

Writing Contest Terms and Conditions

Contest: **The First Sci-Fi & Fantasy Flash Fiction Challenge of 2025**

Hosted by **SFS Writing Contest LLC**

1. Eligibility

1.1. The contest is open to all individuals aged 18 years or older, except employees, affiliates, or immediate family members of SFS Writing Contest LLC.

1.2. The contest is governed by the laws of the United States and is void where prohibited. Entrants agree to participate in compliance with applicable laws.

2. Submission Process

2.1. Submissions must be made exclusively via the SFS Writing Contest submission page. The link to this page will be emailed prior to the contest beginning.

2.2. Each entry fee is \$35, plus applicable payment processing fees, and is non-refundable.

2.3. Entrants may submit as many versions of their story as they wish during the entry period; only the most recent submission will be judged.

2.4. Submissions must:

- Be original works of fiction by the submitting author within the sci-fi or fantasy genres.
 - Adhere to assigned sub-genres and key elements provided by the organizers. These will be issued via email at the start of each round.
 - Be no longer than 1,000 words.
 - Exclude the author's name or identifying information within the story text.
 - Not involve AI assistance in creation.
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3. Contest Timeline

3.1. **Entry Period:** Opens Tuesday, January 7, 2025 and closes Friday, January 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

3.2. **Round 1:** Begins Friday, February 7, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time and ends Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

3.3. **Announcement of Round 2 Participants:** Saturday, March 1, 2025.

3.4. **Round 2:** Begins Friday, March 7, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time and ends Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

3.5. **Winners Announcement:** Saturday, March 29, 2025.

4. Prizes

4.1. The total prize pool begins at a minimum of \$500 (USD) and could increase to a maximum of \$3000. The prize pool will equal 50% of total entry fees collected, less payment processing fees until the maximum amount is reached. The current prize pool total will be updated daily on the contest website: <http://www.sfscontest.com>.

4.2. All prizes are paid in USD. Distribution:

- **1st Place:** 40% of the prize pool.
- **2nd Place:** 20% of the prize pool.
- **3rd Place:** 15% of the prize pool.
- **4th-10th Places:** Each receives an equal share of the remaining 25%.

4.3. Winners will be notified via email and listed on the contest website. Prizes must be claimed within 90 days of notification.

5. Judging

5.1. Judging is based on the following criteria: Originality (20%), Plot and Structure (20%), Character Development (20%), Setting and Atmosphere (10%), Theme and Message (10%), Writing Style and Language (10%), and Emotional Impact (10%).

5.2. In case of a tie, the earlier submission timestamp will determine the winner.

6. Disqualification

6.1. Organizers reserve the sole authority to disqualify entries for:

- Plagiarism or use of previously published content.
- Use of AI-generated or AI-assisted content.
- Failure to adhere to genre, sub-genre, or key element assignments.
- Any form of cheating or rules violations.

6.2. Judges may bring potential issues to the attention of the organizers for review.

7. Intellectual Property and Privacy

7.1. All rights to submitted stories remain with the authors.

7.2. By entering, participants grant SFS Writing Contest LLC permission to use their name, location, and story title on the contest website.

7.3. Personal data provided during entry will be protected and not shared with third parties.

7.4. Authors agree not to share their submitted stories publicly until after the contest completes on March 29, 2025. Failure to do so could result in disqualification from the contest.

8. Liability Waiver

8.1. SFS Writing Contest LLC is not responsible for:

- Electronic or technical failures during submission.
- Delays or errors in communication or prize distribution caused by unforeseen circumstances.

8.2. Entrants agree to hold SFS Writing Contest LLC harmless from disputes arising out of participation in the contest.

9. Miscellaneous Provisions

9.1. The contest organizers reserve the right to cancel or modify the contest at their discretion due to unforeseen circumstances.

9.2. All disputes related to the contest will be resolved under the laws of the United States in the state of Oklahoma.

9.3. In all contest related matters, the decisions of the contest organizers are final and binding.

By submitting an entry and paying the entry fee, participants agree to these terms and conditions in full.