

Meaningful Friendships with PenShip

Users can build relationships from different countries through similar interests and the exchange of badges

From different time zones to different cultures, PenShip gives people the connection to communicate with one another and learn about the things people aren't usually used to. PenShip offers the ability to connect through similar interests and the exchange of badges from different countries and people. In the past, pen pals have always interacted with one another through postcards or letters, but with PenShip, it makes communication between pen pals an easier and fun experience to meet new people while still retaining the intimacy from receiving a letter.

Being a pen pal was an activity that some schools adopted that allowed their students to learn about the different cultures, languages, and lifestyles that they aren't usually used to. These pen pals often communicated through handwritten letters. However, with the use of technology on the rise, communicating via letters has been decreasing. PenShip was created to bring back the idea of being a pen pal and make it a fun experience for people who were pen pals when they were younger or for people who have never been a pen pal.

"Pen pals was always an interesting concept and being able to do this through electronic devices can broaden people's perspective on cultures from first hand experiences," said Julie Nguyen, PenShip developer. "We want to be part of our user's lives and create a connection between people from the other side of the world. Not only can the pen pals learn from each other, but they can enjoy the feature of exchanging badges that they've made themselves or badges from their own countries."

Users can experience PenShip by downloading the app and starting it up. After logging in or creating an account, the users can have the option to share their own personal photo for their profile, or they can have the option to create their own avatar to remain anonymous. With the profile page, pen pals can type what they want in their bio and indicate what country they are from, the language they speak, and their likes and interests.

People can start sending "letters" to one another after composing a "letter" and sending it off. The letter will be randomly sent to a person from a different country. Indicating your likes or interests on your profile page will help navigate who the letter can get sent to; this will help users know what interests or likes they have in common. After the initial sending of letters between two people, they will receive a badge that comes from where they live. As pen pals talk more, after a certain amount of days sending "letters" to one another, both users can exchange personal badges they've created to add to their Badge Book.

"I think Penship is really interesting because there are not a lot of pen pal apps where you can make friends with strangers," said Bryan Whalps, United Kingdom, PenShip user. "Not only can

I talk about topics that I like to people who also like what I like outside of my country, but PenShip has this pretty interesting feature of badge exchanges. I like the fact that I can create my own badge and give it to other people to put in their Badge Book of people they've sent "letters" to. There's also getting different badges that represent that country! I've always liked collecting random stuff so this is just another thing added on to my collection list."

Users who want to become a pen pal can find that PenShip is a free app that can be downloaded from the App Store or from the Google Play Store. The app is easy to use and can play a role in building friendships and learn about different cultures with people around the world. To learn more about the app, visit <https://penship.com>.