

2024 Arizona Authors Literary Contest

CONTEST AND SUBMISSION RULES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. Any entries not following the rules will be disqualified without notification.

GENERAL:

The Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest opens on January 1, 2024, and closes at 11:59 pm MST on June 1, 2024. Residents of the USA or Canada may enter. Please complete **all three parts** of your submission (entry form, payment, and PDF) before the deadline; partial submissions will be disqualified.

Each title may be entered once. Multiple submissions of different titles from the same author require separate entry forms and PDFs for each submission, but you may pay in one lump sum via PayPal. Be certain to include all titles in the note section of your payment, so that we may properly credit your payment.

No submissions will be returned. Critiques/evaluations, when selected and paid for, will be sent via email to the author's listed email address. Two-page evaluations are offered for both unpublished and self-published novels and memoirs.

All entries must be submitted by either the author or their authorized agent. The agent may be any person who is authorized in writing by the author or authors to submit an entry on the author's behalf. In no case shall the Arizona Authors Association be held liable for unauthorized submissions to the Arizona Authors Literary Contest.

Any prizes awarded will be sent to the author of the work except in the case of compilations. If a compilation of works by more than one unrelated author is submitted by an authorized agent (such as the publisher or editor of the compilation), then the authorized agent may, upon written proof of authorization, receive any awarded prize.

We reserve the right to disqualify any entry for which the full fee is not paid before the contest deadline. If an author mails a payment, the Arizona Authors Association must receive the payment within 7 days of the end of the contest and the postmark must be dated no later than June 1, 2024.

The Contest Director, with Arizona Authors Association Board approval, may cancel a subcategory and withhold awards if all entries within the subcategory fail to earn a minimum average score of forty points (see "Selecting Winners" below).

Any entry that contains explicit pornography, sexism, racism, or homophobia, or that denigrates or marginalizes any race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation, as determined by the Arizona Authors Association Board of Directors, may be disqualified without notification.

Plagiarized content may result in disqualification without notification. All published sources must be cited with, at minimum, Author, Title, and Date of Publication. The Arizona Authors Association prefers end notes, but in-line citation and footnotes are accepted.

Choose one subcategory from the list below that best describes your work. We reserve the right to move any entry to the correct subcategory without notification, unless an additional fee is required.

Unpublished:

(Never published in any form including Facebook, personal websites, etc. The work may have been written in any year.)

Poetry (Poetry and Prose up to 50 lines.)

Short Stories (Fiction)

Essays/Reviews (Nonfiction, including reviews of fictional works.)

Novels/Novellas (Fiction)

Published Books:

(Works of more than 100 pages, previously published. No children's works are included in this category.)

Fiction (Published in 2023 or 2024.)

Nonfiction (Published in 2023 or 2024.)

Oldie But Goldie Fiction (Originally published after 1973 but before 2023.)

Oldie But Goldie Nonfiction (Originally published after 1973 but before 2023.)

Scroll down for rules on unpublished entries.

Published Youth:

(Previously published books written for children, teens and young adults.)

Children's Books (Published in 2023 or 2024. This category includes picture and other books written for children under 12.)

Teen/Young Adult (Published in 2023 or 2024 and written specifically for youths aged 12 up.)

Oldie But Goldie Youth (Fiction or Nonfiction books originally published after 1973 but before 2023. This category includes all titles written for children and teens.)

We require ALL contest entries, both published and unpublished, to be sent in PDF format. Email one PDF for each entry in any category.

Scroll down for rules on published entries.

Optional Critiques/Evaluations

You may choose to purchase a 2-page critique/evaluation for your unpublished entry or a self-published novel or memoir. One of our reviewers will offer a short assessment of your work as well as a few tips for improvement. Whether or not you order a critique **will not affect** your chance of winning a prize in the contest. Critiques will be sent to the author's email address no later than 60 days after the close of the contest.

Methods of Entry:

Online Method:

Complete all three steps within 48 hours to validate your entry.

First Step: Submit the online entry form with your name, address, city, state, current email address, plus the title of your entry and the category in which you are entering the contest. If an authorized agent working on behalf of the author submits the form, the agent must include all of the above author's information.

Second Step: Pay via PayPal the listed fee for the category entered to: arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com. Click the PayPal button on our website for a direct link, or go to PayPal.com and "Send" a payment to our address: arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com.

Be certain to include in the "note" section of the PayPal payment the title of your submission or submissions.

Third Step: Send your PDF to: arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com and enter "CONTEST ENTRY" and the title of your submission in the subject line, in order to match the correct entry, submission form, and payment.

Once all three steps are completed, the author will receive confirmation of a successful entry, usually within 72 hours.

If you have difficulty completing any of the three steps, contact us at: arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com and we will reply, usually within 24 hours.

Alternate Payment Method:

If you wish to pay for an entry via postal mail, send your name, address, email address, phone number, title of submission and category along with a check or money order to:

Arizona Authors Association
428 E. Thunderbird Rd., #538
Phoenix AZ 85022

You will still need to email the PDF to arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com. Please send your PDF within 48 hours after the date you mailed your entry form and payment. Upon receipt by us, the postmark will serve as proof of mailing date.

