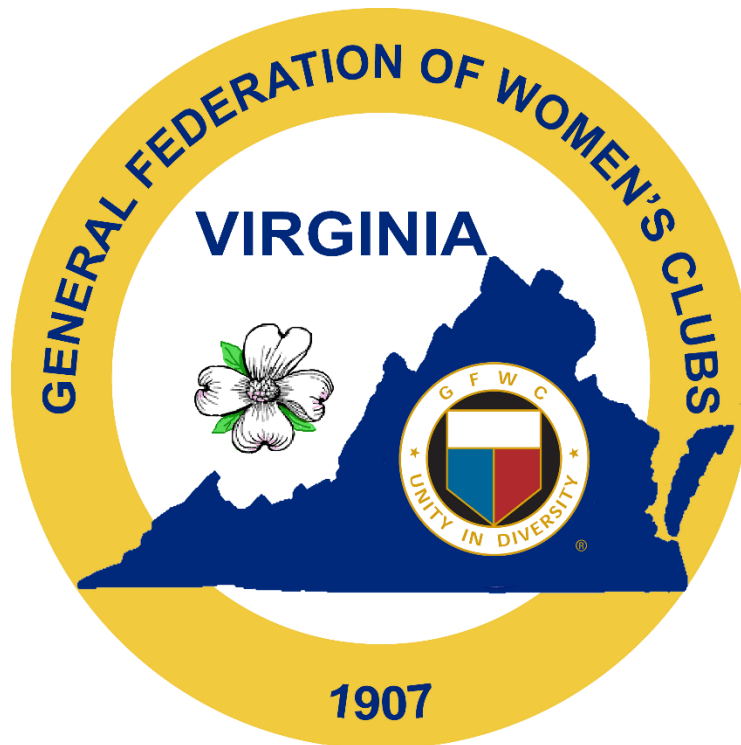


GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA



RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Arts Department Contests

Arts and Crafts Contests

2026-2028

VISUAL ARTS (Member and Student)

Art (Painting, Drawing), Digital Photography, Miscellaneous

NEEDLEWORK AND CRAFTS (Members only)

Counted Cross Stitch, Crochet, Embroidery, Knitting, Needlepoint, Quilts, Sewing, Ceramics,
Holidays, Jewelry, Paper, Pottery, Rubber Stamping, Shell craft, Tole Painting, Weaving,
Scrapbooks, Miscellaneous

GFWC WRITING CONTESTS (Student and Member)

Adhere to GFWC Contest Rules and Categories

GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS (Members only)

Adhere to GFWC Contest Rules and Categories

ART AND MUSIC GO TOGETHER LIKE PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY

The GFWC Virginia Arts Contests offer members the opportunity to share their talents and creativity and hopefully inspire others. If your club does not have an Arts Contest, please consider starting one. Your District Arts Contests Chairman and State Arts Contests Co-Chairmen, Carol and Florence, are available to help. Remember our new option: in the Member Visual Arts, Needlework, and Crafts Contests, a member can enter several items in the same category on the club level only.

After the club contest in Member/Student Visual Arts, Needlework, and Crafts Contests, there is a new Excel Entry Chart to complete and send to your District Chairmen. You should download it and fill it in starting with the club's name. Each item will still have its own attached Index Card for entry. After the District Contest, the District Chairmen will email a completed District Excel Entry Chart to Carol Williams-Mills and Florence Powell. There is no need to send index cards, just the completed Excel Entry Chart.

The criteria for the GFWC Writing and Photography Contests have changed. Please note the time lines in each contest. Neither has a district contest. Members and clubs send the digital entries directly to Carol Williams-Mills and Florence Powell.

Please bear with us as this is a big transition year for all contests as we finally go digital. We will do our best to confirm receipt of your entry. Please do not wait until the last minute so we have some time leeway for glitches. Entries in the GFWC Writing and Photography contests and the Creative Arts Waiver must be sent together digitally.

