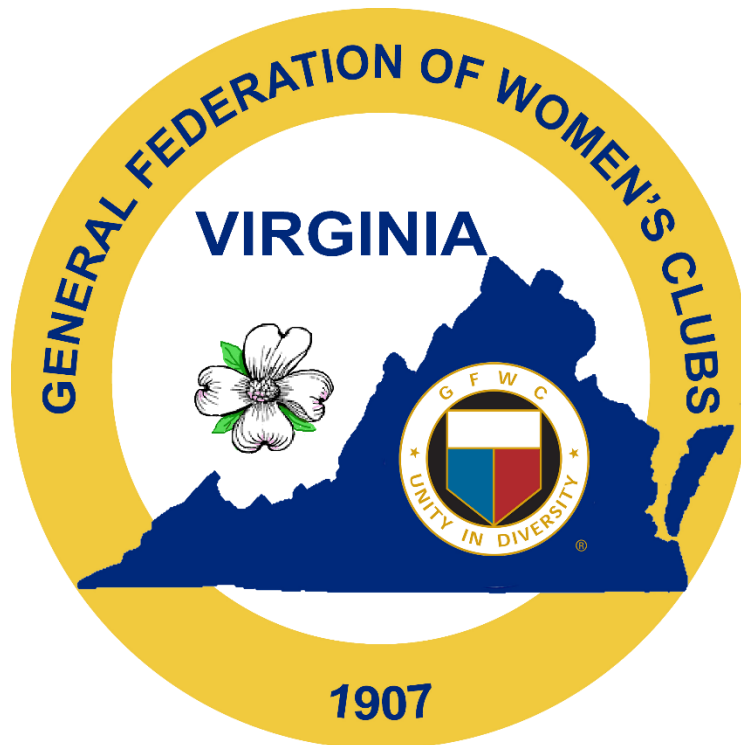


# GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA



## **RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Arts Department Contests**

### **Arts and Crafts Contests**

**2024-2026**

#### **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, Shellcraft, Tole Painting, Weaving,  
Scrapbooks, Miscellaneous

#### **WRITING CONTEST (Student and Member)**

Adhere to GFWC Contest Rules and Categories

All writing must be judged at the district level before being sent to the state contest

## **AWESOME ART, NIFTY NEEDLEWORK, FABULOUS PHOTOGRAPHY, CREATIVE CRAFTS, WONDERFUL WRITING AND PRETTY POETRY**

The GFWC Virginia Arts Contest gives members the opportunity to show off their talents and creativity. If your club does not hold an Arts Contest, please consider starting one. Your District Chairmen and your GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Co-Chairmen are here to help you.

If you have a talented club member, ask them to hold a workshop at a club meeting or at another time during the year. Poll your members to see what they would like to learn.

Please start planning your Member and Student Writing Contests soon. Please use the deadlines for these contests. Publish the contests and deadlines in your club and district newsletters. At the club Arts Contest have the entries judged and then encourage the members to talk about their entry(s). Please send the cards to your District Chairman upon completion of your show. After the District Arts Contest, the District Arts Chairman will send the cards to Carol Williams-Mills, your GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Co-Chairman.

Please consider sponsoring a Student Art and Writing Contest. Contact a school and set up the contest with the art, graphic arts and/or English teacher. The winners can be rewarded with ribbons, art, school supplies or even a pizza party. It is nice to recognize the students at an awards assembly. Promote March as Student Art Month.

Club members can also go to schools, after school programs, assisted living facilities or nursing homes and teach an art, craft, needlework or photography to the participants. Encouragement for participants to pursue their talents can take the form of a ribbon, small gift, toiletries or a healthy snack. Use your creativity to come up with an activity and a reward.

Whatever you do.....do something artistic.....have fun and expand your creative horizons.

