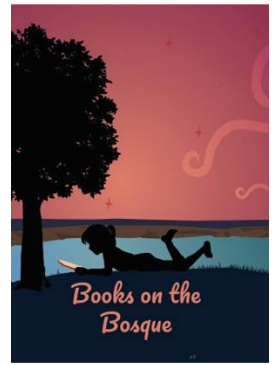


Books on the Bosque

WRITING CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE BOSQUE ARTS CENTER – CLIFTON, TX

Entry Deadline: September 21, 2026



Entry Fee: \$15/entry

Categories

- 1. Short Story:** Short fiction with traditional literary elements
- 2. Narrative Nonfiction Essay:** Factual piece written in engaging, narrative style
- 3. Poetry – Rhymed or Unrhymed:** Verse that observes the more traditional poetry conventions or free verse style not bound by rhyme scheme, meter, etc.

ELIGIBILITY

All submissions—digital or mailed—must be received by the deadline, **Monday, September 21, 2026 (5 p.m. CDT)**.

E-mail submissions are acceptable. (See Payments section for options on paying for digital entries.)

There is no limit on the number of pieces a writer may enter in any category.

Parent or guardian must co-sign entry form for entrants under 18 years of age.

Works submitted to other contests are accepted. **Works previously submitted to Books on the Bosque contest are *not* eligible.**

Previously published works are accepted, as long as no rights will be violated should the entrant give publication permission to the Bosque Arts Center.

Entrant retains all rights to manuscripts submitted but may opt to give the Bosque Arts Center (BAC) permission to publish winning entries on the BAC website or in the newsletter. Winners may also be offered the option of granting one-time rights to a publication partnering with the BAC to honor contest winners.

By entering this contest, you certify that the work(s) you submit are your work(s) of original concept.

Works submitted must not violate copyright or infringe on any rights held by a third party. The Bosque Arts Center is not liable for any copyright infringement on the part of entrants.

The BAC reserves the right to reject work that does not meet entry criteria.

AWARDS & JUDGING

Cash category prizes awarded for first, second, and third place

The contest judge(s) may or may not cite honorable mentions, with no monetary prize given.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the Books on the Bosque conference on **Saturday, November 14** (time TBA). Winners will be posted on the Bosque Arts Center website and Facebook page the week after the conference, and winners not present will also be notified by email, mail, or phone.

Notification emails/letters will be sent to all entrants. Judges may offer comments on a critique sheet, in which case the sheet will be included, but critiques are not guaranteed.

Manuscripts will be returned only if a self-addressed envelope with appropriate postage is provided.

FEES AND PAYMENTS

The \$15 per entry fee is non-refundable.

Payment may be made online, by mailed check with accompanying entry form, or by calling the Bosque Arts Center with a credit card. Payment must be received in advance of the deadline or entries will not be considered.

To make payment online, go to the Tickets page of the BAC website. Click on the button below the BOOKS ON THE BOSQUE WRITING CONTEST that says "Get General Admission Tickets" to purchase "tickets" to enter manuscripts. In the blank for "Ticket Holder or Guest Name," enter instead the name of manuscript and click "Add Ticket." Fill in a blank and add a ticket for every manuscript you enter. (Note **HS** after title if entering HS division.) When all titles are entered, proceed to the payment page. *(Note: This is not purchasing a ticket for the event itself. Those will go on sale in the fall.)*

ENTRY INFORMATION

All contestants must fill out an entry form with contact information and a list of all works entered in the contest. The entry form must be submitted with the entries.

****Be sure to note whether the open adult division or high school.**

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

1. Entries must be typed in English.

2. All entries must be accompanied by a cover sheet with the following information:

- TITLE
- NAME OF AUTHOR
- PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL (or both)
- CATEGORY
- DIVISION – OPEN or HIGH SCHOOL
- WORD COUNT (prose) or NUMBER OF LINES (poetry)
- NUMBER OF PAGES (not including cover sheet)

3. Manuscripts should have title centered at the top of the first page. All pages following must have the **TITLE** of the work followed by the **page number** at the center or top right corner of the page.
Author's name MUST NOT be included in manuscript pages.

4. Manuscripts must use a 12-point legible font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, etc.) with 1-inch margins.

5. PDF files are preferred for emailed entries (so that formatting is retained) but Word documents will also be accepted.

GUIDELINES SPECIFIC TO CATEGORY

Prose

- Double-spaced
- Paragraphs indented
- 1,500-word limit**

Poetry

- Single-spaced
- 50-line limit

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