WRITER'S DIGEST

21ST ANNUAL

Poetry Awards

DEADLINE | DECEMBER 1, 2026

WRITER'S DIGEST WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS

DEADLINE: 12/1/2026

Writer's Digest's 21st Annual Writer's Digest Poetry Awards celebrate poetry in two categories. We're looking for your best poems of 32 lines or fewer or unpublished chapbooks 25 pages or fewer. Any form of poetry is eligible including epic, free verse, odes, pantoums, sonnets, villanelles, and even haiku.

PRIZES

One First Place Winner in each category will receive:

•$1,000 in cash and an interview with the author in *Writer's Digest*
•The winning single poem will be published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's Fall 2027 issue and to a worldwide readership on WritersDigest.com. The winning chapbook will be distributed digitally to the WD community
•A 20-minute consultation with Senior Editor, Robert Brewer
•A one-year subscription (new or renewal) to *Writer's Digest* magazine
•20% discount off of purchases made at Writer's Digest University
•A special graphic recognizing their winning status

The Second Place Winner in each category will receive:

- $250 in cash
- Their name and poem's/chapbook's title published in Writer's Digest magazine's Fall 2027 issue and promotion on WritersDigest.com
- A one-year subscription (new or renewal) to Writer's Digest magazine
- 20% discount off of purchases made at Writer's Digest University
- A special graphic recognizing their winning status

The Third Place Winner in each category will receive:

- $100 in cash
- Their name and poem's/chapbook's title published in Writer's Digest magazine's Fall 2027 issue and promotion on WritersDigest.com
- A one-year subscription (new or renewal) to Writer's Digest magazine
- 20% discount off of purchases made at Writer's Digest University
- A special graphic recognizing their winning status

Fourth through Tenth Place Winners in each category will receive:

- $100 off a purchase from the Writer's Digest Shop
- Their name and poem's/chapbook's title published in Writer's Digest magazine's Fall 2027 issue and promotion on WritersDigest.com
- A one-year subscription (new or renewal) to Writer's Digest magazine
- 20% discount off of purchases made at Writer's Digest University
- A special graphic recognizing their winning status

Eleventh through Twenty-Fifth Place Winners in each category will receive:

- $50 off a purchase from the Writer's Digest Shop
- Promotion on WritersDigest.com
- A special graphic recognizing their winning status

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
DEADLINES, PRICING, AND NOTIFICATION

Writer's Digest's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Poetry Awards for your chance to win! See below for pricing and deadline information. All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars. Entry fees can be paid online by credit card/debit card (MC, V, AMEX & DISC) or PayPal.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Early-Bird Deadline: November 2, 2026

Single Poem entry—$20 for the first entry; $15 for each additional poetry entry.
Chapbook entry—$35 for the first entry; $30 for each additional manuscript entry.

Deadline: December 1, 2026

Single Poem entry—$25 for the first entry; $20 for each additional poetry entry.
Chapbook entry—$40 for the first entry; $35 for each additional manuscript entry.

Additional entry discounts only apply after submitting and checking out your first entry. All deadlines are at 11:59 PM EST, on the specified date. All payments must be submitted at the time of entry.

Winners will be notified by January 30, 2027. Top winners will be listed in the July/August 2027 issue of *Writer's Digest* and at www.writersdigest.com after the July/August 2027 issue is published.

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS

Writer's Digest writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Poetry Awards for your chance to win! Read our rules and guidelines below…

CATEGORIES

- Single Poem
- Chapbook

WORD COUNT/LINE COUNT REQUIREMENTS

Online Entry forms must have the line/page count listed where requested.

- Single Poem: 32 line maximum. Count refers to lines containing text. Do not count blank lines between stanzas & do not count the title or contact information.
- Chapbook: 25 page maximum. No more than one poem per page (even if the poems are very short like haiku). The entry may contain up to 25 shorter poems, present one epic 25-page poem, and/or a combination of shorter and longer poems.