Be sure to include the words "Check Payment" and the title of your submission in the subject line of your email when submitting your PDF entry, so that we will be able to match your entry form and payment with your PDF.

CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES

UNPUBLISHED

There are four subcategories in the Unpublished category: Poetry, Short Stories, Essay/Review, and Novel/Novella.

Unpublished works are just that, unpublished. If you have ever posted your entry on your Facebook page or on any website, whether in the United States or globally, it no longer qualifies as unpublished. An unpublished work may quote published, properly cited sources for no more than 20 percent of its total content.

All unpublished entries must be double spaced with a 12 point Times New Roman, Courier or Ariel font for the body of the text, and no more than a 16 point font for headers or short pieces of highlighted text. Authors must submit entries in standard letter size, 8.5"x11" format with one-inch margins. Title and page numbers should be placed in either the header or the footer of the PDF.

The author's name may not appear on any unpublished PDF submission. Their name and contact info may only appear on the entry form and payment.

Unpublished Short Story or Essay/Review entries cannot exceed 5000 words.

Essays and Reviews are categorized as nonfictional works; short stories are categorized as fictional works. Please submit your work to the appropriate subcategory.

Unpublished Poetry or Prose entries may contain up to 50 lines. A "line" is defined as one single line on a standard 8.5"x11" page that does not exceed the width of the page, written in an accepted font (see above). Single spacing within stanzas is OK.

Unpublished Novel/Novella entries must include a synopsis (maximum 5 pages) and the first 25 pages of the completed manuscript. The synopsis must summarize the entire story.

Please do not enter your Unpublished Novel/Novella if it is unfinished at the time of entry. We will require the finished manuscript to break any ties. If the entire manuscript is not emailed within 72 hours of an official request, it will be disqualified.

Winners in unpublished categories automatically consign **FIRST** serial rights to the Arizona Authors Association. We will publish winning entries in the *2025 Arizona Literary Magazine*, due out in November, 2024. If an entry is published anywhere else, including a Facebook page or personal website, prior to the time the *2025 Arizona Literary Magazine* is available for purchase, the entry will be automatically disqualified and any prize won will be forfeited.

Send ONE PDF copy of your unpublished submission to
arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

PUBLISHED

The Published category contains three subcategories: Fiction, Nonfiction, and Oldie But Goldie.

All entries **except** Oldie but Goldie must bear a 2023 or 2024 copyright date. The work must not be a reprint from earlier years, but an author may use previously published content (with proper citations) for up to twenty percent of their total submission.

An Oldie but Goldie entry **may have any publication date** after 1973 but before 2023 (revised editions are eligible provided the original copyright date is also listed). It must never have won any prize in any year in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. Other contests do not affect eligibility.

Published books may employ the format, spacing, size, etc., of the original published work, provided it is in PDF format, or the author may choose to create a new PDF. Any new PDF's actual content (illustrations and text) must be identical to the original publication.

Published books must include ISBN, copyright date, and publisher (author, if self-published).

Books specifically written for children and submitted to the Published Books category will be redirected to our Youth Category and judged accordingly.

Send ONE PDF copy of your published book or other submission to:
arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

PUBLISHED YOUTH

The Published Youth category includes three subcategories: Children's Books, Teen/Young Adult, and Oldie But Goldie Youth.

All entries **except** Oldie but Goldie Youth must bear a 2023 or 2024 copyright date. The work must not be a reprint from earlier years, but an author may use previously published content (with proper citations) for up to twenty percent of their total submission.

An Oldie but Goldie Youth entry **may have any publication date** after 1973 but before 2023 (revised editions are eligible provided the original copyright date is also listed). It must never have won any prize in any year in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. Other contests do not affect eligibility.

Published books may employ the format, spacing, size, etc., of the original published work, provided it is in PDF format, or the author may choose to create a new PDF. Any new PDF's actual content (illustrations and text) must be identical to the original publication.

Published books must include ISBN, copyright date, and publisher (author, if self-published).

Only published Children's or Teen/Young Adult books will be entered or judged in the Published Youth category. Children's books submitted to other categories will be moved to this category.

Send ONE PDF copy of your published book or other submission to:
arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

Selecting Winners:

Each entry will normally be rated by three judges, selected from within the body of the Arizona Authors Association membership. When an insufficient number of judges are available within the membership, we may include nonmember judges who display literary interests and skills, such as teachers, college graduates, editors, publishers, or other writers. All judges use standard scoring sheets to award entries from zero to eighty points based on literary merit, timeliness or timelessness of topic, informational value, emotional, motivational or inspirational value, or other criteria.

In addition to the eighty possible points a work may receive on the standard evaluation, up to five bonus points may be added for extensive research or authentic, first-person narratives that, in the opinion of the judges, greatly enhance the value of a fiction, nonfiction, or OBG title.

Completed judging sheets will be sent to the Contest Director, Contest Director's Assistant, and the President. At least two unrelated Members of the Board of Directors will tally judging sheets and all tallies must precisely match.

All entries will be scored using the same evaluation methods. No entry will be rejected, unfairly judged, or disqualified based on membership status. Authors entering the Arizona Authors Literary Contest agree to hold the Arizona Authors Association and its Board of Directors harmless in any disputes arising from entries, awards, submissions or payments.

Good Luck To All Our Contest Entrants!