

How to Register Your Script with the WGA

Step-by-step guide for writers & filmmakers

Whether you're a filmmaker protecting your screenplay, a songwriter finalizing lyrics, or a showrunner pitching your next series — registering your work with the Writers Guild of America (WGA) is one of the fastest and most affordable ways to document your authorship. This guide walks you through the process step-by-step, with insider notes, screenshots, and professional tips — so you can protect your creative work like the pros do.

Why Registration Matters

In Hollywood and beyond, your words are your currency. The moment you finish a script or treatment, it becomes a creative asset — one worth protecting.

The WGA Registry provides a digital timestamp proving that your material existed at a specific moment in time. That record can be invaluable if disputes ever arise about who wrote what first.

While it's not a substitute for U.S. Copyright registration, it's often the first step professionals take to safeguard their work before sharing it with producers, agents, or collaborators.

Pro Tip:

WGA registration = proof of authorship.

U.S. Copyright registration = proof of ownership.

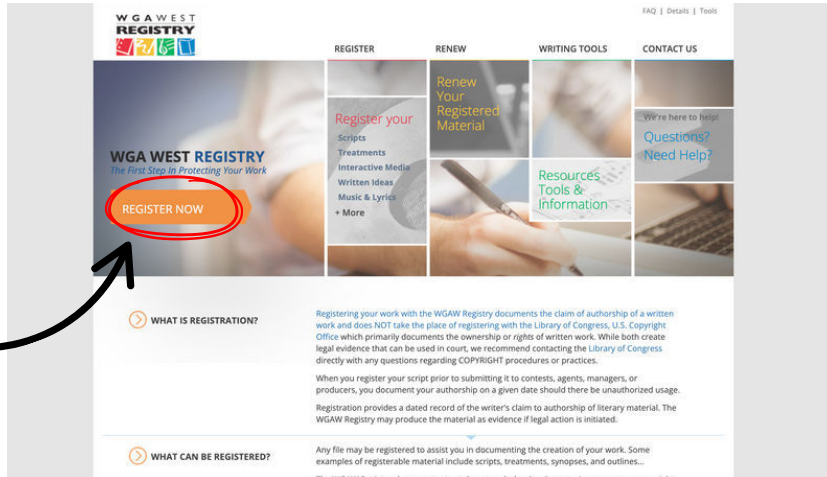
Serious creators do both.

How to Register with WGA West

If you're based in California or the Western U.S., you'll likely use the WGA West Registry. The process takes less than 10 minutes and costs \$20 for members or \$30 for non-members.

1. Go to wgawregistry.org

2. Click "REGISTER NOW"



3. Select "Material Type"

Tip: Always choose the category that best matches how your work will be used or sold. If in doubt, select "Other" and describe your material briefly in the notes field.

"Material Type" Options
[covers both East & West]



Category	What It Covers
Animation	Animated shorts, features, or series scripts.
Art	Storyboards, concept art, production illustrations tied to a written idea.
Book / Manuscript	Fiction, nonfiction, or memoir drafts not yet published.
Commercial	Scripts or story concepts for advertising spots.
Concept / Format	A written description of how a show or series would work – tone, structure, sample segments.
Documentary	Documentary outlines, treatments, or narrated scripts.
Lyrics / Music	Original lyrics or compositions (with or without sheet music).
Pilot / Teleplay / Screenplay	Full scripts for TV, streaming, or film projects.
Play	Stage or musical theatre scripts.
Proposal / Synopsis / Treatment	Early summaries or extended outlines of story ideas.
Reality	Show formats, segment breakdowns, or unscripted outlines.
NYWIFT/Writers Lab Submission	Category used for programs partnering with WGAE.
Other	Anything that doesn't fit neatly elsewhere but contains original written expression.
Bible / Series / Format	World-building documents describing recurring characters, settings, and episode arcs.
Gameshow / Interactive / Videogame	Written design or narrative scripts for interactive media and games.
Musical / Lyrics / Music	Musical books, lyrics, or compositions.
Notes / Outline / Pitch / Scene	Early creative materials – concept sketches, scene fragments, or detailed outlines.
Photograph / Art	Visual concept materials that accompany a creative pitch.
Spec / Story / Synopsis / Treatment	Any form of narrative summary or script draft.
Translation / Adaptation	New adaptations or translations of your own original works.
Short / Trailer	Short-form scripts, teaser copy, or written trailer content.
Other / IPR Use Only	Used when none of the above apply – for example, registering an unconventional written medium. (IPR = Intellectual Property Rights Use Only - Trade Secrets, Patents, Copyrights, trademarks)

WGA WEST
REGISTRY

FAQ | Details | Tools

REGISTER RENEW WRITING TOOLS CONTACT US

Register Your Material

Thank you for choosing the Writers Guild of America West Registry online service. The security of your work and integrity of the online registration process are of paramount importance to us. To ensure a successful online registration, please follow the instructions provided. If you have any questions, please visit our [FAQ](#) page for more information.