**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](mailto:artcontest@gfwcvirginia.org)  
[cscmills@yahoo.com](mailto:cscmills@yahoo.com)

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

[artcontest@gfwcvirginia.org](mailto:artcontest@gfwcvirginia.org)  
[fapowell@embarqmail.com](mailto:fapowell@embarqmail.com)

## CONTEST LEVELS

**Club Level Contest-** Only one winner is to be selected in each category sub-division (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.

**District Level Contest-** To enter the District Level Visual Arts, Needlework and Crafts contests, prepare the registration cards as outlined in the specific contest rules. These cards are the official entry forms. First place (blue ribbon) district winners will be entered in the GFWC Virginia Contest, using the same 3"x 5" registration card, signed by the District Chairman. 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, using the same 3"x 5" registration card, signed by the District Arts chairman. One Best in Show Student Art Winner will be selected by the judges from those state level entries.

**Club entries for the District Writing contest must be submitted to the District Arts Chairman postmarked February 1<sup>st</sup> or earlier, accompanied by the appropriate registration form and waiver.**

**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.**

District winners of the **WRITING CONTEST** (Both student and member entries) will be forwarded by the District Arts Chairman to **Carol Guilliams-Mills 1358 East Drive S.W., Roanoke, Va. 24015 by March 1st or earlier.**

**GFWC LEVEL CONTESTS-** Information on contest deadlines is included below. For information on categories, rules and awards, see the GFWC 2024-2026 Awards Contest and Grants section of the GFWC Club Manual found starting on page 11 of this booklet.

In addition to the above-mentioned winners in each listed category, the judges will also select winners to be entered in the GFWC Photography Contest. **This contest is for members only.** Entries must be accompanied by a letter from the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Co-Chairman verifying that it is the "official state entry".

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

Categories: As listed in the GFWC Club Manual. See pages 11-13.

Rules: As listed in the GFWC Club Manual, pages 11-13

Deadlines: For the "The World in Pictures" and "GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit".

State Level Contest: Clubs must send registration cards for the GFWC Photography entries to the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Co-Chairman Carol Guilliams-Mills by April 1, 2024 and 2025. State level judging will be done at the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest at Convention.

National Level Contest: as listed in the GFWC Club Manual

Each entry must contain the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver.

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 CONTEST**

1. Each entry shall use the GFWC Virginia categories for 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.
3. Art, Needlework and Crafts must have been completed during the current year, or since the last club contest. **FOR THE 2025 CONTEST ONLY, ALL ITEMS COMPLETED IN 2024-2025 MAY BE ENTERED.** 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 registration 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, Needlework and Crafts.
6. Judges: Club level contests may be judged by qualified members. District and the GFWC Arts Contest 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.**
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 experience in 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 canvas must be matted. Frames are allowed; no glass. Exception: chalk drawings.

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. See page 12.**

16. **REGISTRATION CARDS:**

**These are the official entry forms. Two 3"x5" cards must be prepared for each entry.**

**CARD # 1** will be signed by the Club's Arts and Culture Chairman and this card is the **official entry form**. Club Chairman should send the entry cards of the first place winners to the District Arts and Culture Chairman **immediately following the club contest**. The District Chairman will send the card on to the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Co-Chairman, Carol Williams-Mills **immediately following the District Contest**. **Card # 2** will stay attached to the entry. At each level, the contest chairman checks to see that the information on card # 2 matches the information on card # 1. Card # 1 will be returned to the person bringing the entry to the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest and will be used to claim the item(s) after the show is over. For easy pick up of entries bring a prepared list of the entries that you brought for the contest. Include same information as on Card # 1, with the exception of the signatures.

