

**THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST - 2024**

**OFFICIAL RULES – SPOKEN CATEGORY**

*The following rules pertain to the Spoken Category of the 2024 Missouri State Liars Contest, sponsored by MO-TELL (Missouri Storytelling, Inc.).*

Each entrant in the **Spoken Category** of the 2024 Missouri State Liars contest must:

* Submit a video or audio file (or web link to such) of the complete story he/she is entering to Joyce Slater at [joyceslater20@gmail.com](mailto:joyceslater20@gmail.com).
* Submit a **$15 entry fee for MO-TELL** **members,** or a **$30 entry fee for non-MO-TELL members** with the registration form to MO-TELL Treasurer, PO Box 28994, St. Louis, MO 63132-8994
* Each entrant may submit up to five (5) stories. Each additional story submitted must be accompanied by a separate $15 entry fee. Note that each entrant may submit up to five (5) 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. If 2 or more stories are selected in one category, the entrant must choose which one to keep in the competition. If the same story is selected in both categories, the entrant must decide in which category the story would remain for competition.
* **Deadline for Entering** Story entries will be accepted until July 1, 2024. A panel of judges will choose up to 10 finalists from among the entrants in the Spoken Category to compete in a live event in July. Finalists will be notified on or around July 8, 2024, of their selection for the final round. Finalists in the Spoken Category will be invited to compete in person at the final round on July 20, 2024. A panel of judges will select the winner of the Spoken Category and the winner will be announced at the event that day. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both the spoken and written categories.
* **Eligible Stories** Eligible entries for the Spoken Category of the 2024 contest include any story that’s *not completely true*. Entries may be original compositions, or they may be based partially or wholly on folklore or other material from the public domain. Copyrighted stories are not allowed in the contest unless the contest entrant is the copyright holder. **Stories must be 10 minutes or less with a one minute allowance. 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 Criteria:** Although the performance of each entrant will be evaluated, the technical quality of the video or audio recording will not be a factor in the judging, if the story can be clearly heard and/or seen by the judges.

Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant in the following categories:

a. Technique - Delivery, confidence, general stagecraft

b. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, middle and end) in time available

c. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn

d. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In judges’ opinion, taking audience response into consideration

The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with a maximum of 20 points per competitor.

* **If an individual wins the Liars Contest (Spoken) 5 times, then they are no longer eligible to compete (in the Spoken category) and are elevated to the rank of Most Accomplished Liar in Missouri rank.**
* Any individual involved in collecting entries or arranging judges will be deemed a contest director and will be ineligible from entering the 2024 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.