

OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

2018 ANNUAL CONTEST FOR MEMBERS ONLY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. conducts an annual writing contest for its members. All entries should be brought to the September meeting or mailed to the Contest Chair. If mailed, the postmark deadline is midnight of September 15, 2018, the day the group meets.

A category must have five (5) entries or more to qualify for cash prizes. Any category with fewer than five (5) entries, will still be judged. However, there will only be one First Place winner and no cash prize.

Contest winners will be announced at the regular November meeting. First, second, and third place winners in each category will receive certificates and cash awards. **Awards for contest winners are as follows: \$40 for first place, \$25 for second place, \$15 for third place, Crème-de-la-Crème (best of the best) \$50. Honorable Mention Certificates (no cash awards) may be awarded at the discretion of the judge.**

Judging: The club will not pay any monetary stipend or payment for the services of judging entries in the Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. contest.

Contest Chair: The Contest Chair is appointed by the President and, at the President's discretion, a co-chair may be appointed. No one working on the contest, including the President, is permitted to enter the contest.

Cover Sheet: The cover sheet is removed before the manuscript is delivered for judging and retained by the Chair to identify the winner when the manuscript is returned.

Disqualification: To protect the integrity of the writing contest, any manuscript that is not the original work of the entrant will be disqualified. The Contest Chair is also required to disqualify anyone not adhering to the rules. An ad hoc committee consisting of the Contest Chair and the President will resolve any questions arising during the contest.

2018 Entry Deadline: Contest opens August 18, 2018 and closes September 15, 2018 (postmark deadline) or bring entries to September 15th OCWI meeting.

EMAIL ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO AUGUST 18, 2018.

Contest Results: OCWI meeting, Saturday, November 17, 2018.

For more information, contact:

Contest chair: Sandra Soli, 1632 Laurel Drive, Edmond OK 73003, 405-341-9611,
sandraoli@att.net

Contest co-chair: Judith Rycroft: 405-942-4647, jsrycroft@yahoo.com

CONTEST RULES

To avoid disqualification, please read, reread, and carefully follow these rules before you submit your manuscript. Remember the cover sheet: this includes a disclaimer that must be submitted with **EACH** entry.

Only members of the Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. may enter the contest. If entries are co-authored, both authors must be members of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. Dues must be current at the time of entry.

You may enter only one unpublished manuscript per category. Manuscripts may not be entered in more than one category.

IMPORTANT: Any manuscript that has won a cash prize (1st, 2nd, or 3rd place) in any previous Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. contest may not be entered again. Manuscripts may have been submitted for publication as long as they have not been accepted or optioned in any format.

The entry fee for the annual contest is a one-time payment of \$10.00. Make the check or money order payable to Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. and include it in the envelope with your entries. (You may enter as many categories as you wish, but only one entry per category.)

Entries must be “editor ready” in proper manuscript format. “Editor ready” includes proofreading for grammar, spelling, or any other mechanical or stylistic issue that would cause points to be taken from an entry.

1. The manuscript must be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8 ½ X 11-inch white paper.
2. Use pica type or an easy-to-read 12-point font, such as New Times Roman or Courier.
3. Poetry may be single-spaced.
4. **Use a paper clip to hold the pages together (no staples).**
5. An OCWI cover sheet/disclosure statement must be attached to the front of **each entry**.
6. Also, in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the manuscript, type the following:
7. Category name and number
8. Number of lines for poetry; number of pages for a book; word count for all other categories

PLEASE NOTE: Judges are not required to provide comments but are requested to do so. All entrants are encouraged to consider comments for revision purposes and to submit their final manuscripts to the Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. (OWFI) competition, and/or to market the revised manuscripts for publication.

Place entries flat in a 9 x 12-inch or larger envelope along with a 9 x 12-inch self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with enough postage to return the manuscript to the author. If you intend to pick up your manuscript at the November meeting, note that information on the envelope.

The contest opens August 18, 2018. The deadline for submission is the September meeting.

Mailed manuscripts must be postmarked by midnight of the September 15, 2018 meeting. Winners will be announced at the November 17, 2018 meeting.

CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION

1. Not meeting deadline requirements
2. Failure to include the entry fee
3. Failure to have OCWI dues paid
4. Manuscripts that are decorated, written by hand, or typed in unusual fonts
5. Entries longer than the maximum length or less than the minimum length
6. Entries without cover sheets
7. Entries containing any author identification within the manuscript
8. Any submitted manuscript without a self-addressed stamped envelope or not marked for pick up at November meeting
9. Any manuscript found not to be the original work of the entrant

CONTEST CATEGORIES

1. **Humor:** Fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. Maximum length is 3,000 words.
2. **Inspirational:** Fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. Maximum length is 5,000 words.
3. **Juvenile:** Includes all juvenile fiction, non-fiction, or poetry for readers 18 years of age or younger. Maximum length is 3,000 words.
4. **Essay:** Any subject in which the manuscript informs, entertains, or persuades. Maximum length is 1,500 words.
5. **Poetry:** Any length, style, or theme. The poetry may be traditional or free verse.
6. **Short Story:** Short fiction for adult readers. Maximum length is 5,000 words.
7. **Flash Fiction:** An extremely short but complete work of fiction for adult readers. Maximum length is 500 words.
8. **Feature Article:** Non-fiction article on any subject. Maximum length is 2,000 words.
9. **Nostalgia:** Factual story or poem reflecting the past. Maximum length is 1,200 words.
10. **Book (Adult):** Includes all adult fiction and non-fiction. Each entry should include the first 25 pages (or less) and a separate synopsis for fiction or outline for non-fiction not to exceed 750 words.
11. **Book (Juvenile):** Includes all juvenile fiction and non-fiction, middle-grade and up. Picture books will be included in Category #3: Juvenile. Each entry should include the first 25 pages (or less) and a separate synopsis for fiction or outline for non-fiction not to exceed 750 words.
12. **Crème-de-la-Crème:** All first-place winners will compete for a \$50 best-of-the-best award.