



2026 SHORT STORY CONTEST

The Space Coast Writers Guild is pleased to announce our annual short story competition for Fiction writers.

Eligibility: The contest is open to active Guild members.

Submission Guidelines

- Contest opens **April 1, 2026**.
- Entries must be received no later than **May 30, 2026, by 11:59 pm**. Any submission received after the deadline will **NOT** be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **YOUR NAME MUST NOT BE ON THE STORY MANUSCRIPT.**
- The manuscript must be no longer than **2500 words**.
- **The document must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, and justified with numbered pages.**
- The title is to be included on the first page and at the top of each subsequent page.
- Send the story as a **PDF file** in an e-mail attachment to shortstorycontest@scwg.org. You will receive an acknowledgment.
- **THE BODY OF THE EMAIL SHALL INCLUDE:**
 - Your name, phone number, mailing address, email address, title of the story, and word count.
 - Other than the title of your story, should any of the information mentioned above be included in the short story PDF, your entry will be **immediately disqualified**.

Entry fee: \$10.00

We have created a payment button on our website.
No entry will be accepted without receipt of the required fee

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2026 SHORT STORY CONTEST CONTINUATION

Additional Information Continued

- Genres: General or Literary Fiction, Romance, Historical Fiction, Mystery or Suspense, Horror, Science-Based or Alternative.
- No children's stories, explicit 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:

- 1 - 5 Points: 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**

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

PRIZES

- The 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.

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2026 SHORT STORY CONTEST CONTINUATION

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 on June 20, 2026, at the Space Coast Writers Guild Meeting at the Lamplighter Village Clubhouse located at 500 Lantern Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32934.

Good Luck to all of the participants!