

# GFWC Writing Contests

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## CONTEST PRINCIPLES

The GFWC Writing Contests seek to provide an avenue for GFWC members and community members of all ages to freely express themselves, as well as draw upon their experiences through writing. These submissions illustrate the talent of GFWC members and are a reflection of our communities.

## HOW TO ENTER ALL GFWC WRITING CONTESTS

### *State Level Instructions*

Clubs must send entries to their state's Writing Contests Chairman for state judging.

State entry deadlines are determined by states.

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 judging.

### *National Level Instructions*

One winning state entry per writing contest, per category, must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2011, and April 1, 2012, and sent to the national GFWC Writing Contest Chairman.

All entries must be accompanied by a cover letter from the state GFWC Creative Writing Contest Chairman with a complete list of Writing Contest state winners.

By submitting your writing submission to GFWC for the GFWC Writing Contest 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 sub-license the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

The GFWC Writing Contest Chairman or your state's Writing Contest Chairman can provide more information and answer any questions regarding the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Form and its submission. Note that only the state's winning writing submissions must be forwarded to GFWC with the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver.

*The GFWC Creative Arts Waiver can be found in the Resources Section or downloaded from [www.GFWC.org/GFWCMembers](http://www.GFWC.org/GFWCMembers).*

## **GFWC MEMBER WRITING CONTESTS**

### *GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest*

- Authors must be dues-paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Short stories are limited to 2,000 words.
- 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.
- Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page:
  - Author's Name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of author's GFWC club and state federation
  - Category
  - 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 authors.

### *GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest*

- Authors must be dues-paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Poetry entries can be any style, with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- 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.
- Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page:
  - Author's Name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of author's GFWC club and state federation
  - Category
  - 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 authors.

## YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS

### *Youth Short Story Writing Contest*

- Short stories are limited to 2,000 words.
- Youth authors may enter one short story for club 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.
- Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page:
  - Author's Name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of the GFWC club and state federation submitting author's work
  - Category
  - Title of work
  - 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 authors.

### *Youth Poetry Writing Contest*

- Poetry entries can be any style, with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
- Youth poets may enter one poem for club contests on the local level.
- 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.
- Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page:
  - Author's Name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number
  - Name of the GFWC club and state federation submitting author's work
  - Category

- Title of work
- 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 authors.

## 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 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.
- Please remember to complete the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver if you are a state winner with an entry being submitted to GFWC for national awards.

## DEADLINES FOR GFWC WRITING CONTESTS

State Level Contest: Clubs must send entries to their state's Writing Chairman for judging. State entry deadlines are determined by your state. State Writing Chairmen should keep in mind the national deadline when arranging for state judging.

National Level Contest: To be eligible for national judging, one state winner, along with a cover letter from the state Writing Contest Chairman listing the names of the winning submissions, must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2011, and April 1, 2012, and sent to the national GFWC Writing Contests Chairman.

## AWARDS FOR GFWC WRITING CONTESTS

### *State Level Contest*

In the Youth Writing Contests, a GFWC certificate will be presented annually to the top entry in each state, in each category for:

- Youth Poetry Writing Contest
  - 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
- Youth Short Story Writing Contest
  - 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

A GFWC certificate will be presented annually to the top entry in each state for GFWC Member Writing Contests for:

- GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest
- GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest

### *GFWC National Awards*

In the Youth Writing Contests, a GFWC certificate will be presented annually at the GFWC Annual International Convention to the top entry in each contest in each category for:

- Youth Poetry Writing Contest
  - 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
- Youth Short Story Writing Contest
  - 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

A GFWC certificate will be presented annually at the GFWC Annual International Convention to the top three national entries in each GFWC Member Writing Contest:

- GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest
- GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest