



Hosting a kid-friendly post card writing party

Handwritten post cards to elected officials can pack more punch than just an email or form letter. But it can be hard to find the time to get your thoughts together and write on your own. You can even write post cards to Democratic voters off party lists, encouraging them to come to the polls on Election Day (see, e.g., <https://www.postcards4va.com/>). A post card writing party is a great way to be socially and politically active, commiserate with like-minded friends and neighbors, and get your kids to practice writing and making arguments.

Venue:

- Anyone with a few rooms of common space can host a post card writing party.
- If you are expecting children who are too young to write, consider finding a host with a separate playroom (ideally supervised by a babysitter or rotating cast of parents)
- Alternatively, consider renting library or community center space.

Invitation:

- Decide whether to keep it a closed invite list or open to all ACDC volunteers.
- Use Evite, Paperless Post, or Facebook to track RSVPs.

Basic post card writing materials (A lot of this list may seem obvious, but hey, this is the digital age):

- Post cards (postage paid or blank)
- Stamps (for blank cards)
- Pens
- Hard-backed books for people to write on
- Post card templates (numerous copies) – **This is key.** Even if people don't want to copy them verbatim, it is helpful to have sample messages on salient topics to guide and inspire.
- List of addresses (numerous copies) – these could include local state and congressional representatives, GOP leadership, moderate Republicans, and (naturally) Donald Trump.

Other tips:

- Crafts for the kids – The more colorful and artistic the letter, the more persuasive it is.
- Provide snacks and drinks (or do it potluck style)

And don't forget:

- Keep track of how many post cards are written by your party.
- Post some of the best post cards to social media (with permission, naturally).

SAMPLE EVITE INVITATION: Post card writing is a great way to let [our elected officials/Virginia voters] know what issues are most important to us. And because few people take the time to write them, a handwritten post card stands out and is taken more seriously than a pre-printed one or an email. Post card writing is also way more fun when done with friends and neighbors. So come over to [HOST NAME, ADDRESS] for an informal post card writing party, and bring your kids. All you need to bring is yourself, a snack/drink, \$2 to cover materials, and a determination to take back our government. We'll provide the post cards, stamps, topical templates to get your brain working, and [crafts/child care] for the little ones. (If you have writing-age kids, this is also a great way to improve their civic-mindedness.)