



Annual Short Story Contest

Contest Opens October 1
Postmark Deadline December 1

Since its founding in 1920, St. Louis Writers Guild has sponsored an annual short story contest. The contest is one of the oldest in the country, and is certainly one of the most prestigious. Tennessee Williams won first place in 1935 for his story, "Stella for Star." (University of Delaware library; Special Collections Department; Tennessee Williams Collection, 1939-1994; www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/williams_t/willtenn.htm.)

St. Louis Writers Guild Annual Short Story Contest opens for submissions every October, the deadline is in December, and prizes are awarded in January. Historically, entries have come from all across the nation and Canada. Stories are blind-judged by an expert in the fields of writing and literature.

Writers do not need to be members of the Guild in order to participate in this contest.

GUIDELINES

Topic: The work must meet the specific form requirements of a short story, be a work of fiction written in English, represent the author's original and unpublished work, and be intended for an audience composed of adult readers (as opposed to a story intended for children). Any topic is allowed, but works that include pornography, extreme violence, racism, and/or other content that is not appropriate for a mainstream literary audience are not eligible.

Contest Opening: The contest opens for submissions on October 1.

Do not mail entries prior to October as they will be disqualified and cannot be returned.

Deadline: Entries must be **postmarked on or before December 1 of the current year.**

Entry Fee: \$15 first manuscript, \$10 additional entry; limit two entries per person.

Submission Rules:

Story must not exceed 3,000 words. Title does not count in word limit.

Submit two copies of story mailed together in one envelope.

One typed cover page must be paper-clipped to the top page of both manuscript copies, indicating the story's title, followed by the author's name, address, telephone number, email address (if available), and the total number of words in the story.

Manuscripts must be typed in double-spaced format on standard white paper (8-1/2 x 11) in black ink using a standard typeface or font, such as Courier, Times New Roman, Georgia, or Arial.

All story pages must be stapled together in the upper left corner of the manuscript.

You must include a page number in the lower right corner of every page.

The story's title must appear on the first page of the manuscript—about midway down the page.

The story's title must also be typed in the upper left corner of every page of the manuscript.

The story's text must begin two lines beneath the title on the first page.

DO NOT INCLUDE THE AUTHOR'S NAME ON ANY PAGES OF THE MANUSCRIPT.

Please note: The previous year's first place winner is prohibited from entering this contest.

Judge: A new judge is chosen every year from industry professionals to select their favorite stories from the entries. A complete biography of the judge can be found on www.stlwritersguild.net/contests.html.

Announcement of Winners: Winners' names and story titles will be posted on the St. Louis Writers Guild website in January and announced in SLWG's electronic newsletter, *Here's News!* Entrants can subscribe to *Here's News!* on SLWG website's Homepage. Facebook and Twitter too!

Prizes Certificates and cash prizes will be awarded as follows to the top place winners:

1st Place \$100

2nd Place \$75

3rd Place \$50

The top three finalist entries that do not place for the top cash prizes will receive **Honorable Mention certificates and \$10.**

St. Louis Writers Guild no longer publishes the full text from the winning entries, so that the author retains the publication rights. All winners are invited to read their winning entries before a live audience at a special SLWG open mic reading event at the Station Open Mic Night on the Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. See website for directions.

St. Louis media will be contacted to publicize the contest's outcomes and the winners' names and stories will be retained in the St. Louis Writers Guild archives at Central Public Library in St. Louis for posterity.

Submission Mailing Address

All submissions are required to be **MAILED**, using the United States Postal Service and must bear a postmark date on or before the Deadline (December 1, of the current year). Mail entry to:

**St. Louis Writers Guild
Attention: SHORT STORY CONTEST
P.O. Box 411757
St. Louis, MO 63141**

IMPORTANT: Please note that "Signature Required" mail will not be accepted.
SLWG cannot respond to telephone and email inquiries concerning receipt of entries.

**MANUSCRIPTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.
DO NOT ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.**

Entrants may enclose a SASE postcard for confirmation of receipt (OPTIONAL).

St. Louis Writers Guild is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to further literary arts by connecting, encouraging, and promoting writers and literary organizations.

Best of luck with the contest!

www.stlwritersguild.net/contests.html