

## Writing Letters to Your Student

The exchange of letters between you and your student is a meaningful part of our Sponsorship Program. The students love to receive your letters and photos, learning more about you and getting a glimpse into the world beyond their village.

We ask that Sponsors write a letter once a year to their students.

**Send your letters to:** Kenya Keys  
5314 Tualata Court  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

**WHAT to write about:** Your letter does not need to be long or complicated. Pick a few ideas from the list below, or come up with your own.

- Tell them who is in your family or sponsoring group
- If you have kids in the family: what ages, favorite subjects in school
- Describe where you live - the environment: snow, rivers, ocean, waterfalls, flowers, desert (remember they can't swim in rivers due to crocodiles, have never seen snow, and can't imagine a waterfall)
- Tell about any pets you have
- Let them know you are glad to be their sponsor
- Share anything you can relate to about school: what did you study, did you go to college, favorite sport or club
- Tell what you do: teacher, engineer, student, mom, dad, etc.
- Share about a favorite book
- Describe your favorite activities: reading, hiking, biking, skiing, etc.
- Let them know if you have ever traveled to Africa
- Respond to your student's letters if you have received one
- Encourage them, and express pride in their staying in school
- Be sure to ask your student questions about their life

**PHOTOS** help to make you more real to your student. Try to send one or two photos with each letter. The students often put these up on their walls to remind them about their sponsors. Below are ideas of photos you may want to include:

- Members of the family or group sponsoring (if you have a photo or letter from your student it is fun to show you holding them)
- The family pet
- The surrounding environment (forest, mountains, snow, waterfalls)
- Doing an activity: camping, sports, at school
- If you don't have access to photos, consider enclosing a postcard
- Please avoid demonstrations of extravagance or excess.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. What if my handwriting is terrible?**

You can type your letter if that is really a problem. We encourage hand-written letters as it is more personal and the students must write their letters to you by hand.

### **2. What if I forgot my student's name?**

Contact our Sponsorship Chair at [linda@kenyakeys.org](mailto:linda@kenyakeys.org) to be reminded of their name.

### **3. I don't know how to print photos. What do I do?**

Contact our Sponsorship Team at [missy.kenyakeys@gmail.com](mailto:missy.kenyakeys@gmail.com). She can walk you through printing your photos at a store, at home, or embedding them in your letter.

### **4. Can't I just email my letter?**

Yes you can, but all of our sponsorship work is done by volunteers. They will have to print out your letter and put it in an envelope for your student. It would be a lot easier if each sponsor mailed their letters to us. If you have to email it, please send to [brent@kenyakeys.org](mailto:brent@kenyakeys.org).

**5. I sponsor several students. Can I write one letter to them all?** No. Each student needs their own letter, though you can write the same thing and include the same photos for each. (Thank you for supporting multiple students.)