

WYOMING YOUNG AUTHORS GUIDELINES

****Entries to Young Authors are eligible only if membership dues are paid by March 1, 2016****

1. All entries must be submitted through a local Wyoming State Reading Council Affiliate. This applies to all home-school and public school applicants. If no local council exists, one needs to be formed with a minimum of 3 Wyoming State Reading Council members. All entries must participate in a local competition prior to the state competition. Your Young Authors District Coordinator will contact you regarding a deadline for your district's judging. Books sent for state judging from individual schools within a district will not be judged.
2. Only one book of fiction, one book of poetry, and one book of nonfiction per grade level may be submitted by each school district for judging at the state level. Therefore, no more than 39 books can be sent for state judging per school district. If there is more than one elementary, middle, junior high, or high school within a district, then a district selection needs to be made for each grade level and category. Non-public schools within a school district should also be included in the district selection. Homeschooled students' entries should be accepted into the local school contest in which the student would be enrolled if he or she were in public school. Since virtual schools accept students from all over the state of Wyoming, the guidelines are different ie: Wyoming Connections and Connections Academy, will need one coordinator who will collect, score, and submit one entry per category. The coordinator MUST be a member of Wyoming State Reading Council. No individual entries that have circumvented this process will be accepted.
3. Entries will be accepted from grades Kindergarten through 12th grade (fiction, nonfiction, and poetry). Kindergarten entries may be recorded dictation, developmental spelling with standard overlays done by an adult, or just developmental spelling where the intent of the word is quite clear. Entries from transitional first grade students will be categorized with Kindergarten. Entries from all other grade levels must be properly edited without changing the writer's content.
4. A book of fiction or nonfiction may not exceed 4,000 words. For entries that are over 3,000 words, indicate a word count on the entry form. A book of poetry may consist of one long epic poem (book length, usually) or a collection of poems. A collection of poems must have exactly and only five (5) poems along with a table of contents (not the 5 minimum, 15 maximum of past years). There is an exception in the Kindergarten Poetry category in that only three (3) poems are required rather than five. There must still be a table of contents, however. Please do not entitle a collection of poems with a generic title such as My Book of Poems, My Poem Book, My Poetry Book, etc. It is difficult to determine which book is which during judging unless the collection has a unique name (e.g., Serendipity, Autumn Poems, Teddy Bear Poetry, etc.) Do not use the child's name in his/her collection of poetry, if possible. Carefully decide whether a book is fiction or nonfiction. Include vacation or other true stories or narratives in the nonfiction category rather than the fiction category.

5. Illustrations are part of the judging in the category of Presentation from 6+1 Traits. They must add to the story or book of poems. Photos, clip-art, or computer graphics could be used, but must correlate with the theme of the writing. Fonts should be readable. Please refer to rubric for more specifics.

6. Each book may have only one author. Please do not put the author's name anywhere on the book. A book may, however, have a separate illustrator. In this case, if the book is chosen as a state winner, only the author receives the award. In addition, students may enter in more than one category.

7. All books must be in book form and should be no larger than 9" x 12". Each book needs a front cover with title, and a back cover, which is not part of the story text. All pages must be firmly attached. Neatness and appearance are important! Please do not use covers that are unnecessarily thick or bulky. This makes them difficult to handle and store. Do not use metal rings or large, 3-D decorations on the cover. A cover that is slim, with a simple binding and illustration, is the most desirable.

8. Each author must use the current Young Authors Entry Form that includes a mandatory *Verification of Authenticity. This form must be completed, signed, and firmly attached on one edge only, face down to the inside of the back cover. Other options are to attach a library pocket or an unsealed envelope to the inside of the back cover, fold the entry form, and place it in the pocket or envelope. Please cut the grade level and category form down to size and attach it to the bottom right corner of the front cover. These directions must be followed to the letter in order to qualify as a state entry. Entries that do not exactly follow the guidelines will not be judged in the state contest. *A signature of Authenticity verifies the work was completed by the author.

9. If the name of the author and/or school appears on the front cover or title page, it needs to be covered. If a biography page is included, the name needs to be covered or removed.

10. Information and forms can also be accessed via the Young Authors web site at: www.wyomingreadingcouncil.org

11. Judging for fiction and nonfiction at the state level will be based upon the 6+1 Traits rubric with a point range of 1-5 on each trait. Poetry will be based on four categories. Councils are encouraged to use the posted judging rubrics for local competition. Decisions of the judges, at both the district and state levels, are final.

For the State Young Authors Competition:

All first place entries must be postmarked by **April 1, 2016**. Please mail boxes to South Side Elementary School, c/o Tina Krejci, 1229 Howell Avenue, Worland, WY, 82401

As a reminder: Judging through a local reading council organization is required for submission to the state level. Entries not adhering to the guidelines will be returned. **Please remember to include a Master Entry Form with the correct spelling of names and return paid postage.**

12. Certificates will be awarded to one First Place and two Honorable Mention books per grade, per category. First place winners will be honored guests of the Wyoming State Reading Council at the Young Authors Awards Celebration. Results on the Winners List will be posted as soon as all judging is complete. All books, excluding the state 1st place winners, will be returned. First place winners will be notified of the details for the upcoming celebration, where their book and award will be presented.

State Young Authors Judging will be held in Worland, WY on Saturday, April 16th, at South Side Elementary. Please consider judging as a professional development opportunity to enhance your skill at teaching and assessing writing.

Wyoming State Reading Council has allotted monies to reimburse travel for the first 10 people that RSVP back to Tina Krejci. For further detail, please contact one of the chairs listed below.

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