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**THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST – 2024 OFFICIAL RULES – WRITTEN CATEGORY**

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

Each entrant in the **Written Category** of 2024 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 Jackie Wright, Treasurer, @ Missouri Storytelling Inc, PO Box 28994, Olivette, MO 63132-9998
* Each entrant may submit up to five (5) stories. Each additional story submitted must be accompanied by a separate registration form and $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 (separate fee for each). **If 2 or more 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 July 1, 2024. A panel of judges will choose the winners from among the entrants in the Written Category. The 1st place winner in the Written category will be invited to read their story after the Oral contest on July 20, 2024, 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 2023 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 will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant on the 4 criteria listed below:

a. Technique

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

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

d. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In judges’ opinion

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 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 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.

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**THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST – 2023 REGISTRATION FORM (WRITTEN CATEGORY)**

**Please return this completed form with the contest entry fee payable to “MO-TELL” the following address by June 1, 2023:**

**Jackie Wright, Treasurer, @ Missouri Storytelling Inc, PO Box 28994, Olivette, MO 63132-9998**

**NOTE: The contest entry fee is $30 for non-MO-TELL members, or $15 for MO-TELL members.**

**After returning your registration, submit your story as a WORD Document attached to an email to joyceslater20@gmail.com.**

 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian for entrants under 18: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Story: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Approximate length of story: \_\_\_\_\_\_minutes How did you hear about the contest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: Performances at the July 08, 2023, event may be photographed and recorded (audio and video) and used by MO-TELL to promote future contests or Missouri storytelling in general.

For questions about the contest, email **joyceslater20@gmail.com.**