Whatever you do....listen to music, sing a song or whatever....have fun and create something special.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEMBER AND STUDENT VISUAL ARTS CATEGORIES
HAVE BEEN COMBINED.**

YOUR GFWC VIRGINIA ARTS CONTEST CO-CHAIRMEN

Carol Williams-Mills
1358 East Drive SW
Roanoke, VA 24015
540-521-6382

artcontest@gfwcvirginia.org
csmills@yahoo.com

Florence Powell
PO Box 367
Meadowview, VA 24361
276-475-5235

artcontest@gfwcvirginia.org
fapowell@embarqmail.com

GFWC MEMBER AND STUDENT WRITING CONTESTS

TIME LINE

BY February 15: Clubs hold Student Writing Contests. **There is no Club contest for Members Writings.**

BY March 1 at 11:59 pm: Clubs send Student Writing entries and Members send Member Writing entries to State Chairmen **digitally** along with Creative Arts Waiver. Email addresses on prior page.

BY April 1 at 11:59 pm: State Chairmen submit State winners (entry & Creative Arts Waiver) to GFWC Chairman.

FOLLOW THE GFWC WRITING CONTESTS RULES.

- 1) There are NO DISTRICT CONTESTS.
- 2) Entries are **submitted digitally**, using PDF format (preferred) or Microsoft WORD only.
- 3) Entries MUST include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver for members and students in digital format (PDF) for each submission. Creative Arts Waivers are found under the Writing Contests of the GFWC Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. **If no Creative Arts Waiver is submitted, the entry will NOT be judged.**
- 4) All authors must be amateurs, with earnings from writing not to exceed \$500 annually.
- 5) **Writing submitted must be the original work of the author, not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.**
- 6) Two types of writing: Short story and Poetry. Participant may enter both.
SHORT STORY – Limited to 2,000 words
POETRY – Any style minimum length of eight lines; maximum length of 50 lines.
- 7) Student writings are broken into four categories based on grade in school:
Category 1 – K-2 Category 2 – 3-5
Category 3 – 6-8 Category 4 – 9-12
- 8) Entry must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- 9) GFWC Winners will be published on the Digital Library on the Member Portal after the GFWC Annual Convention in two documents.
- 10) Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.
- 11) By submitting the short story or poem to GFWC, the author is providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license the work in any media known at the time of entry, or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.
- 12) The Waiver shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.
- 13) Two or more judges should be used. Judges should be fully qualified (e.g. English teachers, writers, poets, etc.).
- 14) Entries must be original works and not published prior to the competition.
- 15) Entries must be typed, double spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- 16) Entries must include the Author's Name on the top right-hand corner of each page and page numbers in the bottom right corner. For Short Stories, word count must be included at the end of the story.

GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

TIME LINE

BY April 1 at 11:59 pm: Members send photograph entries to State Chairmen **digitally** along with Creative Arts Waiver. Email addresses on prior page.

BY May 15 at 11:59 pm: State Chairmen submit State winners (entry & Creative Arts Waiver) to Programs@gfwc.org.

FOLLOW THE GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS RULES.

- 1) There are NO CLUB OR DISTRICT CONTESTS.
- 2) Two Contests / Four categories (described in Contest Rules):
- 3) THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST
- 4) Our Living World
- 5) Places Here and There
- 6) State Pride
- 7) GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT
- 8) Contestant must be considered an amateur photographer.
- 9) Photographs must be the original work of member submitting it and never been published before. The member must own the full copyright.
- 10) No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated photos are allowed. Photographs must be the result of a human photographer's work, not generated by AI. AI tools for editing (e.g., noise reduction, sharpening, dodging and burning, color adjusting, etc.) are permitted. AI tools may not be used to add new content or alter the original photograph significantly.
- 11) All photos must be submitted in a jpeg, jpg, or png format.
- 12) If possible, submit the photo as 1400 pixels X 1050 pixels, with a high resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi).
- 13) Submit only one photo per email. Use "GFWC Photography Contest submission" in the Subject line. Attach Photography Contest Creative Arts Waiver with emailed submission. **If no Creative Arts Waiver is submitted, the entry will NOT be judged.**
- 14) Photographs may be black and white or color, vertical or horizontal.
- 15) Photos submitted for the first year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026. For the second year of the administration, the photos submitted must have been taken between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2027.
- 16) Creative Arts Waiver forms are available in the GFWC Digital Library on the Member Portal as a PDF form. It must be completed, signed, and submitted with the entry.
- 17) By submitting the photograph to GFWC for the GFWC Photography Contests on the national level, the member provides GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.
- 18) The Waiver becomes effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

GFWC VIRGINIA STUDENT/MEMBER VISUAL ARTS CONTEST

TIME LINE

BY 30 days before District Meeting/Contest: Clubs hold their club student/member art contest.