**CARD # 1 (Official 3"x 5" registration card – to be mailed for first place winners to District Chairman by club: to be mailed for district first place winners to the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Chairman by the district chairman.**

<b>Front</b>  Category (letter and number)  Classification  Student or Member's name School (if student) Sponsoring club Member's district	<b>Back</b>  Size and description of entry    _____Signature of Club Chairman  _____Signature of District Chairman
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**CARD #2 (must be attached to entry)**

<b>Front</b>  Category (letter and number)  Category title (write out fully the main category and any subheadings)  Classification	<b>Back</b>  Size and description of entry   Student or Member's name School (if student) Club name District
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## **CATEGORY LIST FOR MEMBER AND STUDENT VISUAL ART ENTRIES**

### **A. ART**

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

### **B. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

1. The World In Pictures Contest
  - a. Our World Up Close
  - b. Natural Wonders
  - c. Reflections
2. GFWC Living The Volunteer Spirit Contest

For explanations see page 11 GFWC Photography Contest

### **C. MISCELLANEOUS**

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

## **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. Apparel
- c. Infant to Teenage Apparel
- d. Other

#### **3. EMBROIDERY**

#### **4. KNITTING**

- a. Adult Apparel
- b. Infants to Teenage Apparel
- c. Scarves/Shawls
- d. Other

#### **5. NEEDLEPOINT**

- a. Picture
- b. Other

#### **6. QUILTS**

- a. Small (maximum size 24" x 36")
- b. Patchwork
- c. Machine-quilted
- d. Hand quilted
- e. 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**

**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. MISCELLANEOUS



## GENERAL RULES - WRITING CONTEST FOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

1. Entries must not have been published prior to competition and must be the original work of the author.
2. Entries must be typed, double-spaced on one side only of 8-1/2 x 11" paper with minimum margins of 1" on all 4 sides. **NO HAND-WRITTEN ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
3. **Entries must be written during the contest year January 1- December 31**
4. Entries must have the following in the top right hand corner of each page:  
 Author's Name  
 Author's E-mail Address  
 Author's Mailing Address  
 Author's Telephone Number  
 Name of Local Club & State Federation  
 Category  
 Title of Work
5. Entries must first be judged at the club level with a first, second and third place award given in each category. Two copies of each club first place winner, accompanied by the entry form and creative arts waiver, should be sent directly to District Arts Chairmen by **February 1** each year for District level judging. Use an official entry form for EACH entry.
6. Two or more judges should be used at each contest level. Judges should be fully qualified (e.g. English teachers, writers, poets, etc.)
7. Clubs are encouraged to sponsor student writing contests. Students may enter one short story and/or poem for judging at the club level.
8. **Manuscripts may not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.**
9. Classifications:
  - a. FOR STUDENTS:
 

1 – Grades K-2	3 – Grades 6-8
2 - Grades 3-5	4 – Grades 9-12
  - b. FOR MEMBERS:  
Amateur only- earnings from writing not to exceed \$500 annually
10. Category list for Member/Student Writing Entries:  
 SHORT STORY - Limited to 2000 words  
 POETRY - Minimum length of eight lines; maximum length of 50 lines

## WRITING CONTEST

### Official Entry Form

**CLUBS:** Register **FIRST PLACE WINNERS ONLY** on this form. Send this form and two (2) copies of the winning manuscripts in each category to your District Arts Chairman. District contest entries must be postmarked on or before **FEBRUARY 1** of each year.

**DISTRICT:** Junior and General Club Writing Contest entries are to be judged together in a single contest on the district level as well as on the state level. Send your district's **FIRST PLACEWINNERS ONLY**. Sign the entry form to certify that the entry is the district's first place winner. Send the form and two copies of the entry (both student and member) in each category to Carol Guilliams-Mills, 1358 East Drive S.W, Roanoke VA 24015. State contest entries must be postmarked on or before **March 1 of each year**.

