

Official Entry Form

Adult Creative Writing Contest

Deadline: March 31, 2026

ENTRY FORMS MAY BE DUPLICATED. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Email: _____

CATEGORY

- ☐ Children's Fiction ☐ Informal Essay ☐ Poetry ☐ Short Story ☐ Young Adult Fiction

ENTRY TITLE _____

ENTRY FEE (check one):

- ☐ Cash ☐ Check (Make check payable to Friends of TCCL.)

AMOUNT INCLUDED: _____

See Entry Fees listed inside and include the appropriate amount.

Please complete a separate entry form for each manuscript entered, and submit ONE payment along with all entries and entry forms in the same packet.

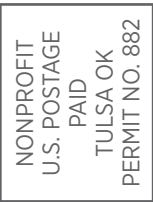
I declare that the attached manuscript is solely my own work and not previously published for remuneration. I declare that no generative AI was used in the creation of this work.

Signature: _____

How did you hear about this contest? _____

Join Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries!

Add \$15 to the total amount and check: ☐ Sign Me Up!



400 Civic Center
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3857

49th Annual
Adult Creative
Writing Contest
2026

Enter by March 31

49th Annual
Adult
Creative
Writing
Contest
2026

For ages 18 and up
Enter by March 31

- Children's Fiction
- Informal Essay
- Poetry
- Short Story
- Young Adult Fiction

CASH
PRIZES!

Entry forms are available at all
Tulsa City-County Library locations and
online at www.TulsaLibrary.org/Friends.



49th Annual Adult Creative Writing Contest 2026

CATEGORIES

Children's Fiction

Fiction aimed at infants to middle grades. Works in which illustrations are integral may be submitted, but judging is based primarily on the text. A maximum of 3,000 words will be accepted.

Informal Essay

A short composition considering a single topic and usually personal in approach. No research, technical reports or religious treatises will be considered. A maximum of 4,000 words will be accepted.

Poetry

The total number of words may include more than one poem. If more than one poem is submitted within the word limit, all poems are considered, but only one poem can receive an award. A maximum of 400 words will be accepted. You need only pay ONE entry fee for any number of poems up to the word limit.

Short Story

A narrative, fictional, prose story having a central theme. A maximum of 4,000 words will be accepted.

Young Adult Fiction

Fiction aimed at ages 12-18. A maximum of 4,000 words will be accepted.

JUDGING

All entries are judged based on content, originality and quality of expression. Entries are judged anonymously. The decisions of the judges are final.

ENTRY FEES

You may enter all five categories, but may submit only ONE manuscript in each category. *The same or similar manuscripts may not be entered in multiple categories.* Please submit one payment for all entries.

One Entry: \$10	Three Entries: \$24	Five Entries: \$35
Two Entries: \$18	Four Entries: \$30	

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to any person 18 years old or older who:

- Resides, works or attends school in Tulsa County, or
- Has a nonresident Tulsa City-County Library card, and
- Is not a member of the creative writing contest committee or a judge of the contest.

Only unpublished manuscripts are accepted.
Unpublished and published writers are encouraged to compete.

AWARDS

Winners and honorable-mention recipients in each category will be notified by phone by Friday, April 24.

A cash prize of **\$150** and a certificate are awarded to the best work within each category. Second-place winners will receive a cash prize of **\$100** and a certificate. Certificates and **\$25** are awarded to those receiving honorable mention. Winning manuscripts will appear for a period of one year at www.TulsaLibrary.org and may appear in a printed winners-only keepsake booklet with the authors' permission.

AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Every entrant, not just the winners, will receive an invitation to the awards ceremony. The awards ceremony and reception is planned for 2:30 p.m. on **Saturday, May 16** at Central Library, Aaronson Auditorium, Fifth Street and Denver Avenue.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. No previously published work for which remuneration was received is considered for any award.
2. No entries created with the aid of generative AI will be accepted.
3. Double-space and type manuscripts on 8.5 x 11 (standard) paper. Poetry may be submitted in free form. Title and number each page in the top right corner. **Do not put your name on any page, as manuscripts are judged anonymously.**
4. Keep a copy of your manuscript in the event your manuscript is misplaced in mailing or handling. Photocopied entries are accepted. **Do not send your only copy!**
5. You may enter all five categories, but may submit only one manuscript in each category. **Submit a separate entry form for each category entered.** Entry form may be reproduced. Please submit one payment for all entries and mail all entries together in the same packet. Do not staple entry forms to your manuscript.
6. Deliver the entry to any branch library or mail flat to:
**Adult Creative Writing Contest, Friends of TCCL
400 Civic Center, Tulsa, OK 74103**
7. Manuscripts will not be returned.
8. The deadline for receiving manuscripts is a postmark of **Tuesday, March 31.**

UNPUBLISHED DEFINITION

For the purposes of this contest, if you received remuneration for your work, then it qualifies as having been published. Remuneration includes payment in cash or publications in lieu of cash. For example, if your work was published in a journal and you received copies of the journal as compensation, that work is considered published. If your work has not been published with remuneration, it qualifies as unpublished. If your work has been published in a school newspaper or church bulletin, for example, it is considered unpublished.

Additional entry forms are available to download at
www.TulsaLibrary.org/Friends.
Questions? Call **918-549-7323** or email friends@tulsalibrary.org.