BY District meeting: District holds the district STUDENT/MEMBER visual arts contests.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT MEETING/CONTEST: District Arts Contests Chairmen send filled-out Entry Chart with the District's first place winners in Member Visual Arts and ONLY the Best in Show in Student Visual Art to State Chairmen. Email addresses on prior page.

CATEGORY LIST FOR MEMBER AND STUDENT VISUAL ART ENTRIES

A. ART

1. Watercolor Paintings
2. Acrylic Paintings
 - a. Still Life
 - b. Landscapes
 - c. Other
3. Black & White Drawings
 - a. Pen and Ink
 - b. Charcoal
 - c. Pencil
4. Color Drawings
 - a. Pastels
 - b. Crayons
 - c. Markers
 - d. Pencil
5. Oil Painting

B. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1. People
2. Place
3. Nature
4. Enhanced
5. Other

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Collages
2. Mixed Media
3. Graphics
4. Other

GWFC VIRGINIA MEMBER NEEDLEWORK AND CRAFTS CONTEST

TIME LINE

BY 30 days before District Meeting/Contest: Clubs hold their member needlework and crafts contest.

BY District meeting: District holds the district member needlework and crafts contest.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT MEETING/CONTEST: District Arts Contests Chairmen send filled-out Entry Chart with the District's first place winners. Email addresses on prior page.

CATEGORY LIST FOR MEMBER NEEDLEWORK AND CRAFTS ENTRIES

A. NEEDLEWORK

1. COUNTED CROSS STITCH

- a. Pictures
- b. Pillows
- c. Other

2. CROCHET

- a. Afghans
- b. Adult Apparel
- c. Infant to Teenage Apparel
- d. Other

3. EMBROIDERY

- a. Hand
- b. Machine

4. KNITTING

- a. Adult Apparel
 - i. Pullover Sweater
 - ii. Carigan
- b. Infants to Teenage Apparel
- c. Scarves/Shawls
- d. Afghan
- e. Group of two (hat/scarf/mittens)
- f. Other

5. NEEDLEPOINT

- a. Picture
- b. Pillow
- c. Other

6. QUILTS

- a. Small (maximum size 24" x 36")

- b. Hand-pieced & Hand-quilted
- c. Machine-pieced & Machine-quilted
- d. Other

7. SEWING

- a. Adult Apparel
- b. Infant to Teenage Apparel
- c. Accessories
- d. Other

8. FABRIC ART

- a. Wall Hanging
- b. Other

9. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Felting
- b. Other

B. CRAFTS

1. CERAMICS

2. POTTERY

3. HOLIDAYS (May include Christmas or any other holiday)

- a. Centerpiece
- b. Door/Wall
- c. Ornaments (limit 2)
- d. Stockings
- e. Other

4. JEWELRY (Sets are acceptable)

5. PAPER

- a. Cards
- b. Ornaments
- c. Pictures
- d. Other

6. RUBBER STAMPING

7. SHELLCRAFT

- a. Eggery
- b. Shells

8. DECORATIVE PAINTING

- a. Tole painting

- b. Glass
- c. Other

9. WEAVING

- a. Baskets
- b. Other

10. SCRAPBOOKS

- a. Themed Section (3 pages)
- b. Whole Book

11. RECYCLED ITEMS

- a. Clothing
- b. Other

12. DIAMOND ART

13. RESIN

14. MISCELLANEOUS

CONTEST LEVELS

Club Level Contest- Members may enter more than one item in one category only at the club level. Only one winner is to be selected in each category sub-division/ classification. (one blue ribbon in category 2-a-3, one blue ribbon in category 2-a-5-, etc.) Adhere to the category and classification guidelines if your winners are to advance to the district level. Each item shall have an entry card attached to accompany it through the contest levels. Club chairman will prepare the Entry Chart for first place winning club entries.