If you experience any problems during the registration process or have any questions not addressed in the FAQ, contact us [here](#). When e-mailing us, please use our [contact form](#) to ensure a prompt reply.

First, we need information about the material you'd like to register. Remember, fields with an asterisk (*) indicate that the information is required.

The following items apply to the item to be registered:

* Indicates required field

* Material Type * Intended Medium

* Title of Item

The following Personal Information items apply to the Registrant:
SSN or equivalent is required to complete registration process.

WGA members please use your WGA Account Number (without hyphens) for registration discount

* Identification

Note: Full legal name is required

4. Select “Intended Medium”

“Intended Medium”

Option	Description
Interactive	Games, apps, VR, or interactive narrative experiences.
Literary	Written works not tied to visual media — novels, essays, poetry.
Music	Lyrics, compositions, or musical stage works.
Online/Digital	Web series, digital shorts, YouTube projects, or streaming content.
Radio	Audio dramas, podcasts, or other non-visual broadcast scripts.
Screen	Feature films or short films.
Stage	Plays, musicals, or live performance works.
Television	Episodic TV, limited series, or broadcast specials.
Unspecified	When your project crosses multiple formats.
V/C (Video/Commercial)	Music videos, advertising, or branded content.
Videogame	Game narratives, dialogue scripts, or cinematic sequences.

5. Add Title

Note: It's okay if it is a "tentative" title .

6. Add Author Information

More than 1 Author? See step 7

WGA WEST
REGISTRY

REGISTER RENEW WRITING TOOLS CONTACT US

Register Your Material

Thank you for choosing the Writers Guild of America West Registry online service. The security of your work and integrity of the online registration process are of paramount importance to us. To ensure a successful online registration, please follow the instructions provided. If you have any questions, please visit our [FAQ](#) page for more information.

If you experience any problems during the registration process or have any questions not addressed in the FAQ, contact us [here](#). When e-mailing us, please use our [contact form](#) to ensure a prompt reply.

First, we need information about the material you'd like to register. Remember, fields with an asterisk (*) indicate that the information is required.

The following items apply to the item to be registered:
* Indicates required field

* Material Type * Intended Medium

* Title of item

The following Personal Information items apply to the Registrant
SSN or equivalent is required to complete registration process.
WGA members please use your WGA Account Number (without hyphens) for registration discount

* Identification

* Identification

Note: Full legal name is required.

* First Name

Middle Name

* Last Name

* Address Line 1

Address Line 2

* City

* State/Province (Required for US/Canada)

* Zip

Country

Phone Number

* Email Address * Confirm Email

After clicking "Continue" you will be prompted to provide credit card information, however your computer for the document to be...

📄 Identification Requirements

To complete registration, each author must provide one of the following for identity verification:

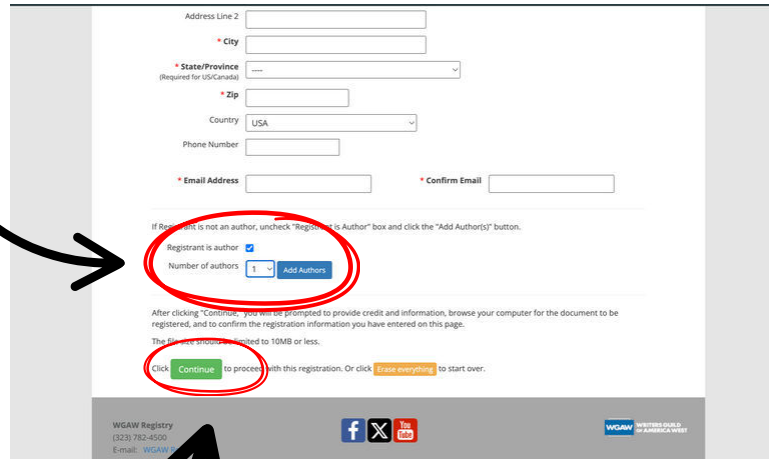
- Social Security Number (U.S.)
- Driver's License Number
- WGA Account Number
- Other government-issued ID number (for state issued identification or international registrants)

This information is confidential and used only to verify authorship — it does not appear publicly on your certificate.

