



Mendocino Coast **Writers'** Conference

2017 Writing Contest Guidelines

The MCWC 2017 writing contest is open to registered MCWC 2017 three-day conference participants only. We encourage all registrants to enter. There is no entry fee. You may make **one submission**, in the category of your choice. Entries must be received by midnight on Friday, June 23, 2017.

2017 categories are:

Novel: an excerpt of up to 2,500 words

Short fiction: one short story not to exceed 2,500 words

MG/YA: an excerpt of up to 2,500 words

Memoir: a personal essay or book excerpt of up to 2,500 words

Poetry: 3-5 poems, not to exceed 10 pages total

We can only consider unpublished work, or previously published material for which the author holds rights. All winning work will be considered for publication in our literary journal, *The Noyo River Review*. **We do not accept simultaneous submissions.**

Scholarship candidates may submit their scholarship application pieces or any other manuscript that meets the contest requirements. If you apply for a scholarship and do not complete your registration, your contest entry will be eliminated.

First Prize winners must wait three years before submitting again to the category in which they won, but are welcome to enter subsequent contests in another genre. All contest entries are judged blind in adherence to the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) Code of Ethics.

Entries are judged "as is," but winning submissions selected for *The Noyo River Review* will be subject to editing before publication. Work will not be published without permission of the author. Copyright to selected work reverts to the author immediately after publication of the hard copy edition of *The Noyo River Review*. Writers selected for publication will receive a complimentary copy of the journal.

TO ENTER:

Send ONE email addressed to contests@mcwc.org. Write the genre of your entry, chosen from the contest category list, in the subject line. Attach the following:

Attachment #1. Contact Information: Create a PDF file of a brief cover letter that includes:

- Your name, address, email, and phone number
- The title of your piece and the category you are entering
- A declaration that the submission is your original unpublished work, that you hold rights to it, and that it has not been simultaneously submitted.

Attachment #2. Contest Entry: Create a PDF file that contains your contest entry but does **not** include your name or address. Include the title and page number on each page, but do not include your name or other identifying information.

Format: For prose, use Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, black. Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation count. Poetry may vary from these guidelines in terms of margins and spacing, but must appear in Times New Roman, 12 point, black.

Remember that your name should **not** appear anywhere on the actual manuscript, only in your cover letter, as described.

Contest submissions are accepted by email only and must be received before midnight on Friday, June 23, 2017 to be considered. Entries that fail to follow the guidelines stated here will be disqualified.

AWARDS:

Cash awards of \$100, \$75, and \$50 are available in each category. However, awards are made solely at the discretion of the judging panel. On some occasions, not all prize money will be awarded. Winners will have the opportunity to read their work at the conference, and winning entries will be considered for publication in *The Noyo River Review*.

Best of luck!