

AUTHORS OF THE FLATHEAD ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

ELIGIBLE:	5th to 12th grade students in Flathead County (homeschool students eligible). TWO age-categories: 5th-8th (ages 9-14) and 9th-12th (ages 14-19)		
PRIZES:	<div><u>Poetry</u> First Place \$150.00 Second Place \$100.00 Third Place \$50.00</div>	<div><u>Short Non-Fiction</u> First Place \$150.00 Second Place \$100.00 Third Place \$50.00</div>	<div><u>Short Fiction</u> First Place \$150.00 Second Place \$100.00 Third Place \$50.00</div>
CATEGORIES:	<div><u>Poetry</u> Poems may be on any topic and must not exceed 35 lines (may be single spaced). The font must be 12-point Times New Roman or Courier. Additional fonts may be included if essential to the creativity of the poem.</div>	<div><u>Short Non-Fiction</u> Short Fiction may be on any topic. Manuscripts must be double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and not exceed 1200 words. Printed and mailed submissions shall be on one side of the paper only. <u>The font must be 12-point Times New Roman or Courier in this format:</u> Title Word Count (space) Manuscript</div>	<div><u>Short Fiction</u> Short Fiction may be on any topic. Manuscripts must be double-spaced, one-inch margins, and not exceed 1200 words. Printed and mailed submissions shall be on one side of the paper only. <u>The font must be 12-point Times New Roman or Courier in this format:</u> Title Word Count (space) Manuscript</div>
RULES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● TEACHERS: Students are allowed to submit as part of a class.● Only one entry per category is permitted. Students may enter all categories.● Completed ENTRY FORM must accompany each submission.● The student’s name should be on the ENTRY FORM only. A name appearing anywhere other than the entry form will be disqualified.● Entries will not be returned.● Judges have the right to determine no submission worthy of award.		
JUDGING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Entries will be judged on Theme, Creativity, Artistic Merit, Clarity, Spelling and Grammar. Please note if AI is used and for what purpose it was utilized.		
DEADLINE:	No entries will be accepted if received after midnight Friday Feb 27, 2026. Winners will be announced April 2 and prize presentations made at the Thursday April 9 Authors of the Flathead meeting.		
SUBMIT VIA EMAIL:	Save your manuscript as a pdf file (with names removed!) and email it as an attachment to craignaylor@gmail.com . You can also send via USPS Mail:		
HARD COPY SUBMISSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mail to: Authors of the Flathead, 2026 Student Writing Contest PO Box 7711, Kalispell, MT 59904-0711● Entries may be submitted through your School or mailed directly by student(s).		
Contest Coordinator:	For questions, please contact Craig Naylor, craignaylor@gmail.com or Chani Craig, chanimcraig@gmail.com (but she will just forward it to Craig the elder)		