7. OPTIONAL: Add Additional Authors and provide their information.

Tip for Co-Authors

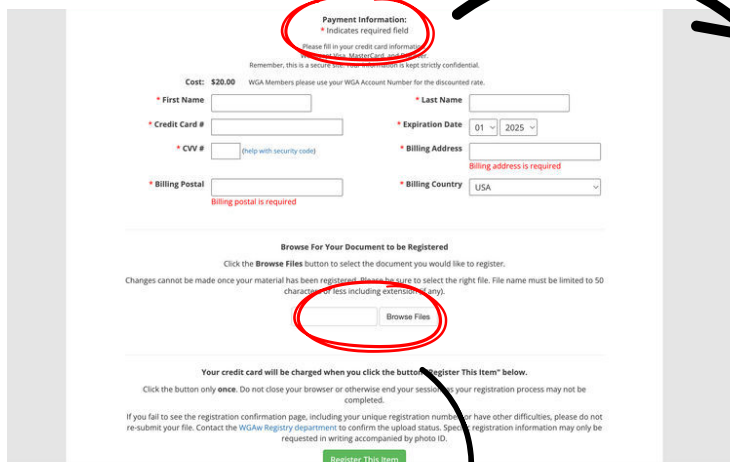
If more than one writer is involved, make sure every author's information is entered correctly. All contributors will appear on the registration certificate, and each receives their own proof of authorship.



8. Once Completed, click “Continue”.

9. Enter Payment Details

Non Union Member Cost: \$20.00



10. Upload Your Document

Acceptable Document Types:

The WGA accepts all common file types, but prefers PDF, Word, ASCII text, Final Draft, and Movie Magic files. These formats are standard across the industry and ensure your script stays accessible long-term. You can even register image files such as .jpg or .tiff for visual or concept-based works. **MAXIMUM FILE SIZE: 10MB**

Payment Information:
 * Indicates required field

Please fill in your credit card information.
 We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.
 Remember, this is a secure site. Your information is kept strictly confidential.

Cost: \$20.00 WGA Members please use your WGA Account Number for the discounted rate.

* First Name	* Last Name
* Credit Card #	* Expiration Date 01 2025
* CVV # (help with security code)	* Billing Address Billing address is required
* Billing Postal Billing postal is required	* Billing Country USA

Browse For Your Document to be Registered

Click the **Browse Files** button to select the document you would like to register.
 Changes cannot be made once your material has been registered. Please be sure to select the right file. File name must be limited to 50 characters or less including extension (if any).

Your credit card will be charged when you click the button "Register This Item" below.

Click the button only **once**. Do not close your browser or otherwise end your session, as your registration process may not be completed.

If you fail to see the registration confirmation page, including your unique registration number, or have other difficulties, please do not re-submit your file. Contact the WGA Registry department for assistance. Specific registration information may only be requested in writing accompanied by proof of payment.

10. Click Register. ALL DONE.

After You Register: What to Expect

Once your registration is submitted:

- You'll receive a confirmation email immediately.
- Your official **WGA Registration Certificate** will be attached as a PDF.
- Your registration remains on file for **5 years (WGAW) or 10 years (WGAE)**.

If you make major revisions to your script later — such as new scenes, characters, or dialogue — you'll need to re-register the new version. Each registration creates a timestamped record of that specific draft.

How to Register with WGA East

1. Go to www.wgaeast.org/mo/script_registration/registrations

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA EAST

MEMBER LOGIN

Members | Employers & Agents | The Guild | News & Events | Reference Desk | Organize

Secure Script Registration

[FAQ](#) | [Contact](#)

Script Registration is one of the most popular services offered by the Writers Guild of America East. We register the creative material of tens of thousands of writers each year. Before you start sending your work to agents, producers and actors, make sure you protect your material with the Writers Guild of America East's Script Registration.

