

Submission Rules And Guidelines For Participating Echoes of Appalachia 2025 Writing Competition

Writing Competition Entry Deadline: June 30, 2025

- *Selection of Winners:* July 15, 2025
- *Eligibility:* Open to all residents of Appalachia and beyond, age 13 and older.
- *Story Length Requirements*
 - o Age 18 and up: 500 – 1,500 words
 - o Age 13 to 17: 250 – 1,000 words
- *Genres:* Fiction, non-fiction, or poetry that captures the essence of Appalachian life.

Submission Rules

1. **Eligibility:** Open to all writers, age 13 and older. Submissions must be original, unpublished works of fiction that embody the theme “Waters of Appalachia.”

2. Submission Guidelines:

- *Adult word limit:* 500 to 1,500 words; youth word limit: 250 to 1,000 words. Please include your age or birthdate with your submission. Submissions without age provided will be judged in the adult category.
- *Format:* Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins.
- *Language:* Submissions must be in English.
- *Entry Fee:* Free!
- *Deadline:* June 30, 2025, 11:59 PM

3. **How to Submit:** Entries must be submitted via email to hello@acts-ky.org

4. **Content:** Stories should capture the essence of the Appalachian spirit, reflecting its culture, people, folklore, or landscapes. The setting does not have to be

geographically confined to Appalachia but should carry the spirit of the region.

Stories submitted with any amount of AI content detected will not be judged.

5. Judging Process: Entries will be judged by a panel of writers, actors, and literary enthusiasts. Judges' decisions are final.

6. Rights: By entering the competition, writers grant Appalachian Creatives Theatrical Society the non-exclusive rights to publish, perform, and promote the submitted stories. Winning stories may be edited for length and content.

7. Announcement of Winners: Winners will be announced on July 15, 2025 via social media, and winners will be contacted via their preferred method of contact.

Judging Criteria

- *Adherence to Theme:* How well the story encapsulates the contest theme.
- *Originality:* The uniqueness and creativity of the plot and characters.
- *Character Development:* The depth and growth of characters throughout the story.
- *Atmosphere and Setting:* The ability to create a vivid and immersive setting.
- *Narrative Structure:* The organization, pacing, and flow of the story.
- *Language and Style:* The quality of writing, including grammar, syntax, and literary devices.