

The **Creative Writing Contest** was established as a partnership between the SWWC Service Cooperative and the SMSU Creative Writing Department to encourage a love of language and writing for all students and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in this region. The contest is open to students in grades 3-12 attending public, private or home schools.

### How to Enter

Create a poem, fiction or non-fiction story.

Follow the Contest Rules AND Contest Guidelines listed below.

The categories Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction descriptions are listed on the website [www.swsc.org/studentactivities](http://www.swsc.org/studentactivities).

Submit (mail) your writings along with an entry form. Form found on the website.

**Improve your chances to win by reading "Taboos—Common Writing Errors to Avoid" available on website**

### **Contest Rules - need to be followed or your entry will not be accepted.**

- Entries **must be** the student's original work and previously unpublished.
- **Entries must be proofread for punctuation, spelling and grammar by teacher or parent.**
- Entry forms are available on the website; fill out the entire entry form. An email address is required.
- One entry form per student
- One contact person per school must fill out Summary form.
- All students entering from the same school will be listed under one contact person from that school.
- Each entry form can be used for up to three poems, three fiction and three non-fiction submissions.
- When mailing entries, please include a copy of the entry form and payment. They must be postmarked by January 17, 2020.
- Each entry submission must include the entry fee of:  
\$2 per three poems  
\$2 per fiction entry  
\$2 per non-fiction entry
- All winning entries will be published in an anthology. Please refrain from explicit language or content.
- Save an electronic version of each entry piece.
- For reference purpose; a PDF of past year's anthologies are on the website.

### **Awards**

- Students are eligible to receive only one \$2,000 Creative Writing Scholarship per year (junior/senior year). If they have won multiple awards for a maximum of two scholarships, one scholarship may be used during their freshman year and the second one during their sophomore year. The student must be enrolled as a full-time, degree seeking student (minimum 12 credits/semester) at SMSU.
- Gift certificates are given to the 1st place winner from each grade level in each writing category.
- Medals are given to the top three place winners in each grade level from each writing category
- 1 free copy of the anthology (book) for all place winners.
- A recognition award will be presented to the school with the most place winners.

### Judging Process

Entries are screened by SMSU creative writing students who score according to a rubric.

Each entry is scored by multiple student judges.

The entries with the highest scores are submitted to the final judges, faculty in the SMSU Creative Writing Program.

### Announcing Winners

After the results are determined: the top three place winners will receive an invitation to the Award Ceremony, which will require an RSVP. As a place winner, students will be notified to submit an electronic version of all their entries.

**Awards Ceremony** will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 19, 2020 for all winning students, their families and teachers. This is where place winner results will be revealed. Attire is business casual. Additional details will be mailed to finalists at a later date. This year's special guest speaker will be **Terri Michels**, a Minnesota author and photographer.

### Questions

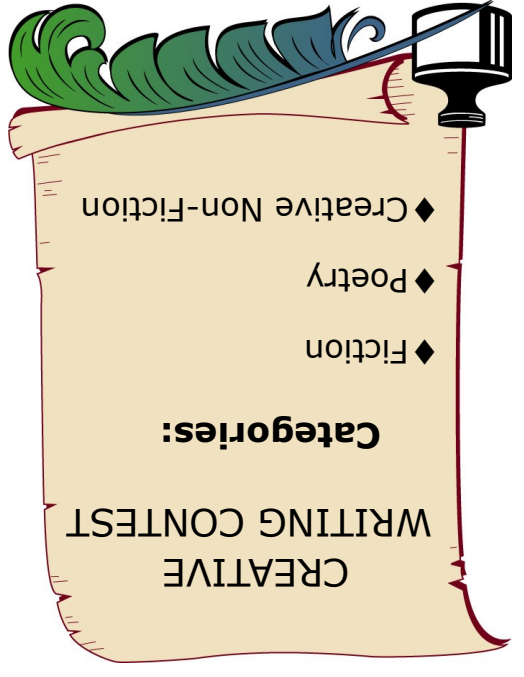
[andrea.anderson@swwc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swwc.org)  
507.537.2257

[laurie.fales@swwc.org](mailto:laurie.fales@swwc.org)  
507.537.2270

website: [www.swwc.org/studentactivities](http://www.swwc.org/studentactivities)

### **Entry Guidelines (must follow)**

- Title each entry piece
- Typed on white paper
- 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- 1 inch margins
- No back to back
- **DO NOT** put your name on entries
- No staples, please
- No pictures, images or graphics
- **POETRY:** limit 3  
- Grades 3-12  
- Single-Spaced  
- One poem per page  
- Any poem style or set-up
- **FICTION:** limit 3  
- Grades 3-12  
- Double-Spaced  
- Numbered pages  
- 10 page Maximum
- **NON-FICTION:** limit 3  
- Grades 5-12  
- Double-Spaced  
- Numbered pages  
- 6 page Maximum



**16th Annual  
Creative Writing Contest**  
For Grades 3-12  
**Submission Deadline**  
January 17, 2020  
**Awards Ceremony**  
April 19, 2020  
Southwest Minnesota State University  
Marshall, MN  
[www.swwc.org/studentactivities](http://www.swwc.org/studentactivities)

**SWWC Service Cooperative and Southwest Minnesota State University presents the**



**Changes Needed?**  
Please notify us of any changes in your name/  
address/email or if you would like your name/  
removed from our mailing list.  
Contact Andrea at 507.537.2257 or  
[andrea.anderson@swwc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swwc.org)

Student Activities  
1420 East College Drive  
Marshall MN 56258



**Title Sponsors**  
The Schwan Food Company  
Southwest MN Arts Council  
Southwest MN Workforce Council

**Program Sponsors**  
Great River Energy  
Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative  
MN West Community & Technical College  
Southwest MN State University  
SWWC Service Cooperative

**Supporters**  
Hadley Lions Club