Cost to register your work for ten (10) years:

- \$10 for WGAE members
- \$17 for students with ID and NYWIFT/The Writers Lab applicants
- \$17 for NYFellowship
- \$17 for students with ID
- \$25 for non-members

Work can only be submitted online. If you have questions, please contact Script Registration Administrator Pamela Smith at psmith@wgaeast.org or 212-767-7801.

Please note that the WGAE does not accept submission by mail or in-person.

GOT IT, REGISTER MY SCRIPT »

2. Click “REGISTER NOW”

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA EAST

Members | Employers & Agents | The Guild | News & Events | Reference Desk | Organize

Register Your Material

Type of Material*

☐ Animation ☐ Documentary ☐ Other ☐ Reality

☐ Art ☐ Format ☐ Pilot ☐ Screenplay

☐ Book ☐ Lyrics ☐ Play ☐ Synopsis

☐ Commercial ☐ Manuscript ☐ Poems ☐ Teleplay

☐ Concept ☐ Music ☐ Proposal ☐ Treatment

☐ NYWIFT/Writers Lab Submission

Material Upload Form

Please select the file containing the material you wish to register (for example C:\My Documents\MyMasterpieceVolIV.doc).

[Choose File](#) No file chosen

Please make certain you are uploading the correct file and version of your material. All registrations are final upon submission and cannot be changed, substituted or voided. The maximum file size is 20 MB.

Password

3. Select Material Type

Description of Material Types
See page 3 above.

Register Your Material

Title of Material*

Type of Material*

☐ Animation ☐ Documentary ☐ Other ☐ Reality
☐ Art ☐ Dramat ☐ Pilot ☐ Screenplay
☐ Book ☐ Music ☐ Play ☐ Synopsis
☐ Commercial ☐ Manuscript ☐ Poems ☐ Teleplay
☐ Concept ☐ Music ☐ Proposal ☐ Treatment
☐ Creative Writing
☐ Lab Submission

Material Upload Form
 Please upload the file you want to register (e.g., script, screenplay, etc.).
 (Click File) to file chosen.
 Please make certain you are uploading the correct file and version of your material. All registrations are final upon submission and cannot be changed, deleted or voided. The maximum file size is 20 MB.

Password
 Password

4. Upload Your Materials

Acceptable Document Types:

As with WGAW, WGAE accepts all common file types, but prefers PDF, Word, ASCII text, Final Draft, and Movie Magic files. These formats are standard across the industry and ensure your script stays accessible long-term. You can even register image files such as .jpg or .tiff for visual or concept-based works. **MAXIMUM FILE SIZE: 20MB**

5. Set a Password

Write down, retain, and do not lose your password.

The file you upload will be encrypted using the password you enter. Because of this encryption, they cannot recover your files without your password.

Add Author

Date of Birth*:
 MM/DD/YYYY

First Name *

Initial

Last Name *

Address 1*:

Address 2:

City*:

6. Add Author Information

Script Registration Author Review

Material: The Movie (Screenplay)

Author Information

[edit](#)

[Add Another Author](#) [Proceed to Payment](#)

Writers Guild of America, East
250 Hudson Street, Suite 700
New York, New York 10013
T: 212-767-7800 F: 212-582-1909

Contact Us
Register Your Material
Find A Writer
Access Union Plus

Writers Guild Awards
OnWriting
Writers Guild Initiative

7. Optional Add Additional Authors

8. Click “Proceed to Payment”

Payment Information

Credit Card Number*:

Exp Date*: MM YY CVC*:

Cardholder's Name*:

Billing Street Address*:

Billing ZIP Code*:

Amount Due: US\$25.00

[Process Payment](#)

9. Add Your Payment Information
WGAE Cost: \$25.00

10. Submit. That's it!

After You Register: What to Expect

Once your registration is submitted:

- You'll receive a confirmation email immediately.
- Your official **WGA Registration Certificate** will be attached as a PDF.
- Your registration remains on file for **10 years**.

If you make major revisions to your script later — such as new scenes, characters, or dialogue — you'll need to re-register the new version. Each registration creates a timestamped record of that specific draft.

Ready to Register?

You've done the hard work — now protect it.

WGA registration takes minutes but provides years of peace of mind.

Choose your Guild and get started today:

[Register with WGA West](#)

[Register with WGA East](#)

Then head back to [Thoolie's Creator Vault](#) for tools to help you manage your creative rights, track your contracts, and safeguard your work at every stage.