

Askew's Foods Word on the Lake Writing Contest 2023 Rules and Guidelines

The 2023 Askew's Word on the Lake Writing Contest is open to all writers eighteen years and older. All contest entries must be original material whose copyright resides with the submitter, and cannot have been previously published (including self-published), be currently accepted for publication, be a current entry in another contest, or have been a winner in another contest prior to the deadline. The contest opens **January 2, 2023**. All submissions must be emailed (paper submissions are not accepted) and received by the deadline of **midnight Pacific Time, January 31, 2023**.

Contest entries are submitted and judged in three categories:

- **Short Fiction:** Up to 1,500 words
- **Nonfiction:** Up to 1,500 words
- **Poetry:** Maximum length of one page per poem; up to three poems can be submitted as a single entry

Only one entry per writer can be submitted to any category, but writers are free to submit different works in more than one category. Contest judges will be announced at the start of the contest period.

Submission Instructions

There are two parts to the submission process: your entry (sent by email), and the contest submission fee (made by Interac e-transfer, PayPal, or cheque).

If your entry has a title page, that title page **must not** have your name or any other identifying information on it. You can also just put the title of your fiction or nonfiction submission at the top of the first page. For poetry, each poem should have its title on its page. Make sure your name doesn't appear in your page headers or footers. (Our awards are blind judged, meaning the judges can't know the name of the writer.)

Put the following "cover page" information into the body of your email:

- Your name, address, email address, and phone number
- The category your work is entered into (Short Fiction, Nonfiction, or Poetry)
- For short fiction and nonfiction: the title of your entry and its word count
- For poetry: the number of poems submitted (one to three) and the titles of each poem
- Indicate how you're paying your submission fee (Interac e-transfer, PayPal, or cheque)

Additionally, your submission must meet the following contest requirements:

- Use standard manuscript format: 1-inch margins, double-spaced, and a 12 point font. Poetry may be single-spaced.
- Your entry must be a Microsoft Word-compatible document (.doc, .docx, or .rtf format), sent as an email attachment. Entries sent in any other format (including PDF, plain text, within the body of the email, or on paper) will not be accepted.

- No concrete poetry. Indents and lines that are centered or right-justified in your poems to direct the flow are fine, but concrete poetry often doesn't translate well from the full-sized page you're writing on to the trade-paperback page size of the anthology.
- For poetry, please be aware that long lines will wrap with a hanging indent in the anthology. (If you're not sure what this means, have a look at previous editions of the anthology.)
- No graphics (including line breaks done as graphics). No page layout or floating text boxes.
- Poems should be sent as one document with page breaks, not separate documents.
- For the file name of your submission document, use the title of your story or nonfiction piece, or the title of your first poem. Do not use your own name as part of the file name.

Use the subject line "Word on the Lake Writing Contest" for your entry email, and send it to: contest.saow@gmail.com by **midnight Pacific Time, January 31, 2023**. If you don't receive an email confirming that your submission was received within 48 hours, check your junk mail folder. If the confirmation isn't there, send an inquiry email to that same email address.

Each entry to the contest has a **\$15 Canadian** entry fee, which goes directly to supporting the Word on the Lake Writers' Festival. Entries will not be considered without an entry fee. You can submit your entry fee by one of three methods:

- Interac e-transfer, using the email address saow.events@gmail.com.
- PayPal, using the email address saow.events@gmail.com, or paying through the contest web page: <https://wordonthelakewritersfestival.com/saw/writing-contest/>
- A cheque made out to "Shuswap Association of Writers," with the memo note "Writing Contest" at the bottom, and mailed to:

Askew's Word on the Lake Writing Contest
PO Box 1134, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P3

If your e-transfer or PayPal payment is coming from a different name than the name your entry is submitted under, please make a note of that in your email.

If you're paying by cheque, it's all right if the cheque arrives after deadline but please make sure it's sent when your submission is sent. If we haven't received it within two weeks of the deadline, we will contact you to arrange alternative payment, or your entry will be disqualified.

Notification of Winners

Winners will be notified by March 15, 2023. Email entries and attachments will be deleted after the contest winners are announced.

Prizes

The First Place winner in each category receives a \$200 cash prize, plus a 2023 festival registration package.

The Second Place winner in each category receives a \$125 cash prize, plus a festival banquet package.

The Honourable Mention winner in each category receives a \$100 cash prize, plus a festival banquet package.

All winners will be listed on the festival website, and will have their winning entries published in the 2023 edition of the *Askew's Word on the Lake Anthology*. Everyone who enters the contest will receive a copy of the anthology in ebook format (epub, mobi, and PDF), and each contest winner also receives the anthology in print. The 2023 anthology and the anthologies from previous years will be available at the festival and online.

At the discretion of the judges, prizes in specific categories might not be awarded exactly as noted. All prizes must be accepted as offered. No cash substitutions for festival packages, and festival packages are not transferable.

Publication Rights

By entering the contest, you acknowledge that if you are a contest winner, you grant the Shuswap Association of Writers one-time publication rights to your winning entry for the *Askew's Word on the Lake Anthology* in ebook and print. All other rights remain with you as the author and copyright holder. By entering the contest, you also acknowledge that if you are a contest winner, you grant the Shuswap Association of Writers the right to publish your name or pen name in the anthology and on the Shuswap Association of Writers website.

Questions

For more information on the Word on the Lake Writers' Festival, see the festival website: wordonthelakewritersfestival.com. Any queries about the contest should be directed to contest.saow@gmail.com with 'Writing Contest Questions' in the subject line of your email. We'll do our best to respond within 24 hours.