing recipients can reply:**
 - Due to time and location limitations, they might not reply; please do not be disappointed
- **Can't find the words?**
 - Consider drawing or painting a picture instead. Please add a note to kids' drawings with their age.
 - Refrain from using glitter or confetti please!
- **Please leave letters out of individual envelopes:**
 - All letters will go through a screening process and envelopes slow that down significantly.

Thank you!