District Level Contest- To enter the District Level Visual Arts, Needlework and Crafts contests, prepare the Excel Entry Chart on the club level. District blue ribbon Student Art winners will not compete at the state level. One Best in Show Student Art Entry from each district will be entered in the GFWC Virginia contest. One Best in Show Student Art Winner will be selected by the judges from those state level entries. The District Arts Contests Chairman shall prepare an Excel Entry Chart entering the first-place district winners with member's name and club, classification, and item's category and email it to State Chairmen.

State Level Contest (Members Only). All entries must have gone through the club and district level contests. At the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest, first, second, and third place winners will be chosen in each division. Honorable mention ribbons may be given at the judge's discretion. Best in Show will be awarded at the GFWC Virginia contest. **GFWC VIRGINIA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPLAYED ENTRIES.**

All these Contests encourage members' and students' artistic expression and creativity while recognizing originality, imagination, visual impact, and technical skill. Entries should reflect thoughtful and engaging workmanship.

GENERAL RULES FOR MEMBER AND STUDENT ARTS CONTESTS

1. Each entry shall use the GFWC Virginia categories for Visual Art, Needlework, and Crafts.
2. A member may enter only one item or group of items (group not to exceed two items) in each category or sub-category at the District and State levels.
3. Visual Art, Needlework, and Crafts must have been completed during the current year, or since the last club contest. The item(s) shall be entered in the proper category. The "Other" category is for items not specified.
4. Items must be entered in the proper category accompanied by the entry cards. Category and classification will not be changed at District or the GFWC Virginia contests. Any entry determined by judges at the district or the GFWC Virginia level to be incorrectly entered will not be eligible for competition.
5. District and GFWC Virginia contests must be judged by persons qualified in Art, Crafts, and Needlework.
6. Judges: Club level contests may be judged by qualified members. District and the GFWC Virginia Arts Contests must be judged by Art Educators or Professional Artists. The club and district level contest shall have a total of 2 judges; one judge for the Member and Student Visual Arts and one for Needlework and Crafts. The GFWC Virginia Contest shall have a total of 3 judges: one for Visual Arts, one judge for Needlework and one judge for Crafts.
7. If two entries in the same category are received from the same district for the GFWC Virginia contest, **both entries will be disqualified.**
8. First place or blue ribbons will be awarded when only one entry appears in a given category or sub-category. **NO TIE WINNERS ARE ALLOWED. JUDGES' DECISION ARE FINAL-NO CHANGES ARE ALLOWED.** Honorable Mention may be awarded at the judges' discretion.
9. **Clubs are responsible for transporting entries to district and the GFWC Virginia contests.** For easy pick up of entries, bring a prepared list of entries that you brought for the contest. Include the same information on the item's Entry Card. Please take the BLUE RIBBONS off the Entry Cards before the next contest.
10. **All items entered in the district and the GFWC Virginia contests must remain on display until the designated pick-up time.**
11. **CLUB MEMBER CLASSIFICATIONS:**
 - PROFESSIONAL** – teaches and/or has earned more than \$500 during the current year.
 - SEMI-PROFESSIONAL** – More than 5 years of experience in the particular division for which she is entering, having earned less than \$500 during the current year.
 - AMATEUR** – All others.
12. **STUDENT CLASSIFICATIONS:**
 - 1 – Grades K – 2
 - 2 – Grades 3 – 5
 - 3 – Grades 6 – 8
 - 4 – Grades 9 – 12

The Student Visual Art Contest will conclude at the district level, with the exception of one "BEST IN SHOW" entry from each district, to be taken to the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest. There will be one winning entry at this contest.

13. No wet paintings will be accepted.
14. Size of paintings/drawings must be no larger than 24" x 30". Entries on materials other than canvas must be matted. Frames are allowed; no glass. Exceptions that can have glass: chalk drawings, charcoal, pastels, diamond art.
15. Size of photography entries must be no larger than 8" x 10". No frames or glass. **All photographs must be mounted on a rigid 8"x10" board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 ". No mattes, frames, or hangers.**
16. **ENTRY CARDS:**
THIS IS THE OFFICIAL ENTRY CARD TO BE ATTACHED TO THE ITEM AND ACCOMPANY IT. One 3"x5" card must be prepared for each entry.

