

Frequently Asked Questions about Letters of Joy

The following are some of the frequently asked questions and answers about LOJ. If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to send them to: info@writeoncalligraphers.org.

1. *Can teenagers participate?*

Anyone 16 and older can participate in Letters of Joy at our new venue—Shoreline Community College (SCC).

2. *Why can't all the classes be in the same building?*

The college assigns classrooms to us. Our new venue—Shoreline Community College--is made up of smaller building and classroom “clusters”. We do our best to group classes for participant's convenience and in consideration of those with accessibility issues.

3. *Why can't we have LOJ go through Sunday?*

While we would love to have a longer conference, the cost is prohibitive at this time.

4. *Why can't we have a better room environment? (It is too hot or too cold)*

We hope to have a better environment and a more responsive on-campus tech team this year. Please let us know how we did!

5. *How about more variety in the food on Saturday from year to year?*

We are required to use the college caterer and have a limited menu from which to choose. Check out the Hospitality Committee's table for goodies throughout the conference.

6. *Why do I need to pay a supply fee to the teacher? Why not combine fees into the general charge for LOJ?*

The supply fee depends on what the teacher brings and how much it costs. Some teachers provide all the supplies used while others ask you to bring all the supplies you'll need. These costs vary and we have no way of knowing them in advance.

7. *I can't figure out the difference between “Session” and “Choice” on the registration form.*

“Session” is the time period, whether it is from 9-11, 12:30-2:30, or 3-5. “Choice” is which class you would prefer in a session. We give you four possible choices so that if your first choice is already full, we can give you something else you like. Your first choice for session 1 might be 1AB1, your second choice might be 1BA1, and third choice might be 1BC1. This allows the registrar to place you according to your own priorities.

8. *Is it okay to put the same choice down for all 4 choices: i.e. 1AB1, 1AB1, 1AB1, 1AB1?*

This reduces your chance of getting the classes you want. You may put down 1AB1, 2AB2, 3AB3 (if offered in all three sessions) for the sessions and increase your chances of getting one of them.

9. *How are the registrations handled so it's fair to all?*

ALL envelopes, with the same postmark, from the first day's mailing are saved until the end of the week, then taken randomly and assigned classes. When those are done, we take the second

day's postmarks and assign those classes. The first day's mailing usually runs to about 150 registrations and popular classes fill very quickly.

10. *Can I mail more than one person's registration in the same envelope?*

YES! This increases your chances of being in the same class with a friend.

11. *If I join WOC at LOJ time, when does my membership expire?*

Our year goes from July 1 to June 30, BUT if you join at LOJ you receive an additional three months (to include April, May and June of that year).

12. *Why don't we have goody bags filled with "goodies" anymore?*

During the past few years we have found it very difficult to get organizations/businesses to contribute free items—even coupons--for the goody bags. With nothing but paper to put in we decided to go with the folders instead. Many vendors, however, are generous with their donations to our silent auction.

13. *What is the history of Letters of Joy?*

In 1980, Kathleen Joy O'Brien, the calligrapher and teacher who had inspired many calligraphers in the Puget Sound Area, in Washington State, died of cancer. The newly formed Write On Calligraphers wanted to honor Kathleen's memory, by passing on her love of calligraphy and related art forms, with a mini-conference. The first Letters of Joy, held in February of 1981 was a one-day event and consisted of a workshop and an evening lecture. The first keynote speaker was local calligrapher and designer, Tim Girvin. There was an exhibit of Kathleen's work and seventy-five people attended. Kathleen had been secretary to the president of Edmonds Community College and, through this close association, ECC became a hub for calligraphy classes, workshops and home to Letters of Joy. In 2016, the conference will move to its new venue, Shoreline Community College.