



THE HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE

THE WEAPON WE HAVE IS LOVE

Chapter Charms – Guides for Chapters **USING LIBRARIES**

Public Libraries are great places to have chapter meetings or events.

Why a Library?

Libraries give chapters...

- Free Space** – libraries often have rooms where community groups can meet for free
- Easy Access** – they are in central, well-known locations
- Community Access** – community members of any age can meet there
- Publicity** – libraries have access to community calendars, program guides, and city websites. They also have staff who are skilled at writing press releases and space for you to hand out fliers
- Harry Potter is a book.** Meeting in a library provides an instant association for all of your members.

Chapters give libraries...

- Patrons** – you'll attract people to the branch
- Possibility of Media Attention** – check out our publicity guide for more on how to attract the media
- Promoting Literacy** – offer to host a book drive or read-a-thon
- Harry Potter is a book.** You're making reading cool...and making it socially active!

Libraries and HPA chapters have a lot to offer each other. Use the chapter charms below to help get your local library to help out your HPA Chapter.

Approaching Your Local Library


Be personable and approach the librarian/manager and tell them about the Harry Potter Alliance and what your local chapter is going to do. The person you initially approach will direct you to speak with someone who can help you. Be patient. It may take two or three referrals to get to speak with the right person.

You may also want to take some resources with you. A variety of things will illustrate that the HPA is well established and that you're serious about the project. Try taking in fliers for the organization and your chapter, info sheets that explain what the HPA is (that also has links to the website), and any media resources (interviews or news articles) you think would be helpful.



Stress that...

- ★ We are a nonprofit group, and your local chapter has no funds to reserve meeting space
- ★ Your group takes the power of books and brings it into the real world
- ★ Explain specific projects your chapter is interested in doing
- ★ Tell them exactly why partnering with the library would be so beneficial to both of you

WAND WORK  Check out the script at the bottom of the page for some ideas on what to say

If the person you need to speak with is currently unavailable, ask if you can schedule a meeting to speak with them in the near future. Explain that you want to be able to meet them face-to-face. Be respectful and listen to them. This will help convince them that you are a group worth hosting. And no matter what the outcome of your meeting, be sure to thank whoever you speak with for their time and consideration.

WAND WORK

Sample Scripts

Sample Scripts are not intended to be performed— rather, they are a chance for you to “practice” the conversation you might have by “hearing” the way someone else might start it off. Read through for inspiration as you plan your own meetings with your local libraries, and then put these scripts away and go meet with local libraries with confidence!

General Intro:

My name is _____ and I'm from our local chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance. We're an organization that uses Harry Potter books as a way to encourage social activism and creativity. I was wondering if I could speak to someone about reserving some space for (an interest meeting/our weekly/bi-weekly/monthly meetings/our event).

Why This Library?

From a practical standpoint, this location is open to the community and centrally located to many of our current and future members. Beyond that, though, we think it's really important to recognize that libraries embody two things that the HPA tries to synthesize – Harry Potter, which at its very core, is a book, and community action. Libraries are perfect for us because it also represents those two ideas of books and community action.