3 X 5 CARD (must be attached to entry)

Front	Back
Category (name, letter and number)	Size and description of entry
Category title (write out fully the main category and any subheadings)	Student or Member's name
Classification (Students use grade levels) (Members use professional, semi-pro, or amateur)	School (if student) Club name District

17. ENTRY CHART:

This CHART is designed for use at the CLUB, DISTRICT and STATE levels. It replaces the 3 X 5 cards that were mailed to the next level. The information is the same. The Club and District Chairmen shall use the GFWC Virginia Arts Contests Entry Chart and underline either 2027 or 2028. It is an Excel chart that can be downloaded and filled out. **The chart shall be emailed to the District or State Arts Contests Chairmen immediately upon the completion of the club or district contest.** Club chairmen need to confirm the District Chairman's email addresses and their receipt of the club's entries prior to the District contest. The State Chairmen emails are in the front of this booklet. At each level, the entries will be checked off the respective charts. Look for the chart on the GFWC Virginia website as well for hopefully easy use. Welcome to the digital age! The chart can be found in the members password protected page – then click on reporting, dues and awards to scroll down to the arts contest section. The next two pages show what the Excel worksheet looks like. Please do not use the pages below for completion.

GFWC VIRGINIA ARTS CONTESTS ENTRY CHART
2027 / 2028

First Place Winners for Woman's Club

District

CATEGORY	MEMBER	WOMAN'S CLUB	CLASSIFICATION	PLACE
			Amateur, Professional, Semi-Professional	

VISUAL ARTS MEMBERS ENTRIES

A. ARTS

1. Watercolor Paintings				
2. Acrylic Paintings				
a. Still Life				
b. Landscapes				
c. Other				
3. Black & White Drawings				
a. Pen and Ink				
b. Charcoal				
c. Pencil				
4. Color Drawings				
a. Pastels				
b. Crayons				
c. Markers				
d. Pencil				
5. Oil Paintings				

B. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1. People				
2. Place				
3. Nature				
4. Enhanced				
5. Other				

CATEGORY	MEMBER	WOMAN'S CLUB	CLASSIFICATION	PLACE
			Amateur, Professional, Semi-Professional	

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Collages				
2. Mixed Media				
3. Graphics				
4. Other				

NEEDLEWORK

1. COUNTED CROSS STITCH

a. Pictures				
b. Pillows				
c. Other				

2. CROCHET

a. Afghans				
b. Adult Apparel				
c. Infant to Teenage Apparel				
d. Other				

3. EMBROIDERY

a. Hand				
b. Machine				

4. KNITTING

a. Adult Apparel				
i. Pull over sweater				
ii. Cardigan				
b. Infants to Teenage apparel				
c. Scarves/Shawls				
d. Afghan				
e. Group of two(hat/scarf/mittens)				
f. Other				

5. NEEDLEPOINT

a. Picture				
b. Pillow				
c. Other				

6. QUILTS

a. Small (maximum size 24" X 36")				
b. Hand-pieced & hand-quilted				
c. Machine-pieced & machine-quilted				

CATEGORY	MEMBER	WOMAN'S CLUB	CLASSIFICATION	PLACE
Amateur, Professional, Semi-Professional				
d. Other				
7. SEWING				
a. Adult Apparel				
b. Infant to Teenage Apparel				
c. Accessories				
d. Other				
8. FABRIC ART				
a. Wall Hanging				
b. Other				
9. MISCELLANEOUS				
a. Felting				
b. Other				
CRAFTS				
1. CERAMICS				
2. POTTERY				
3. HOLIDAYS (May include Christmas or any other holiday)				
a. Centerpiece				
b. Door/Wall				
c. Ornaments (limit 2)				
d. Stockings				
e. Other				
4. JEWELRY (sets accepted)				
5. PAPER				
a. Cards				
b. Ornaments				
c. Pictures				
d. Other				
6. RUBBER STAMPING				
7. SHELLCRAFT				
a. Eggery				
b. Shells				
8. DECORATIVE PAINTING				
a. Tole painting				
b. Glass				
c. Other				

