



## SCWG SHORT STORY CONTEST 2023

We are pleased to announce our annual short story competition for writers of **fiction** stories.

The rules governing the Contest 2023 are as follows:

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to active members of the Space Coast Writers Guild and writers from all over the world and of all ages.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- Opens **February 15, 2023**
- Entries must be received no later than **11:59 PM, March 15, 2023**. Any submissions received after the deadline will **NOT** be accepted.
- The manuscript must be **2500 words** or less.
- **The document must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with numbered pages and the title on the first page and at the top of each page.**
- **YOUR NAME MUST NOT BE ON THE STORY MANUSCRIPT.**
- Send story as a **PDF file** in an **e-mail** attachment to [shortstorycontest@scwg.org](mailto:shortstorycontest@scwg.org). You will receive an acknowledgement.
- **In the body of the email:**
  - your name
  - phone number
  - mailing address
  - email address
  - title of the story
  - word count of the story

None of the above information should be in the short story PDF. If it does, your entry will be **immediately disqualified**.

- **Entry fee: SCWG members \$15.00. Non-Members \$20.00.**
- **New Method of Payment:** we have created an online payment option on our website
- **Old Method of Payment:** personal check, cashier's check, or money order made payable to Space Coast Writers Guild, and mailed to:

James Nelson  
SCWG Treasurer  
19 Cove Road  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

**No entry will be accepted without receipt of the required fee.**



- Genre: general or literary fiction, romance, historical, mystery or suspense, horror, science based or alternative. No children's stories, explicit inappropriate language or erotica will be accepted.
- Limited to **ONE** (1) submission per person.
- All work must be the original work of the submitting author and must not have been published anywhere (including, but not limited to, any SCWG anthologies or Scribblers of Brevard anthologies) prior to submission. The submitting author retains all rights in his or her submitted work.
- **THERE MUST BE NO QUOTES OR SONG LYRICS OR ANY OTHER "BORROWED" MATERIAL WRITTEN BY ANY OTHER AUTHOR, SONG WRITER, ETC.**
- **All submissions are final. No changes or substitutions are allowed once your entry is submitted.**

### **Judging**

A team of readers will complete the first round of selections. Using a **5-point scoring matrix**, the entries will be judged on the following elements:

**Structure, Organization, and Pacing – 1- 5 points**  
**Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar – 1 - 5 points**  
**Plot – 1 - 5 points**  
**Character Appeal and Development – 1 – 5 points**  
**Voice and Writing Style - 1 – 5 points**

Using the same scoring matrix, the top 10 final selections will then be judged by a panel of four judges.

### **Prizes**

One First Place Winner will receive \$250.00 and a certificate.  
The Second Place Winner will receive \$150.00 and a certificate.  
The Third Place Winner will receive \$100.00 and a certificate.  
The Fourth Place Winner will receive a gift certificate and a certificate.  
The Fifth Place Winner will receive a gift certificate and a certificate.

### **Indemnity:**

By participating in this Contest, you agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Space Coast Writers' Guild, and their board members and/or officers from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of action, or losses of any kind (including, but not limited to lawyers' fees) arising from your participation in the Contest, your violation of any term of these Contest rules, your violation of any third party right, including without limitation any copyright, property, or privacy right; or any claim that your submission may have caused damage to a third party.



**Force Majeure Clause:**

The Sponsors are not liable for failure to perform their obligations under these rules if such failure is as a result of Acts of God (including natural disasters), Acts of War, civil unrest, usurped power or confiscation, terrorist activities, prevention of statutes, or interruption or massive and sustained failure of electricity, internet, or telephone service.

Any extension or reduction of the contest and/or the judging window will be at the sole discretion of the organizers and participants will be notified by e mail and on the website, if extended.

All winners will be notified prior to the awarding via email by the Committee Chair.

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 MEETING**

**SPACE COAST WRITERS' GUILD MEETING**

**Eau Gallie Public Library**

**521 Pineapple Avenue, Melbourne, FL, 32935**