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**THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST**

**2025 OFFICIAL RULES – WRITTEN CATEGORY**

*The following rules pertain to the Written Category of the 2025 Missouri State Liars Contest, sponsored by MO-TELL (Missouri Storytelling).*

Each entrant in the **Written Category** of 2025 Missouri State Liars contest must:

* Submit a story in a Word document
* Submit a completed registration form with a **$15 entry fee for MO-TELL** **members,** or a **$30 entry fee for non-MO-TELL members** to:

Missouri Storytelling Inc

9621 Olive Blvd. #28994

St. Louis MO. 63132-9998

**Entries:**

* Each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories. Each story submitted must be accompanied by a separate registration form and $15 entry fee.
* Note that each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories in each category, the Spoken Category and the Written Category. The same story may be submitted in both categories, i.e., as an entry in the Spoken Category and the Written Category (separate fee for each). If both stories are selected in one category, entrant must choose which one is for the competition. If the same story is selected in both categories, entrant must decide in which category the story would remain for competition.

**Deadline for Entering:**

* Story entries will be accepted until June 22, 2025.
* A panel of judges will choose the winners from among the entrants in the Written Category. Finalists will be notified on or around July 01, 2025.
* The 1st place winner in the Written category will be invited to read their story after the Spoken contest on July 12, 2025, in person.
* There will be a cash prize for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each contest.

**Eligible Stories:**

* Eligible entries for the Written Category of the 2025 contest include any story that’s not completely true.
* **Written entries must be original compositions**, but they may be inspired by folklore or other material from the public domain.
* **Written entries must be 1500 words or less with a 100-word grace amount. Stories longer than 1600 hundred words will be disqualified.** Stories will be judged on content.
* Stories must also be PG-rated—i.e., appropriate for an all-ages audience. Any story entered in the contest which fails to meet these requirements, as deemed by the judges, will be disqualified.

**Judging:**

* Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant on the 4 criteria listed below:

1. Writing - Structure and mechanics
2. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, middle and end)
3. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
4. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In the judges’ opinions

* The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best. There will be a maximum of 20 points per competitor.
* **If an individual wins first place in the Liars Contest (written) 5 times, then they are no longer eligible to compete (in the written category) and are elevated to the rank of Most Accomplished Written Liar in Missouri rank. The individual would still be eligible to compete in the oral category.**
* Any individual involved in collecting entries or arranging judges will be deemed a contest director and will be ineligible from entering the 2025 contest. Immediate family members of contest directors or contest judges are also ineligible. Additionally, professional politicians (defined as individuals who earn the majority of their income from elected office) are ineligible from entering the contest while in office.

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