CATEGORY	MEMBER	WOMAN'S CLUB	CLASSIFICATION	PLACE
Amateur, Professional, Semi-Professional				
9. WEAVING				
a. Baskets				
b. Other				
10. SCRAPBOOKS				
a. Themed Section (3 pages)				
b. Whole Book				
11. RECYCLED ITEMS				
a. Clothing				
b. Other				
12. DIAMOND ART				
13. RESIN				
14. MISCELLANEOUS				

VISUAL ARTS STUDENT ENTRY
(Only BEST IN SHOW from DISTRICT Contest)

CATEGORY	STUDENT	WOMAN'S CLUB	CLASS: K-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12
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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

TELL YOUR STORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

The GFWC Photography Contests encourage members' artistic expression and visual storytelling while recognizing originality, visual impact, and technical skill in photography. Members do not need an expensive camera to take great pictures. Today's cell phones provide a way to take creative photographs that are contest-worthy.

GFWC offers four opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests.

THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST

These photographs showcase the people, animals, plants, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way. The three categories for this contest are:

- **Our Living World** – Highlight the people, animals, and plants that make our world a beautiful place to live. These photos can showcase a close-up view, such as the stamen of a flower, to a wide vista, like the Serengeti's animals from a helicopter.
- **Places Here and There** – Capture architecture or natural beauty in the air (clouds, moon, stars, etc.), land (mountains, deserts, meadows, etc.), and water (oceans, rivers, waterfalls, etc.) locally or around the world.
- **State Pride** – Showcase images that make you proud of your state! Examples are Rocky Mountains, university football game, saguaro cactus, pecan pie, the 16th U.S. President, etc. These photographs must be taken in the state submitting them.

GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC members as they actively meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one. **Photos should be of volunteers in motion, actively working.** Try focusing on one subject rather than entire groups. Preference in judging will be given to photos that show members actively doing something, not simply posing.



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

Shelli R. Fehr, Chairman
GFWC Western States Region
902 Dutch Oven Ln.
Mesquite, NV 89034
shellifehr@hotmail.com
309-737-3884

HELPFUL RESOURCES

11 Simple Tips to Capture Professional Photos With Your Phone - Alex Armitage

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bmn_GI4xZBQ

Mobile Photography Tips and Tricks! How to Become a Pro!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSaYUhdTwZE>

How to Take Good Photos with a Phone – 11 Killer Tips:

theschoolofphotography.com/tutorials/how-to-take-good-photos-with-a-phone

10 Easy Mobile Photography Tips for Beginners to Capture Stunning Images: focalfun.com/mobile-photography-tips-for-beginners





PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS PARTICIPANTS

- All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer. (Pursuing photography for pleasure versus for financial benefits.)

ARTWORK GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- Photographs may be vertical (portrait) or horizontal (landscape).
- Photographs may be taken using digital cameras, film cameras, or cell phones and may be color or black and white.
- No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated* photos are allowed. Photographs must be the result of a human photographer's work, not generated by AI. AI tools for editing (e.g., noise reduction, sharpening, dodging and burning, color adjusting, etc.) are permitted. AI tools may not be used to add new content or alter the original photograph significantly.

**Definition of AI-generated: "Images created by computer software interpreting text descriptions (prompts) to generate new digital images pixel by pixel."*

STATE AND DC FEDERATION CHAIRMAN SUBMISSION RULES

NEW THIS ADMINISTRATION

Only digital submissions are accepted. Photos are to be submitted by the State/DC Federation Photography Chairman to Programs@gfwc.org.

- All photos must be submitted in a jpeg, jpg, or png format.
- Though not required, if you have the capability and knowledge, please submit the photo as 1400 pixels x 1050 pixels, with a high resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi).
- Photographs submitted for the first year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026. Photographs submitted for the second year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027.
- Please prevent member disappointment by verifying that all GFWC Rules and Guidelines for the contests (see above) have been followed. Entries that do not follow the GFWC Photography Contest Rules and Guidelines will be disqualified.
- Forward the submissions for national judging, with three items, as instructed below:
 - **Attach only one photo per email.**
 - Use "GFWC Photography Contest submission" in the Subject line.
 - **Attach Photography Contest form with each emailed submission.** (Found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.)
- If available, please email the photographs using Dropbox, Hightail, or other large-capacity format software.





PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

DEADLINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

STATE/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION LEVEL

Clubs must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation Photography Contest Chairman for judging. **State/DC Federation entry deadlines are determined by the respective State/DC Federation.**

NATIONAL LEVEL

To be eligible for national judging, each State/DC Federation may email one photograph winner for each of the four contests to GFWC at Programs@GFWC.org. Please include the photograph, a signed Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form (available in the Digital Library on the Member Portal) with each email. Include "GFWC Photography Contest submission" in the email's Subject line.

The submission must be emailed by 11:59 p.m. on May 15*.

*If your State/DC Federation Convention takes place on or about this deadline date, contact GFWC Photography Contest Chairman Shelli Fehr at shellifehr@hotmail.com or 309-737-3884.



AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Qualified judges will look at the overall creativity of the subject while recognizing originality, visual impact, and quality of the photograph and technical skills in photography. The following awards will then be presented at the GFWC Annual Convention for the top three national entries in each contest and category:

FIRST PLACE \$100 SECOND PLACE \$75 THIRD PLACE \$50

Honorable Mention may also be awarded at the judges' discretion with no monetary award attached.

DISCLAIMER

By submitting your photographs to GFWC for the GFWC Photography Contests on the national level, you are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FORM

The Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form is required for entry in the Photography Contests program. It is available for download in the Digital Library on the Member Portal. For further information, contact GFWC Photography Contest Chairman Shelli Fehr at shellifehr@hotmail.com or 309-737-3884.





CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

- ☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled _____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.
- ☐ In my photograph, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated photo has been used. Photograph is the result of my work, not generated by AI. Only permitted AI editing tools (e.g. noise reducing, sharpening, dodging and burning, color adjusting, etc.) have been used. No AI tools have been used to add new content or significantly alter the original photograph.
- ☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The photograph submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

THE WORLD IN PICTURES: ☐ Our Living World ☐ Places Here and There ☐ State Pride

☐ **GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT**

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		
Title and brief caption giving location, date taken, and other pertinent information about the photograph:		

Signature

Date

Photography Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.



WRITING CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING A LIFE. PAY ATTENTION. BE ASTONISHED. TELL ABOUT IT." — MARY OLIVER

Inspire creativity through the power of the written word. Encourage club members and students to write stories or poems through self-expression to share their thoughts and allow their voices to be heard. Contest entries in short stories and poetry are open to club members and students in grades K-12. Engage and empower your communities to participate in the GFWC-sponsored writing contest to ignite new and budding talents for writers of all ages and boost the confidence of existing writers.



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2026-2028 WRITING CONTESTS

LeeAnn Conlon, Chairman
GFWC Great Lakes Region
169 South Collier Boulevard,
Unit H106
Marco Island, FL 34145
leeann.conlon@aol.com
*Award entries submitted to
leeannconlon20@gmail.com*

GFWC MEMBER CONTESTS

Entries are limited to one per member per category – short story or poetry.

- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story.
- **Poetry entries** can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- **Writing submitted must be the original work of the author, not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.**

AUTHORS MUST:

- Be a dues-paying member of an active per capita club.
- Be amateurs, with earnings from writing not to exceed \$500 annually.
- Submit original works that have not been published prior to the competition.

ENTRIES MUST:

- Be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Be typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Include the Author's Name on the top right-hand corner of each page and page numbers in the bottom right corner.
- Attach the Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest form.

SUBMISSION:

- **Submitted digitally**, using PDF format (preferred) or Microsoft WORD only.
- Must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest Form in digital format (PDF) for each submission. The Creative Arts Waiver can be found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.



WRITING CONTEST

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

STUDENT WRITING CONTESTS

CONTEST CATEGORIES

Category 1: Grades K, 1, and 2

Category 2: Grades 3, 4, and 5

Category 3: Grades 6, 7, and 8

Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

- Entries are limited to one short story and/or one poem per student per grade category.
- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story.
- **Poetry entries** can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- The "Six Traits of Writing" will be used in the judging of the Student Writing Contest entries in categories 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- **Writing submitted must be the original work of the author, not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.**

AUTHORS MUST:

- Be amateurs, with earnings from writing not to exceed \$500 annually.
- Submit original works that have not been published prior to the competition.

