

First-Generation Harvard Alumni Red Book FAQ

1. What are Red Books?

[Red Books](#) are a long tradition at Harvard, going back to the mid-1800s for the College. They give all Harvard and Radcliffe alumni, by College class, the opportunity to share and publish an autobiographical personal essay on their lives every five years in a printed and bound book in advance of their 5th to 70th Reunions. Red Books are a meaningful and enduring way through personal storytelling to keep alumni of a Class connected with each other and the University; through the years, the books become keepsakes and serve as historical chronicles for a College class and its members. For more insight into this cherished and beloved alumni program, please read the *Harvard Magazine* article, "[Red Books, Raw Gems.](#)"

2. What is the First-Generation Harvard Alumni Red Book?

The First-Generation Harvard Alumni Red Book is a pilot project focused on University-wide storytelling. The Red Book will collect and share stories of alumni from any class year and school at Harvard who share the common experience of being the first in their families to attend university. The Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) is partnering with the First-Generation Harvard Alumni shared interest group on this initiative.

3. Why produce a First-Generation Harvard Alumni Red Book?

By producing this book the HAA and First-Generation Harvard Alumni shared interest group aim to promote a greater sense of belonging and connection for the alumni and student community University-wide through the power of storytelling.

4. Does one need to be a member of the First-Generation Harvard Alumni Shared Interest Group to participate?

While all members of the HAA shared interest group First-Generation Harvard Alumni have been invited to participate in the Red Book, *all Harvard alumni who are the first-generation members of their families to attend university are invited to participate.* Please contact the Harvard Alumni Association at HAA_RedBooks@harvard.edu if you would like to participate. An editor will respond in 1–2 business days and add your name to a secure online platform where you can submit your story.

5. What is the deadline to participate?

Friday, January 18, 2019.

6. When will the First-Generation Harvard Alumni Red Book be printed?

The book will be printed and distributed in the spring of 2019.

7. How will the Red Book be distributed?

The HAA will mail a copy of the book to all members of the First-Generation Harvard Alumni shared interest group, all participants who are nonmembers, and first-gen Harvard students; a copy of the book will be available to the parents of first-gen students upon request. Additionally, following the tradition of the College Red Books, copies will be distributed to notable institutions, such as the Boston Public Library, New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and the New England Genealogical Society, among others, for historical and archival purposes.