

# Successful Author Visits (And How to Pay for Them)

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## Why pay authors for Author Visits, anyway?

[Why Pay Authors for School Visits Anyway? - Caroline Starr Rose](#)

## How to host an Author Visit

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/author-visit-program-how-host-author-visit/>

## Creative ways to fund Author Visits

### Grants:

- [Dollar General Literacy Foundation](#)'s grant programs support all ages to help improve the lives of people in many different communities by supporting schools and libraries to expand or implement literacy programs. [Get more information and apply here.](#)
- [Walmart Foundation](#) <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/>
- [Scholastic's grant programs](#). Many grant options listed here
- [SCBWI Amber Brown Grant](https://www.scbwi.org/awards/grants/amber-brown-grant/) <https://www.scbwi.org/awards/grants/amber-brown-grant/>
- [Wells Fargo Charitable Contributions for Education & Educators](#) (by state) <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/kansas-grant-guidelines/>
- [NEA Foundation Education grants for teachers](#)
- [Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Grants to educators](#)
- [Grants for Educators](#) Many grant options listed here
- [Apply for a grant](#) – US Dept of Education
- [Free grant finding resources](#) - for educators
- [American Honda Foundation](#) - <https://www.honda.com/community/american-honda-community-gifts>
- [How to Write a Grant \(for Educators\)](#) <http://www.marCIAS-lesson-links.com/SoYouWantToWriteAGrant.html>

### Other Resources:

- [Box Tops for Education](https://www.boxtops4education.com/) <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>
- [Pencil sales](#)—If your school has a small pencil vending machine, put all sorts of fun pencils in the machine. Kids pay \$.50 for each one. Use the collected money for an author visit.

- Uniform-free day—At some schools, students are required to wear uniforms. Give each student the option of having a uniform-free day for a fee of \$5. Fund the author visit with that money.
- Solicit local businesses/BBB for donations. Connect with local businesses, bookstores, and public libraries to see what resources they can provide or if they want to partner with you. Get the ball rolling on funding with this letter by Alexis O’Neill  
[https://www.irenelatham.com/pdf/finding\\_funding2.pdf](https://www.irenelatham.com/pdf/finding_funding2.pdf)
- PTA
- Bundle with another school or public library (share full-day Author Visit expenses with another school or library within driving distance).
- "In-house" field trip for organizations seeking to fund activities
- Local chapter of Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators – contact for ideas
- Read-a-Thon or Write-a-Thon with sponsors
- Add "Author Visit" to your wish list for your classroom or on your website
- Use book sales to fund author visits (purchase books at reduced prices, sell at regular prices, use funds to pay for author visits)
- Spare change/penny drive
- Title 1 funds
- Book sale, bake sale, car wash, book fairs, birthday books
- Crowd source funding, like Kickstarter , [Greg Pincus on Alternative Funding Options for Author Visits](#)
- [21 Ways to Fund Author Visits - The Booking Biz](#) – many ideas listed here
- Author deals – ask if the author will give you a discount if you help rustle up other Author Visits in your area during the same time
- Organizations donate books to a certain population, then the author speaks pro bono (University Academy in KC, Reach Out and Read KC, etc)
- Check with Arts Foundations to see if they sponsor artists and/or the underprivileged
- Utilize [donorschoose.org](https://donorschoose.org). One of my recent school visits was paid for through [donorschoose.org](https://donorschoose.org). The library media specialist posted lots of pictures after the event so the donors were able to see their donated dollars in action.
- Ask a local hotel to donate a room for the visiting author.

\*All links active at time of publication