

## Short Story



St. Louis Writers Guild  
Founded in 1920  
stlwritersguild.org

**Opens October 1**

**Deadline December 1**

*entries must be postmarked or  
emailed before 11:59 pm  
on December 1.*

### Prize Money

First Place \$50  
Second Place \$30  
Third Place \$20  
Honorable Mention \$10

Max Word Count: 3000 words

Submission Email  
SLWGSubmissions@gmail.com

Entries can be mailed to:

St. Louis Writers Guild  
Attn: Short Story Contest  
P.O. Box 411757  
St. Louis, MO, 63141

Award Ceremony and reading at the  
SLWG Event!

Due to international restrictions, we  
are not able to accept international  
submissions at this time.

[stlwritersguild.org](http://stlwritersguild.org)

## Annual Short Story Contest

presented by St. Louis Writers Guild

Since its founding in 1920, St. Louis Writers Guild has sponsored an annual short story contest. The contest is one of the oldest in the country, and is certainly one of the most prestigious. Tennessee Williams won first place in 1935 for his story, "Stella for Star." (University of Delaware library; Special Collections Department; Tennessee Williams Collection, 1939-1994; [www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/williams\\_t/willtenn.html](http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/williams_t/willtenn.html))

St. Louis Writers Guild Annual Short Story Contest opens for submissions every October, the deadline is in December, and prizes are awarded in January. Historically, entries have come from across the nation and Canada. Stories are blind-judged by an expert in the fields of writing and literature.

**Writers do not need to be members of the Guild in order to participate in this contest.**

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Topic:** The work must meet the specific form requirements of a short story, be a work of fiction written in English, represent the author's original and unpublished work, and be intended for an audience of adult readers (as opposed to a story intended for children). Any topic is allowed, but works that include pornography, extreme violence, racism, and/or other content that is not appropriate for a mainstream literary audience are not eligible.

**Contest Opening:** The contest opens for submissions on October 1. Do not mail entries prior to October as they will be disqualified and cannot be returned.

**Deadline:** Entries must be **postmarked on or before December 1 of the current year.**

**Entry Fee:** \$15 first manuscript, \$10 additional entry; limit **two** entries per person.

**Please note: The previous year's first-place winner is prohibited from entering this contest.**

**Judge:** A new judge is chosen every year from industry professionals who select their favorite stories from the entries. A complete biography of the judge can be found at [www.stlwritersguild.org/short-story/](http://www.stlwritersguild.org/short-story/)

**Announcement of Winners:** Winners' names and story titles will be posted on the St. Louis Writers Guild website and announced in SLWG's electronic newsletter, *Here's News!* Entrants can subscribe to *Here's News!* on the SLWG Homepage. Facebook and Twitter, too!

All winners are invited to a reading and award ceremony at the SLWG Open Mic Night. See website for details.

# Annual Short Story Contest – Submission Guidelines

**Prizes** Certificates and cash prizes will be awarded as follows to the winners:

**1st Place \$50**

**2nd Place \$30**

**3rd Place \$20**

**Honorable Mention \$10.**

## **Submission Rules:**

- Story must not exceed 3,000 words. Title does not count in word limit.
- Submit two copies of story mailed together in one envelope.
- One typed cover page must be paperclipped to the top page of both manuscript copies, indicating the story's title, followed by the author's name, address, telephone number, email address (if available), and the total number of words in the story.
- Manuscripts must be typed in double-spaced format on standard white paper (8-1/2 x 11) in black ink using a standard typeface or font, such as Courier, Times New Roman, Georgia, or Arial.
- All story pages must be stapled together in the upper left corner of the manuscript.
- You must include a page number in the lower right corner of every page.
- The story's title must appear on the first page of the manuscript—about midway down the page.
- The story's title must also be typed in the upper left corner of every page of the manuscript.
- The story's text must begin two lines beneath the title on the first page.
- DO NOT INCLUDE THE AUTHOR'S NAME ON ANY PAGES OF THE MANUSCRIPT.

St. Louis Writers Guild no longer publishes the full text from the winning entries so the author retains publication rights.

## **Email Submission Guidelines – Must be received by 11:59 pm CST on December 1**

- Fill out the form at [www.stlwritersguild.org/contest-submission/](http://www.stlwritersguild.org/contest-submission/)
- Preferred File Formats for Upload – PDF, .doc, .docx
- Upload all poems on a single form (up to 5 poems)
- Pay the fee, determined by total number of poems, using Stripe.
- A confirmation message will be displayed once successfully completed
- For questions, please contact [SLWGInfo@gmail.com](mailto:SLWGInfo@gmail.com)
- Story and entry fee must be submitted for acceptance.

## **USPS Mail Submission Guidelines – Must be postmarked on or before December 1**

- Hard copies of the stories can be mailed or dropped off at SLWG events when the contest is open.
- *Two* copies of *each* story must be together in *one* envelope.
- *One* typed cover page must be paper-clipped to the top page of *both* manuscript copies, indicating the:
  - Story's title
  - Author's name, address, telephone number, and email address
  - Total number of words in the story
- Please make checks payable to St. Louis Writers Guild and include in envelope
- The USPS address for submission is: St. Louis Writers Guild, ATTENTION: Short Story Contest, PO Box 411757, St. Louis, MO, 63141.
- IMPORTANT: Please note that "Signature Required" mail will not be accepted. SLWG cannot respond to telephone and email inquiries concerning receipt of entries.
- MANUSCRIPTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED. DO NOT ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR MANUSCRIPT RETURN. Entrants *may* enclose a SASE postcard for confirmation of receipt.

**[stlwritersguild.org](http://stlwritersguild.org)**