

Find a Pluto Pen Pal!

A program for educators hosted by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

About Pluto Pen Pals

We are excited to announce Pluto Pen Pals, part of our New Horizons/Student Dust Counter education and outreach program. As a Pluto Pen Pal participant, your class will be matched with a member of the LASP team who will be your pen pal in the months before and after New Horizons' launch (November 1, 2005 to March 1, 2006). Your pen pal can provide a behind-the-scenes look at the New Horizons, answer questions about Pluto and interplanetary dust, and chat about life as member of the LASP team.

How to Participate

To participate, you must register as a Pen Pal by sending an email to Kate Becker (kate.becker@lasp.colorado.edu) including your name, your school's name and location, and the grade level of your class. Please also let us know what you're looking for in a pen pal and how the Pluto Pen Pal program will fit in to your activities for the year. We'll try to match you up with a pen pal who will be a good fit for your class.

Guidelines for Pen Pals

To make Pluto Pen Pals the best experience for your class and for our volunteer pen pals, we ask that your class follow these guidelines for participation in the program:

- So that your relationship with your pen pal can be sustained for the 4-month life of the project, we ask that you write to your pen pal no more than once every week.
- Please compose just one letter per class. Pen pals are not able to answer letters from individual students. We hope that the process of writing each letter will be a fun collaborative process, and will give students a chance to share their knowledge about Pluto and the SDC on the way to devising great questions for their pen pal.
- If possible, please review the information on the SDC and New Horizons web sites with your students before writing to your pen pal. This way, your pen pal will be sure to provide you with fresh information that isn't already available on the web.
- Your pen pal will do his or her best to provide timely responses to your letters. Most responses will take about a week.
- You are welcome to correspond with your pen pal either by e-mail or by snail mail.
- If you have any concerns about your participation in the Pluto Pen Pals program, please don't hesitate to email Kate Becker or call her at 303-735-0962.

For more information on New Horizons and the Student Dust Counter, visit:

http://lasp.colorado.edu/programs_missions/present/off_site/sdc.html

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/>