**Local Writing Contests, April 26, 2022**

This is a list of contests in the southwest Florida area. Rewards for winning a local contest may not be as high as for the national ones, but you’re swimming in a smaller pond with these. They won’t have as many entries as the national ones, and you have a better chance (statistically) of winning.

**Florida Weekly Writing Challenge**. During the summer and fall, the Florida Weekly newspaper offers four consecutive writing challenges. Each one must be prompted by a specific photo they publish for the challenge and entries are limited to 750 words. No poetry is accepted. You have about 10 days to submit your entry after the challenge is published. There are no entry fees. The winning entries of all four contests are published in December. Prizes have varied over the years. In 2021, the first-place winner received tuition to an online Gotham Writers Workshop class, while the three runners-up received Amazon gift cards. The URL below is for the Palm Beach paper, so you may want to pick the one closest to you. However, the challenge is the same for all the versions of the paper, and the entries all go to the same person. [WRITING CHALLENGE - Palm Beach Florida Weekly](https://palmbeach.floridaweekly.com/articles/writing-challenge-6/)

**Gulf Coast Writers Association**. The GCWA is a 501(c)3 corporation located in Fort Myers. Their 2022 writing contest is over, as the deadline was January 31st, and their winners will be announced on April 30th. The next one will be available in the fall. Categories include fiction, nonfiction poetry, and children’s stories. Maximum length is 40 lines for poetry and 1,500 words for the other categories. You can submit as many entries as you want, but you can win only one prize. Entry fees for the first submission are $10 for members and students, $20 for non-members. Fees for additional entries are half the price: $5 and $10. Prizes are $25 for third place, $50 for second place, and $100 for first place. [GCWA Writing Contest – Gulf Coast Writers Association (gulfwriters.org)](https://gulfwriters.org/home-new/gcwa-writing-contest/)

**Southwest Florida Writers Association**. Located in Fort Myers, The SFWA has monthly contests from September through September, but you must be a member to enter. Membership rates are $75 per year or $1,000 for a lifetime membership. If you land on their home page, look for the contests under Membership. Their contests include poems, haiku, fiction, memoirs, personal essays, or excerpts from a book. Each monthly contest has a theme, and they are posted at the beginning of the year, although the themes for July through September are currently to be determined. Submission fees are low. The winner receives up to $20. Deadlines are one week prior to their monthly meeting. They also list some national writing contests and publishing opportunities at the bottom of their contest page. [Writing Contests | SFWA (southfloridawriters.org)](https://www.southfloridawriters.org/writing-contests)