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
RULES AND GUIDELINES

Writer's Digest writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Poetry Awards for your chance to win! Read our rules and guidelines below…

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- All entries must be submitted online. Entries must be accompanied by the required entry fee by credit card or PayPal. Entry fees are non-refundable.
- All entries must be in English. Only original works that have not been published (at the time of submission) in print, digital or online publications will be considered. Self-published work in blogs, on social media, etc. will be considered. Any AI-generated or AI-assisted work will NOT be considered
- BE SURE OF YOUR LINE/PAGE COUNT! Entries exceeding the line limits will be disqualified. Online Entry forms must have the line/page count listed where requested. Count refers to lines containing text. Do not count blank lines between stanzas & do not count the title or contact information.
- All submissions are final. Refunds are not provided for disqualified, withdrawn or non-winning entries. Once a submission has been sent, it cannot with edited or replaced.
- Winners must fill out and submit the appropriate tax related forms in order to receive their cash awards. If the forms are not submitted within 60 days of the request date, cash awards may be forfeited.
- Writer's Digest reserves one-time nonexclusive publication rights to the 1st- through 25th-place winning stories to be published in a Writer's Digest publication. Authors retain all ownership of their work.
- Check your spelling carefully including all login information, email addresses etc. Incorrect email addresses may result in the transmission of important information being delayed and/or unsuccessful. Be sure that our email addresses (*Writer's Digest* and *Submittable*) are not blocked, or you may not receive critical information, receipts, confirmations etc. Check your SPAM folder as well as the MESSAGES tab within your Submittable account.
- The following are not permitted to enter the contest, neither under their legal names nor pen names: employees of Active Interest Media and their immediate family members; Writer's Digest Books authors; Writer's Digest contributing editors and columnists; and Writer's Digest instructors for online courses and live webinars. First Place Winners from the previous three years are not eligible. Ineligible entries will be disqualified.
- Writer's Digest assumes all entries are original and are the works and property of the entrant, with all rights granted therein.
- Writer's Digest is not liable for any copyright infringement on the part of the entrant and will not become involved in copyright disputes.
- Writer's Digest reserves the right to reject work deemed unsuitable for publication or that does not meet all named criteria.
- Entrants not selected as winners will not be individually notified; check the MESSAGES tab in Submittable for any related messaging.
- WD writing competitions are open to U.S. and non-U.S. residents; however, due to U.S. Government restrictions we are unable to accept entries from Syria, Iran, North Korea, or Crimea

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

Writer's Digest's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Poetry Awards for your chance to win! To get started submitting your work, see the helpful tips below…

Preparing Your Entry

Writer's Digest's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for nearly 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Poetry Awards for your chance to win!
Read our rules and guidelines below…

- All entries must be submitted online through ***Submittable***. If you already have a ***Submittable*** account, simply log in!
- Please be sure that the email address you provide will be valid throughout the competition span. Competition related updates and winner notifications are sent via email. Competition related updates and winner notifications are sent via email and/or the Submittable messaging feature. Please type carefully and list only one email address. Check your spelling carefully including all login information, email addresses etc. Incorrect email addresses may result in the transmission of important information being delayed and/or unsuccessful. Be sure that our email addresses (*Writer's Digest* and *Submittable*) are not blocked, or you may not receive critical information, receipts, confirmations etc. Check your SPAM folder as well as the MESSAGES tab within your Submittable account.
- Please submit text only; illustrations are not accepted. We recommend that you select a font which is easy to read; please do not use a decorative or script font. 12-point type size is preferred but not mandatory. We have no requirements as to the number of words per page. We have no rules or requirements regarding subject matter or language etc.
- It is preferred that an entry be formatted as Letter, 8.5 x 11, single sided, normal 1-inch margins. All documents must be double-spaced.
- The submission file (both the story itself as well as the file name) should not include any identifying information. We recommend that you avoid adding symbols/punctuation in file names of the document file which you are uploading. Files are not returned.
- Entries exceeding the line/page limit will be disqualified. *Line count* refers to all lines containing text. Do not count blank lines between stanzas. Do not count the title in the line count.
- When filling out the online submission form, you will be asked to upload your entry file. Acceptable file formats include doc, docx, rtf and pdf. Do not attach zipped files, or documents stored on the web like Google doc's etc. File types such as .wps, .pages, .abw and .scw will not be accepted. File size should not exceed 5 MB. Please submit your files saved under the same title as your submission.
- To upload your file, click the CHOOSE FILE button, locate your entry file on your computer & attach it. Because you are attaching a file- you are not able to edit the entry once it has been attached; edits should be done prior to uploading the file.

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
HOW TO ENTER

Writer's Digest's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years! Here's how to Enter!

ENTERING IS EASY!

Create your free ***Submittable*** account by clicking the SUBMIT button. If you already have a ***Submittable*** account, simply log in!

