Creative Writing (Junior)
COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

FAIR CONTACT INFORMATION

MARIN COUNTY FAIR | FAIR OFFICE & EXHIBIT HALL	20 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903
WEBSITE	www.marinfair.org
EMAIL	FairExhibits@MarinCounty.Gov
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS	Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
FAIR OFFICE HOURS	July 1 (Wednesday) - July 5 (Sunday): 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
MARIN COUNTY FAIR HOURS	July 1 (Wednesday) - July 5 (Sunday): 11:00 am - 11:00 pm

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS STAFF

CREATIVE WRITING (JUNIOR)

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS MANAGER	Jennifer Olvera
ONLINE SUBMISSIONS COORDINATOR	Carole Sanders
DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR	Francesca Bell

For a list of Sponsors, visit www.marinfair.org after June 1, 2026.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

ONLINE ENTRY FORMS DUE	JUNE 17, 2026 – 11:59 pm
ENTRY RECEIVING & DROP OFF EXHIBIT HALL	JUNE 19 – 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm & JUNE 20 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
ENTRY RELEASED (POST FAIR)	JULY 6, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

The full Competitive Exhibits Calendar is available on www.marinfair.org .

REGISTRATION

To register for the 2026 Competitive Exhibits, please visit https://marin.fairwire.com/

ENTRY DELIVERY AND PICK UP

Please refer to the Competition Calendar for exact dates and times.

Drop off is located at the Marin County Fair Exhibit Hall, located at **20 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903**. Follow the signage at the Exhibit Hall for the exact location.

Claim checks will be provided when exhibits are delivered and are required to pick up your entry on entry pick up date.

DEPARTMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Local and State Rules govern this competition.

1. **ELIGIBILITY -** California Exhibitors ages 5-18.
    a. Writings previously shown at the Marin County Fair are not eligible.
    b. All entries must be the original content and current work of the writer and created within the last two years.

ENTRY INFORMATION

2. **ENTRY FEES -** Free
3. **ENTRY LIMIT -** 2 entries **PER** Exhibitor **PER** class
    a. The same entry may not be entered in more than one class or division.
4. **IDENTIFICATION -** Entries MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED with Title, Exhibitor Name, Division/Class# on the back of the entry.

5. **ENTRY REMOVAL -** Accepted works shall not be removed from exhibition until the Fair closes.
6. **ENTRY RELEASE -** Entries must be picked up on release day. Entries will only be released by presenting your claim check, personal identification, or a signed letter of authorization from the exhibitor.
    a. For teachers picking-up entries for a student(s) or class of students, please notify a member of Fair Staff during delivery.

COMPETITION RULES

7. Entries must either be neatly mounted with a **MAXIMUM SIZE** of 9" x 11.5" or submitted in a folder.
    a. Folders may or may not be included in the displays.
8. Entries may **NOT** be marked with grades or comments by teachers.
9. **SUBMISSIONS BY TEACHERS:** Entries submitted by teachers on behalf of their student(s) or class of students should also include the teacher's name and the name of the school on the back of entries.
    a. *A Group Entry Form* is to be completed by the teacher (in place of individual Entry Forms per student). Please contact fairexhibits@marincounty.org for more information on *Group Entry.*

SALES

10. Indicate sale price or not for sale (N.F.S.) during Registration. The Fair will retain a 25% commission. Sales will be handled through the Fair Office. Artists will be paid by check approximately six weeks following the Fair. Please note: Sales Price may not be changed after Registration is submitted. Under $600 you will receive a check (minus the 25% commission). Over $600 total (across all sold art) you must register as a vendor with the County of Marin.

PUBLICITY

11. The Marin County Fair reserves the right to photograph any work in the exhibition for educational, catalog, website, or publicity purposes.

LIABILITY

12. The County of Marin, Marin County Fair, and/or its contractors will not be responsible for loss or damage which may occur from any cause. Any entries received damaged will not be juried.
13. Work held more than 5-days after Release Date is Fair property and may be sold/donated to offset storage costs.

SCORECARD

ORIGINALITY	**25%**
FORM	**25%**
STRUCTURE	**25%**
NEATNESS	**25%**
TOTAL:	**100%**

DIVISIONS 355 - 358 | CREATIVE WRITING

Entry Fee - FREE

DIVISION 355 | AGES 5 - 8
DIVISION 356 | AGES 9 - 12
DIVISION 357 | AGES 13 - 15
DIVISION 358 | AGES 16 - 18

CLASSES (Submission Categories)

1. Creative piece in the voice of an object that has played a role in America's history, any genre (1500-word limit)
2. Illustrated children's story starring a star (1000-word limit)
3. Flash fiction that could only take place in America (1500-word limit)
4. Personal essay about what America means to you (1500-word limit)
5. Memoir of America as a country or as a place (1500-word limit)
6. Poem about a moment in American history
7. Ode to stars or ode to stripes
8. Haiku, tanka, or haibun on any subject
9. Wild Card—any genre, any subject (1500-word limit)

AWARDS | DANISH SYSTEM | CREATIVE WRITING

Offered per Class at the discretion of the Judges

FIRST PLACE	**RIBBON**
SECOND PLACE	**RIBBON**
THIRD PLACE	**RIBBON**
HONORABLE MENTION	**RIBBON**

SPECIAL AWARDS

BEST OF DIVISION	**ROSETTE**
BEST OF SHOW	**$10 & ROSETTE**