



GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

100-Word Contest & Poetry Contest

2026 Contest Rules

- ☐ Entry must be submitted using the Gold Country Writers website [2026 Contest Entry Form](#) between **noon Wednesday, February 18**, and **midnight Wednesday, April 1**.
- ☐ Only Gold Country Writers members in good standing are eligible. Non-members are invited to join **prior** to submission.
- ☐ No entry fee.
- ☐ Limit **ONE** entry per member for EACH of **100-Word Story Contest** and **Poetry Contest**.
- ☐ Submission must be the sole work of the author, original and unpublished, with no part generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ☐ Entry must be formatted with:
 - Times New Roman font
 - 12-point size
 - One-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides).
- ☐ Submission must be a single Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat file.
- ☐ Author's name and identifying information must not appear in the entry.
- ☐ Author agrees that the submission may be read aloud at the Contests Celebration and/or published on the GCW website, in GCW's future publications, and in Gold County Media newspapers and online issues.
- ☐ Gold Country Writers reserves the right to make the final determination on all rules and decisions.
- ☐ **In addition, for 100-Word Story Contest ONLY:**
 - Length must be **exactly** 100 words according to Microsoft Word. Title is excluded from word count. Hyphenated words count as one.
 - Lines must be double spaced.
- ☐ **In addition, for Poetry Contest ONLY:**
 - Maximum 42 lines. Title is excluded from line count. Blank lines are not counted.
 - Submit poem in its appropriate form.

Failure to follow any rule will result in disqualification from judging.