**NOTE:** Manuscripts may not be returned. Be sure authors have a copy of their manuscript. Waiver must accompany entry, for State Chairman to send forth winners.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

AUTHOR

CLUB

DISTRICT

CLUB CHAIRMAN:

Name Phone

Address

CATEGORY

☐ Short Story

☐ Poetry

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ Member Entry

☐ Student Entry

☐ Grades k-2

☐ Grades 3-5

☐ Grades 6-8

☐ Grades 9-12

IF STUDENT ENTRY, NAME OF SCHOOL

FOR DISTRICT USE ONLY:	
I certify that this is the District First Place Winner.	Signature:
FOR STATE USE ONLY:	
I certify that this is the State First Place Winner.	Signature:

# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

## AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

### 2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL



### 2024-2026 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

Patricia (Tric) Heepe, Chairman  
5145 Esteb Rd  
Richmond, IN 47374  
theepe@aol.com

### 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. You don't 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 two opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests.

### THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST

These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:

- **Our World Up Close**—Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world. Macro photography creates photos of small items that appear to be larger than life-size. Some common examples are bugs or parts of flowers.
- **Natural Wonders**—Use wide angles and panoramas, or landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista. The emphasis is on NATURAL.
- **Reflections**—Feature an object, setting, situation, or landmark that is reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

### GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they actively meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one.

### CLUB CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Encourage members to participate in the GFWC Photography Contests.
- Foster participation in the photography contests. Consider selecting a subject for all members to photograph. Possibly suggest a different shape for each week—circles, straight lines, etc.
- Recognize member contributions by awarding certificates and/or ribbons.
- Remind members of deadlines for judging in the local and state contests.
- Forward the submissions for state and national judging as instructed.
- Verify that all rules for the contests have been followed. Entries that **do not** follow the contest rules will be disqualified.





## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

### RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Photographs submitted for the first year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Photographs submitted for the second year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.
- Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer. (Pursuing photography for pleasure versus for financial benefits.)

### ARTWORK GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

- Photographs may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.
- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photo.
- Digital submissions are highly recommended.
- If print photographs are submitted, they must be:
  - An 8 X 10-inch high-resolution print.
  - Mounted on a rigid 8 X 10-inch board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. No mattes, frames, or hangers are allowed.
- 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.
- Photographs may be taken using film or digital cameras and may be color or black and white.
- Photographs will NOT be returned.
- Print photographs must have a label affixed to its back with the following information:
  - Contest name: The World in Pictures with category or GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit
  - Photographer's Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, and Phone Number
  - Name and State of the sponsoring club
  - Title and brief caption giving location, date, and other pertinent info about the photograph
  - Arrow indicating top of the photograph
- Creative Arts Waiver Form for each submission is found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Member Portal under Resources in the Awards and Contests section.
- Digital prints must include the same information within the email to which the digital print is attached.

### DEADLINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

**State Level:** Clubs must send entries to their respective State Photography Contest Chairman for judging. State entry deadlines are determined by the respective State Federation.

**National Level:** To be eligible for national judging, each State Federation may submit one winner for each contest and category, along with a cover letter from the respective State Photography Contest Chairman listing the names of the winning submissions and the signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver from each state winner.

**New:** If available, please email the photographs in high-resolution/300 dots per inch or pixels per inch using Dropbox, Hightail, or other large-capacity format software.

The submission must be postmarked or emailed by **May 15**.





## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

Digital Submissions and accompanying documentation should be emailed to [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org) with "Photography Contest" in the Subject Line and copied to: [theepe@aol.com](mailto:theepe@aol.com).

Print submission should be sent to:

GFWC Photography Contest

1734 N Street NW

Washington, DC 20036-2990

National level submitted photographs will not be returned.

*\* If your State Convention takes place on or about this deadline date, contact GFWC at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org) or 1-202-347-3168).*



### AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The following awards will 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

### 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.

### GFWC CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER FORM

The GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Form is attached to this Photography Contests program. For further information contact GFWC at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org) or call 202-347-3168.

### HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Top Seven Smart Phone Photography Tips That Will Make You Forget Your Camera: <https://fstoppers.com/mobile/top-7-smartphone-photography-tips-will-make-forget-your-camera-626557>

Tips and tricks to help you take better smartphone photos: <https://www.popsi.com/take-better-smartphone-photos/>

Top five photography lighting tips: <https://www.simplebooth.com/blog/photography-lighting-for-beginners/>

Photography Tips and Tricks: How to Take Good Pictures: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/get-inspired/inside-look/photography-tips-tricks-how-to-take-good-pictures/>



# WRITING CONTESTS

## AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL



2024-2026  
WRITING CONTESTS

Hope Royer, Chairman  
700 Hermitage Road, Manakin  
Sabot, VA 23103  
hoperoyer@aol.com

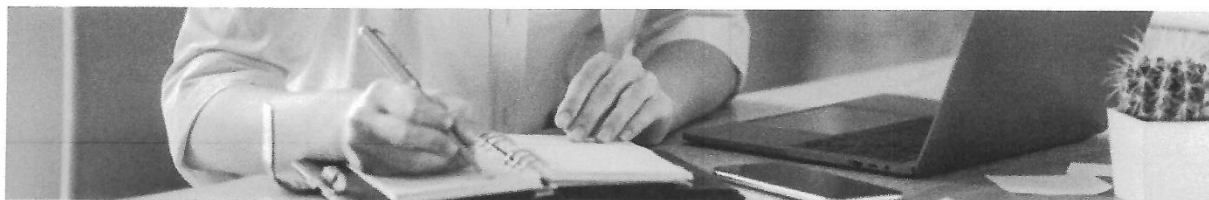
**"EITHER WRITE SOMETHING WORTH READING  
OR DO SOMETHING WORTH WRITING."  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

Inspire creativity. Educate, engage, and empower members and your school communities through self-expression. Promote participation in GFWC-sponsored writing contests to foster community spirit, talent, and growth as writers. Contest entries in short stories and poetry are open to club members and youth in grades K-12. Encourage members and youth to write a story or a poem to express their thoughts and share their voices.

### GFWC MEMBER CONTESTS

Authors must be dues-paying members of an active per capita club.

- Entries must be:
  - Typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
  - Printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only.
  - If emailed, use Microsoft Word files only.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must include the following information on the top right-hand corner of each page:
  - Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of author's GFWC club and State Federation
  - Category
  - Title of work
  - Page number
- Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed \$500 annually.
- Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be original works by the author.
- A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission.
- **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.
- Entries are limited to one per member per category.





## YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS

- Requirements:
  - Typed, double-spaced, one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
  - Printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only.
  - If emailed, use Microsoft Word files only.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must include the following information on the top, right-hand corner of each page:
  - Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of the GFWC club and State Federation submitting the author's work
  - Category
  - Title of work
  - Page number
  - Grade Level Category
    - 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
- Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed \$500 annually.
- Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be the author's original work.
- A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission.
- Entries are limited to one per person per category.
- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be indicated 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 Youth Writing Contest writing entries in categories 2,3, and 4.

## ENTRY GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

### STATE LEVEL

- Clubs must send entries to their respective State Writing Contests Chairman for state-level judging.
- State entry deadlines are determined by the respective State Federation.
- State Writing Contest Chairmen shall select judges, who will evaluate entries and select a first-place winning entry in each category.
- State Writing Contest Chairmen should keep in mind the national deadline when arranging for state-level judging.

### NATIONAL LEVEL

- One winning state entry per writing contest, per category, must be sent to the national GFWC Writing Contest Chairman, postmarked no later than April 1 each year.
- All entries must be accompanied by a cover letter from each State GFWC Creative Writing Contest Chairman with a complete list of state writing contest winners.
- All entries may be mailed or electronically sent to the GFWC Writing Contest Chairman and [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).





## WRITING CONTEST

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

### 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** must be submitted with each entry.







**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

## CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER

2024-2026 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 work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of other persons or entities.

The work in question is (please check one): ☐ Photography ☐ Poetry ☐ Short Story

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