

The Pikes Peak Writers Fiction Contest

By Chris Scena

Looking back over some of the previous years of the contest, the theme seems to be *change*. Change in the rules, change in who is running it, change of dates, even change of format. Well, this year, we're going reverse Obama: no change. Same dates, same format, same people running it. While Dawn, our illustrious director, will be moving on to other PPW pastures due to term limits, she will still be involved as an advisor.

For those new to the contest, read on to find out the details and how you can enter.

An online contest

The 2011 contest will remain electronic. There were a few snags here and there in 2010, but the overall impression from entrants and judges was positive. All entries will be submitted and returned via email, and the entry form (with instructions) will be online at www.ppwc.net. Our brochure is electronic again this year, though you can still have one delivered to your mailbox if you prefer. Just call 719-531-5723. Otherwise, visit the PPW website at www.pikespeakwriters.com/media/2011contest.pdf

We have three ways to track that you have entered. First, when you submit your entry form on the PPW website, we'll get an email. Second, when you pay via PayPal, we'll get an email. (If you pay through the mail by check or money order, we'll get a hard copy.) And third, when you send your entry to pgcontest@gmail.com as an attachment, we'll—you guessed it—get an email. On that last step, you will get a reply within three business days. If you don't, call 719-531-5723 and leave a message so we can double check.

But remember, you can't do any of this until the contest opens, which is...

September 15, 2010

The opening day of the contest remains September 15th. Writers may submit their entries from then until November 15, 2010. Entries received after that date will not be accepted. Qualified entries will be processed and judged over the following four months, with winners announced by early April 2011.

A few tips for entering the contest

- Use the checklist found in the brochure to make sure you've done everything.
- Submit early. You don't have to submit as early as September, but if you plan to submit a week or two *before* the deadline, you won't find yourself rushed for time when delays invariably come up.
- Double check *every page* of the manuscript and synopsis or target market to make sure your name does not appear. One past entry had the writer's name in the header on pages 3, 7, and 8.
- Read the scoresheet(s) on the website for the category or categories you wish to enter.

- Come to the Contest Write Brain on Tuesday, September 14. There you can ask specific questions about your entry and hear more tips on how to make this a great contest experience.

If you think your novel or short story is award quality, or if you want to get impartial feedback on your work, this contest is for you.

SIDEBAR:

Contest schedule

September 14 – Contest Write Brain, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

September 15 – Contest opens

November 15 – Last day for entries to be electronically submitted

Mid to late November – Entries are processed

November 26 – December 25 – Happy Holidays!

Last week of December – Entries are emailed to the first-round judges

January 31 – First round of judging ends; second round begins

Mid February – Second round of judging ends

Late February - VIP judges receive the finalist entries

March – Entries are returned electronically

Late March/early April – Winners are announced

April 30, 2011 – The Paul Gillette Awards banquet at the Pikes Peak Writers Conference

Chris Scena is the Contest Coordinator for the 2011 Pikes Peak Writers Fiction Contest.

Originally appeared in The Pikes Peak Writer, Volume IX, Issue 5, September 2010.