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# CALL FOR AUTHORS

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LITERARY COMPETITION  
12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH LITERARY COMPETITION

## 2025 LITERARY COMPETITION GUIDELINES

### ADULT COMPETITION

The 20th Annual Literary Competition is open to all artists in the Southeast United States.

The short story and poetry competitions are open to any subject. All submissions must be the unpublished, original work of the artist. Rights remain with the artist. **Artists must be 18 or older and must not be enrolled in a K-12 program.** Students enrolled in a K-12 program may enter the 12th Annual Youth Literary Competition.

#### FEES

\$15 per entry

*Credit card payments are accepted online at [yorkcountyarts.org](http://yorkcountyarts.org). Payments may also be made by phone at (803) 328-2787, or mailed to Arts Council of York County, ATTN: Literary Competition, PO Box 2797, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Please make checks payable to the Arts Council of York County. This fee is non-refundable, even if work is not accepted. All mailed or delivered payments must be received by the Arts Council of York County by Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 5 PM. NOTE: This is NOT a postmark deadline.*

#### AWARDS

Awards for the adult competition will be issued for each category - poetry and short story.

- 1st Place \$125
- 2nd Place \$75
- 3rd Place \$50

Only one prize per artist, per category will be awarded. Authors are permitted to enter both categories and entries are eligible to win an award in each competition, however, there are no repeat prizewinners within the categories each year.

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### YOUTH COMPETITION

The 12th Annual Youth Literary Competition is open to artists who reside in York County, and are enrolled in a K-12 program.

The short story and poetry competitions are open to any subject. All submissions must be the unpublished, original work of the artist. Rights remain with the artist. **Artists must be 18 or younger, reside in York County, and must be enrolled in a K-12 program in the spring of 2025.** Those over the age of 18 and not enrolled in a K-12 program may submit to the 20th Annual Adult Literary Competition.

#### FEES

FREE! There is no entry fee for the 2025 Youth Literary Competition.

#### AWARDS

Award certificates for the youth competition will be issued for each category - poetry and short story.

Only one prize per artist, per category will be awarded. Authors are permitted to enter both categories and entries are eligible to win an award in each competition, however, there are no repeat prizewinners within the categories each year.

# ONLINE MAGAZINE

An online magazine, the *Cotton Alley Writers' Review*, will be created from the winning entries submitted to the competition for publication in May 2025. Winners will be notified. The Arts Council will not make any changes to your digital submission prior to or after publication. Winners who do not wish to be published may decline to be included in the magazine.

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## SUBMISSION

- Entries are accepted online at [yorkcountyarts.org/literarycalls](http://yorkcountyarts.org/literarycalls) or by scanning the QR code below.
- An online form must be completed for each entry.
- Submissions must be double-spaced and in 12 point, Times New Roman font and traditionally formatted works must include auto-indents to paragraphs. (*Spacing requirements do not apply to submissions classified as poetry, as the poet will retain creative license over formatting.*)
- Digital files must be .pdf, .doc, .docx, or .gdoc files.
- File names must be the title of the poem or short story. Example: theiceburg.pdf.
- The writer's name and/or photo must not appear on the manuscript or in the file name so works can be judged anonymously.

## POETRY

Entries may not exceed 100 lines.

For poems of the stanza, haiku, or sonnet variety, please use 12 point, Times New Roman font. If visual formatting is important to your piece of poetry please submit in clearly readable font and size.

## SHORT STORY

Entries may not exceed 6,000 words.

Stories must be double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, with auto-indented paragraphs.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ENTRY DEADLINE

Sunday, February 9, 2025

### PUBLIC READING & AWARDS CEREMONY

All participants are invited to a public reading and awards ceremony.

Thursday, April 10, 2025 | 5:30 PM

Center for the Arts | 121 East Main Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730

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## QUESTIONS?

Christina Melchiorre | [cmelchiorre@yorkcountyarts.org](mailto:cmelchiorre@yorkcountyarts.org)



*The Arts Council of York County reserves the right to withdraw an entry from the judging process that does not meet guidelines or is deemed inappropriate for any reason. The judges reserve the right to not award in any category.*



**CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

121 EAST MAIN STREET | ROCK HILL, SC 29730

**TOM S. GETTYS CENTER**

201 EAST MAIN STREET | ROCK HILL, SC 29730

**MAILING**

P.O. BOX 2797 | ROCK HILL, SC 29732

**PHONE** (803) 328-2787 | **YORKCOUNTYARTS.ORG**