You can now compete in multiple WD competitions with a single login! Check https://writersdigest.submittable.com/submit often for a list of competitions currently accepting submissions .

When you are ready to submit your work to the **WD Poetry Awards** readers, you'll want to have the following information available:

- ✓ **Your contact information** *(be careful that the information provided is accurate). Contact information is to be provided only on the submission form (not on the submission's file upload). Time sensitive information such as credits and contact information (for prize distribution) is taken directly from the submission form. Due to the nature of deadlines, corrections to this information are not guaranteed.*
- ✓ **Your WD Poetry Awards submission file** *(see the PREPARING YOUR ENTRY tips for more information).*
- ✓ **Your method of payment** *(see the ENTRY PRICING, SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND WINNER NOTIFICATION page for tips for all pricing and deadlines).*

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS

HOW TO ENTER

Writer's Digest writing competitions have been recognizing writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years.
Here's how to enter the **Writer's Digest 21st Annual Poetry Awards**!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MULTIPLE SUBMISSION DISCOUNT!

PLEASE NOTE! You must submit and checkout one submission form at a time; do not work on more than one form at a given time. Failure to do so will result in the data on forms being overwritten or deleted (and not retrievable).

- If you'd like to take advantage of a one-time offer for discounts on subsequent submissions, when asked, click YES* when asked, and read the instructions that follow carefully.



*Clicking **YES** entitles you to a discounted entry fee on subsequent submissions, an offer only available by linking to discounted submission forms from within this full price form. We cannot offer refunds for discounts not redeemed through the link within this form, nor is a discount available outside of this offer.

- If you are only wishing to submit only one submission, select **NO***, follow the prompts at the bottom of the page to **CHECKOUT** and **SUBMIT** this entry.



*Clicking **NO** indicates that you are only submitting one entry at this time and will pass on the multiple entry discount. You understand that you may still submit additional entries later, however the discount offer process will start over after the next (full price) submission.

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS

HOW TO ENTER

Writer's Digest writing competitions have been recognizing writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years.
Here's how to enter the **Writer's Digest 21st Annual Poetry Awards**!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MULTIPLE SUBMISSION DISCOUNT! *(continued)*

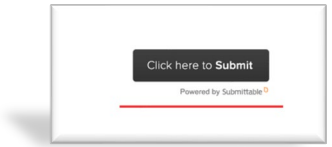
ADDITIONAL (DISCOUNTED) ENTRY FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

Additional discounted entry forms are available by clicking on the discounted form link.

- The new discounted form will open in your open in your browser's tabs; you'll see the heading ***Writer's Digest Poetry Awards Discounted Additional Entry 2027*** when you scroll down the page.
- Keep the discounted form tab; do not close it. You will return to it after completing the check-out process of your initial (full price) submission.
- After submitting and checking out your full price submission, toggle back to the tab for the ***Writer's Digest Poetry Awards Discounted Additional Entry 2027***
- Follow the same steps, completing, and checking out one form at a time until finished. You may continue to redeem this offer as many times as you would like, we do not have a cap as to the number of discounted entries offered.
- Continue until you are finished, then click ***NO*** on your final submission.

PLEASE REMEMBER! You must submit and checkout one submission form at a time; do not work on more than one form at a given time. Failure to do so will result in the data on forms being overwritten or deleted (and not retrievable).

Ready to enter? Paste the following link https://www.writersdigest.com/ into your browser and follow the '*CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT* ' button!



WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
FAQ's

Writer's Digest's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years!

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS…

For all Writer's Digest Competition related questions and queries, please contact the WD Competitions staff at: writersdigestwritingcompetition@aimmedia.com

Having troubles logging in? For help, go to: https://submittable.help/en/articles/923459-how-do-i-sign-in-to-my-submittable-account

Are there any restrictions regarding content, language, subject matter etc.? No, we do not have any restrictions or preferences.

Do you allow simultaneous submissions? Yes, simultaneous submissions are certainly allowed. Simply inform us of acceptance elsewhere, if applicable.

Is it okay to have illustration or pictures? Please submit text only.

How do I determine my word count? Count all words that contain text making up your story (no matter the number of letters in the word). Do not include the entry title in your count.

What are your formatting requirements – any other tips? To best present your work, we suggest that you select a font that is easy to read; 12-point type size is preferred but not mandatory. We have no requirements as to the number of words per page. It is preferred that an entry be formatted to or printed on 8.5 x 11 white paper, single sided, 1-inch margins. We prefer any standard-formatting styles (although non-conforming entries will not be disqualified).

Are pen names allowed? You may enter under a pen name. Include your pen name on all forms as you would wish for them to appear in any credits. Please be advised (and advise us of it if you are notified as a winner) that we only need your legal name if you are chosen as a winner (in order to issue prizes).

What if I would like to edit or exchange an entry that I have already submitted?
Edits must be done prior to entering. Once an entry has been submitted, we do not accept edits, replacements or exchanges. If you wish to re-enter an edited piece, it is most acceptable and is considered to be a new entry. You may wish to slightly alter the entry title or the file name in these cases, so that you are able to identify the versions-should you be selected as a winner.

Is there an age limit for entrants?

All contest entrants must be aged 18 years or older or over the age of majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

How do I submit my entry fees? All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars. Entry fees can be paid online by credit card/debit card (MC, V, AMEX & DISC) or PayPal.

Once the competition is over, will you return my entry? Entries are not returned; please keep a copy for your records.

WRITER'S DIGEST

Writer's Digest currently holds **six distinct competitions throughout a year**! Competitions offer a variety of prizes, criteria, judging panels, and accolades. We encourage entrants to not limit themselves to entering only one competition.

The list of competitions* being held in 2026 can be found at https://www.writersdigest.com/wd-competitions. The calendar at the end of this PDF provides all the deadlines.

Each competition listed below has its own individual set of guidelines, rules, prizes, submission instructions, submission fees, deadlines, judges etc. The dates, fees, rules, categories* etc. are only available while the competition is live and is accepting entries. You may, however, look at the previous year's competition to get a sense of what to expect.

You may enter any competition, as many times as you would like! Please see competition rules and guidelines for more details.

**When looking at the guidelines, please note that competitions are different from categories.*

- WRITER'S DIGEST ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION (9 CATEGORIES)
- WRITER'S DIGEST POETRY AWARDS
- WRITER'S DIGEST PERSONAL ESSAY
- WRITER'S DIGEST SHORT STORY COMPETITION
- WRITER'S DIGEST SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS (7 CATEGORIES)
- WRITER'S DIGEST SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS (8 CATEGORIES)

WRITER'S DIGEST

2027 COMPETITION PLANNER

The Writer's Digest collection of competitions, all of which are held on a yearly basis, have long-standing respect within the writing community. Almost 100 years ago, Writer's Digest launched its first writing competition. Today, Writer's Digest holds six competitions, with a combined twenty-eight categories. Honoring writers across a variety of genres and formats including short pieces (fiction and non-fiction), poetry, humor, articles (print or online), and self-published books, Writer's Digest has a competition to highlight your work. Winners are eligible for cash prizes, free trips to our ever-popular Writer's Digest Annual Writing Conference, promotion in our print magazine and website, and more.
We hope that you'll join us and share your work in any (better yet--all) of the competitions! Sharpen your pencils, sync your devices, and mark your calendars!

WD ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

Early-Bird Deadline: 5/5/2027
- Poetry entry—$20 for the first entry; $15 for each additional* poetry entry.
- Manuscript entry—$30 for the first entry; $25 for each additional* manuscript entry.

Deadline: 6/1/2027
- Poetry entry—$25 for the first entry; $20 for each additional* poetry entry.
- Manuscript entry—$35 for the first entry; $30 for each additional* manuscript entry.

WD POETRY AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: 11/2/2026
- First entry—$20
- Each additional* entry—$15

Regular Deadline: 12/1/2026
- First entry—$25
- Each additional* entry—$20

WD SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: 4/1/2027
- First entry—$100
- Each additional* entry—$85

Regular Deadline: 4/30/2027
- First entry—$125
- Each additional* entry—$110

WD PERSONAL ESSAY AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: 9/1/2027
All entries—$30

Regular Deadline: 10/1/2027
All entries—$35

WD SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Early-Bird Deadline: 11/16/26
All entries—$30

Regular Deadline: 12/15/26
All entries—$35

WD SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: 8/16/2027
- First entry—$100
- Each additional* entry—$85

Regular Deadline: 9/15/2027
- First entry—$125
- Each additional* entry—$110

**Additional entry discounts only apply after submitting and checking out your first entry. All deadlines are at 11:59 PM EST, on the specified date.*
All payments must be submitted at the time of entry.