ENTRIES MUST:

- Be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Be typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Include the Author's Name on the top right-hand corner of each page and page numbers in the bottom right corner
- Attach the Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form.

SUBMISSION:

- **Submitted digitally**, using PDF format (preferred) or Microsoft WORD only.
- Must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form in digital format (PDF) for each submission. The Creative Arts Waiver can be found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.





WRITING CONTEST

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

STATE AND DC LEVEL

Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation Writing Contests Chairmen for **state-level judging by the state submission deadline**.

State/DC Federation Writing Contests Chairmen will:

- Determine state entry deadlines for club entries, keeping in mind the national deadline (April 1) when arranging for state-level judging.
- Select judges who will evaluate entries and select a first-place winning entry in each category.
- Submit one winning state entry per writing contest (including Creative Arts Waiver Member/Student Writing Contest form), per category, to the national GFWC Writing Contest Chairman digitally no later than April 1 each year, including a cover letter with a complete list of state writing contest winners.

NATIONAL LEVEL

By midnight on April 1, a digital cover letter with a complete list of state writing contest winners and all winning state entries must be **submitted digitally to the GFWC Writing Contest Chairman at leeannconlon20@gmail.com and Programs@GFWC.org**. A Creative Arts Waiver Member/Student Writing Contest form with the author's contact information must be digitally submitted with each entry.

Winners will be recognized at the GFWC Annual Convention with certificates and monetary awards.

GFWC Member Short Story Winner: \$50

GFWC Member Poetry Winner: \$50

Student Short Story Winner:

- Category 1 (Grades K, 1, and 2): \$25
- Category 2 (Grades 3, 4, and 5): \$25
- Category 3 (Grades 6, 7, and 8): \$25
- Category 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12): \$50

Student Poetry Winner:

- Category 1 (Grades K, 1, and 2): \$25
- Category 2 (Grades 3, 4, and 5): \$25
- Category 3 (Grades 6, 7, and 8): \$25
- Category 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12): \$50

Winners will be published on the Digital Library on the Member Portal after the GFWC Annual Convention in the Awards & Certificates folder in two documents:

- **GFWC Awards & Contest Winners:** Lists the name of the winner, category, and name of the poem or short story.
- **GFWC Poetry and Writing Contest Winners:** Publishes the full winning poetry and short stories.





WRITING CONTEST

2026-2028 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

HELPFUL RESOURCES

6+1 Trait Writing Rubrics (Grades K-2) educationnorthwest.org/sites/default/files/resources/traits-rubrics-k-2.pdf

6+1 Trait Writing Rubrics (Grades 3-12) www.readingrockets.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/traits-rubrics-3-12.pdf

How to Write a Short Story That Captivates Your Reader jerryjenkins.com/how-to-write-short-stories/

How to Write a Poem writers.com/how-to-write-a-poem-step-by-step

CLARIFICATIONS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.
- By submitting a short story or poem to GFWC, the author is providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license the work in any media known at the time of entry, or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.
- A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Member/Student Writing Contest** form must be submitted with each entry. This form can be found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- **When do I (a member) submit my contest entry?**
 - Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/DC Federation Writing Contests Chairmen for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC Writing Contest Chairman or leadership for your individual deadline.





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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER MEMBER WRITING CONTEST

2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

- ☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled _____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.
- ☐ With my written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.
- ☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The work submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

- ☐ Member Short Story ☐ Member Poetry

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		

Signature

Date

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.



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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

- ☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled _____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.
- ☐ With my written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.
- ☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The writing submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

- ☐ **STUDENT SHORT STORY** ☐ **STUDENT POETRY**

Student Grade Classification (please check only one):

- ☐ **CATEGORY 1: GRADES K-2** ☐ **CATEGORY 3: GRADES 6-8**
☐ **CATEGORY 2: GRADES 3-5** ☐ **CATEGORY 4: GRADES 9-12**

Full Name _____		
Mailing Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Phone _____	Email _____	
Name of Club _____		
State/DC Federation _____		

Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if student is under 18 years of age) _____

Date _____

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

