

# Central Coast Writers Conference · How to Launch a Pre-Order Campaign on Kickstarter

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*The San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market Cookbook*

[slofarmersmarketcookbook.com](http://slofarmersmarketcookbook.com)

## Crowdfunding—Definition

The practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet.

## Crowdfunding—Options

- GoFundMe
- IndieGoGo
- Kickstarter

## Terminology of Kickstarter

- **creator** = the person or team behind the project idea, working to bring it to life.
- **project** = a finite work with a clear goal that you'd like to bring to life.
- **funding goal** = the amount of money that a creator needs to complete their project.
- **all-or-nothing** = No one will be charged for a pledge towards a project unless it reaches its funding goal.
- **backers** = folks who pledge money to join creators in bringing projects to life.
- **pledge** = amount of money given to the campaign in exchange for a reward.
- **rewards** = a creator's chance to share a piece of their project with their backer community. Typically, these are one-of-a-kind experiences, limited editions, or copies of the creative work being produced.

## Preparing a Kickstarter campaign

- Project is complete / near-completion
- Crunch numbers! Determine your funding goal, rewards, and shipping
- Spreadsheet projections of outcomes
- Interact with your potential backers via social media and/or email newsletters
- Create press kits, work with press / outlets
- Create storyboard of video, shoot video, write campaign copy, EDIT, draft, publish!

## The power of the pre-launch

- Crowds draw in crowds!

## How to maintain momentum

- Interact with backers:
  - Daily project updates
  - Social media
- Press
  - Newspapers
  - Magazines
  - Blogs
  - Radio
  - TV

## Common campaign mistakes

- Not being consistent with terminology in the campaign (pledge ≠ donation ≠ contribution)
- Video is not compelling (too long, not high-quality)
- Too many rewards
- No clear hook or CTA (call-to-action)
- Not interacting with backers consistently during the campaign and after the campaign
- Unrealistic timeline of production
- Unrealistic timeline of fulfillment