

Showcase Awards

1. Grand Showcase Award - 3 Prizes (\$300/\$100/\$50)

- Short story or essay. Limit 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors.

2. Oxbow Award in Memory of Dusty & Pat Richards - 3 Prizes (\$200/\$100/\$50)

- Western short story. First Place Winner will be published in Saddlebag Dispatches Magazine.
- Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: OGHMA Creative Media.

3. Founding Member Award in Memory of Arkansas Poet Laureate Peggy Vining - 1 Prize (\$150)

- Poem about change, any style. Limit: 24 lines.
- Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors.

4. Mike Willis Inspiration Award - 1 Prize (\$150)

- An inspirational short story about growing up or family life. Limit: 2000 words.
- Sponsor: Chrissy Willis in memory of her late husband, Mike Willis

Grand Conference Awards- 3 Prizes (\$50/\$30/\$20)

5. Search for Excellence Award

- Nonfiction memoir or essay. Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Leon Combs

6. Native American Short Story Award

- Short story with Native American theme. Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Clouse Literary Arts and Theater

7. Flash Fiction

- Must have a beginning, middle, and end. Limit: 99 words.
- Sponsor: David Kirkland

8. Urey-Hightower Award

- Write a story with a hint of suspense and a surprise ending (No slasher, horror, occult). Word limit: 2000.
- Sponsor: Chrissy Willis in memory of her mother, Clarice Hightower, and her grandmother, Clara Urey Brown.

9. A Fish Out of Water Tale

- A short story that includes someone or something in unusual surroundings. Examples: A 12-year-old enrolls at Harvard, a wolf finds himself appointed king of a lost colony of highly intelligent rabbits, a car mechanic travels back or forward in time, a New Yorker is stranded at the Midland/Odessa airport, etc. Make it zany or believable but write to entertain.
- Limit: 1000 words.
- Sponsor: Micki Fuhrman

10. Bowled Over Contest

- A short story about high school sweethearts who have been out of touch for 25 years. The two, both now single, accidentally come together at the bowling alley while competing in a tournament.
- Limit: 1500-2000 words.
- Sponsor: Ozark Romance Authors, Springfield, MO

11. "Steamy" Romance Contest

- Write a steamy romance. Must use the words escape and delicious.
- Limit: 1000-4000 words
- Sponsor: Delicious Escape Publications

12. Sleuth's Ink Contest

- The US President goes missing at a summit with foreign dignitaries. Must include a crime.
- Limit: 1500 words
- Sponsor: Sleuth's Ink, Springfield, Mo

Conference Awards- 3 Prizes (\$25/\$15/\$10)**13. Goddesses of Poetic License Challenge**

- Write a short story, any genre including all the following words: comorbidity, prescription, hedgehog, rabbit, and clock.
- Limit: 1000 words.
- Sponsor: The Goddesses of Poetic License (Linda Apple, Chrissy Willis & Ruth Weeks)

14. Senior Moments

- Write a story, any genre, where the protagonist is over 50. Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsor: Betsy Gray

15. A Scream in the Night

- A horror short story. Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: Tahlequah Writers

16. Life Along the Mississippi (Historical Fiction)

- Short Story, set in the Nineteenth Century (1800-1899) along the Mississippi River. Limit: 500 words.
- Sponsor: Coffee and Critique Writers of O'Fallon, MO

17. Middle-Grade Fiction for Boys Ages 9-12

- Write a story that will appeal to boys. Limit: 1500-2500 words.
- Sponsor: Renee LaViness

18. Paranormal Western Contest

- Paranormal western short story. Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsors: The Deadline Dames (Joy Keeney & Rhonda Harvey)

19. Hometown Newspaper Column

- Write a nostalgic article about the Ozarks that is suitable for a newspaper column. The article should have a headline (title) and give your column a name. Limit: 500-100 words.
- Sponsor: Lonnie Whitaker

20. Give Us The Best of Friends

- A light-hearted humorous short story about best friends. Must include the words Arkansas and Tennessee.
- Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsors: Joni Cogbill and Betsy Gray

21. Repurpose a Quote

- Repurpose a famous quote from a movie or a book using it in a way that is totally unrelated to its original context.
- Incorporate it into a short story or poem. Limit: 500 words (short story) or Up to 60 lines (poem).
- Sponsor: Marcia Gaye

22. Space Journey

- **Science fiction genre in the style of 50's Sci-Fi movies. Limit: 2000 words.**
- **Sponsor: Tahlequah Writers**

23. Traditions Contest

- Creative nonfiction essay on your favorite family traditions. Limit: 500 words.
- Sponsor: Linda Apple

24. Travel Article

- Write it as if you were sending it to a reputable magazine. No photos, please. Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsor: Johnny D. Boggs

25. Things That Go Bump In The Night!

- Paranormal short story (No Horror). Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: Ruth Weeks

26. My Favorite Day in Nature

- Free Verse Poem
- Sponsor: Linda Sartin in memory of her late husband, Gary

27. Hook Us with your Best First Paragraph

- Hook us with your best first paragraph from a novel or short story.
- Sponsors: Margarite Stever and Bonnie Tesh

28. No, No Ebenezer Award!

- Write a memoir about something you did as a child or young adult that got you into trouble and what you learned from the experience. Limit: 1000 words.
- Sponsor: Ebenezer Longfellow

29. Creative Non-Fiction Award

- Make the ordinary seem extraordinary. Limit: 1500-2000 words.
- Sponsor: Little Red Writing Hood

30. Cross-Genre Contest

- Must include at least two genres (Examples: romantic/thriller, fantasy/horror, western/paranormal).
- Limit: 2000 words.
- Sponsor: Author's Anonymous 2.0

31. Rainbolt Children's Books Award

- Children's book for ages 3-7. Limit 750 words.
- Sponsor: Doris Jean Shaw

On-The-Spot Contest- One Prize \$25

- **Open only to those attending the OCW Conference in October**
- **Details to be announced at the conference**
- **Entries due by noon Saturday**
- **Must be present at Awards Banquet Saturday Evening to win**