

WRITING CONTEST: ENTRIES DUE TO CFWC BY MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2027

(Contestants should contact their District's Contest Chair for the [District Deadlines](#))

MEMBER CONTEST:

NEW:

- Submitted digitally using PDF format (preferred) or Microsoft Word only
- No use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools



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.

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.

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.

DISTRICT WRITING CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Contact your District President to get the CFWC Writing Contest Packet (mid-Sept to mid-Oct)
- Encourage your entire District to participate and distribute info. to all club presidents and their respective Photography/Writing chairs.
- Collect all writing entries and submit with all required documents per instructions.
- **Send all 1st place Writing winners in your district to the CFWC Photography Chair. DUE TO CFWC BY MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2027. REMINDER: Please submit only one winner, per category, per district.**

CFWC WRITING CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES:

See GFWC Manual, p. 259

- JULY 2026: Write the description and contact information for the yearbook and send it to the appropriate CFWC Yearbook contact person.
- SEPT-OCT 2026: Send out an information packet to District Presidents
- Support and answer all questions from District Writing Contest Chairs.
- MARCH 10, 2027: Categorize all entries for the CFWC Writing Contest
- MARCH-APRIL 1, 2027: Find Writing Judges for the CFWC Writing Contest (ex; local college professors/authors, librarians, teachers). All entries will need to be judged **before** Wednesday, April 1, 2027.
- DEADLINE- MIDNIGHT, APRIL 1, 2027: Send 1st place winners in each category to GFWC.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

MID-SEPT – MID-OCT 2026: CFWC Writing Contest Chair emails Writing Contest packet to District Presidents, for distribution to their respective District Writing Contest Chairs.

NOV 2025 – FEB 2026, Monthly: Encourage District Presidents to announce the Writing Contest in district and club newsletters, as regularly as possible.

MARCH 2027: Collect all Writing Contest entries (DUE DATE TO CFWC: MARCH 1, 2027). Writing Contest entries will be judged at the CFWC level. All entries are judged by non-club members. Note: If you need help finding judges, consider local writing clubs, college writing centers, bookstores, and libraries.

April 1, 2027: CFWC Writing Contest Chair, will turn in entries, by April 1, 2027, to GFWC for judging at the national level.

May 2027: Awards will be presented at the 2026 CFWC Convention awards ceremony.



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.





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.

