

Creative Writing Competition Handbook YOUTH

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US!

BY PHONE AT

(813) 621-7821

BY EMAIL AT

CREATIVELIVING@FLORIDASTATEFAIR.COM

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline: December 11, 2026

ENTRY FEE

Competition is FREE to Enter.

ELIGIBILITY

The Creative Writing Competition is open to Florida residents in grades 1 – 12, as of August 1, 2026.

Entries will be broken up in to 3 age divisions; Ages 6-10, Ages 11-13 & Ages 14-18.

GUIDELINES

- Entries must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- Entries must be typed.
- Entries must not have been created using generative artificial intelligence. AI-assisted writing, in whole or in part, is not permitted.
- **The Florida State Fair is a family-friendly event. Entries may not contain content that includes hate speech, discriminatory messages, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, explicit material, political campaigning or figures, or other content deemed inappropriate or offensive by the Fair. Entries that violate this rule may be disqualified and removed from exhibition at the discretion of the Fair.**
- Entries must follow the theme specified but can be as imaginative as they would like. The 2027 theme is **A Day at The Fair**.
- Entry must be a minimum of 1 page typed but no more than 2 pages maximum (12pt font).
- **The submission must include a Title, Exhibitor Name, Exhibitor Age, Birthday and Address.**
- Each youth exhibitor will receive (2) tickets to the Florida State Fair, February 4-15, 2027.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity and originality
- Adherence to the annual theme
- Organization and structure
- Character or idea development
- Grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Overall impact

HOW TO ENTER

Enter online by emailing your creative writing story to CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com with required exhibitor information.

GENERAL RULES

PREMIUM PAYMENTS

Prizes will be awarded based on the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Prize checks are void 6 months after the date on the check. No replacement checks will be issued after that, so please cash them promptly.**

PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ITEMS

Entries that have been shown at past Florida State Fairs are not allowed, except for entries in Horticulture and Aquarium Beautiful.

AWARD PREMIUMS

First Place - State Fair Ribbon \$45

Second Place - State Fair Ribbon \$35

Third Place - State Fair Ribbon \$25

Director's Choice Award - State Fair Ribbon \$35

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the judge(s).