

WRITING CONTESTS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

**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.



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.