WRITING CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

EXPRESS YOURSELF CREATIVELY

Do you love to express yourself through writing? Do you enjoy sharing your creative written work with others? GFWC sponsors writing contests in short story and poetry for members and youth to foster community spirit, talent, and growth as writers. Tell a story, express your thoughts, and share your voice while using the elements of presentation, organization, word choice, and sentence fluency. Display your talents with "sparkle and shine" and be rewarded for it!

2022-2024
WRITING CONTESTS

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GFWC MEMBER CONTESTS

- Authors must be dues-paying members of an active per capita club.
- Entries must be:
  - Ø Typed, double-spaced, printed on one side only
  - Ø Have minimum margins of one-inch on all four sides
  - Ø On 8.5 x11-inch paper
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page:
  - Ø Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Ø Name of author's GFWC club and State Federation
  - Ø Category
  - Ø Title of work
- 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 **signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission.
- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words.
- **Poetry entries** can be any style, with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- One entry per member per category.

YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS

- Entries must be typed, double-spaced, printed on one side only, with minimum margins of one-inch on all four sides, on 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page:
  - Ø Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Ø Name of the GFWC club and State Federation submitting author's work
  - Ø Category
  - Ø Title of work
  - Ø 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 original works by the author.
- A **signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission.
- One entry per person per category.
- **Short stories** are limited to 2,000 words.
- **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.

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 submissions 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.

CLARIFICATIONS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.
- By submitting your short story or poem to GFWC, you are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license the work in any media known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.
- A completed and signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver must be submitted with each entry.



CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER

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

☐ 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 sub-license the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

☐ I agree that I shall not release the work to any other publication in the same or substantially similar form, without prior written and explicit consent from the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

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.

Full Name (Print)		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Email		
Phone		

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if submitter is under 18 years of age) Date