**2022-23 SWEETWATER COUNTY**

**YOUNG AUTHORS GUIDELINES**

* Entries will be accepted from grades Kindergarten through 12th grade in the categories of **fiction, nonfiction,  poetry, and graphic novels.**
  + Kindergarten entries may be recorded dictation, developmental spelling with standard overlays done by an adult, or just developmental spelling where the intent of the word is quite clear.

* A book of fiction or nonfiction may not exceed 4,000 words.
  + For entries that are over 3,000 words, indicate a word count on the entry form.
  + Carefully decide whether a book is fiction or nonfiction.
  + Include vacation or other true stories or narratives in the nonfiction category rather than the fiction category.

* A book of poetry may consist of one long epic poem (book length, usually) or a collection of poems.
  + A collection of poems must have exactly and only five (5) poems along with a table of contents.
  + There is an exception in the Kindergarten Poetry category in that only three (3) poems are required rather than five. There must still be a table of contents, however.
  + Please do not entitle a collection of poems with a generic title such as My Book of Poems, My Poem Book, My Poetry Book, etc. It is difficult to determine which book is which during judging unless the collection has a unique name (e.g., Serendipity, Autumn Poems, Teddy Bear Poetry, etc.)
  + Do not include the author’s name in his/her collection of poetry, if possible.

* **Illustrations are part of the judging**. They must add to the story or book of poems.
  + Photos, clip-art, or computer graphics could be used, but must correlate with the theme of the writing.
  + Fonts should be readable.
  + Photos from the internet must be cited at the end of the book in a bibliography or on a Works Cited page.

* Each book may have only one author.
  + A book may, however, have a separate illustrator.
  + In this case, if the book is chosen as a district winner, only the author receives the award.
  + Students may enter in more than one category, but should only enter one entry per catergory.
  + Please do not put the author’s name anywhere on the book.

* We are transitioning toward a digital submission process. **We encourage authors to submit digitally.** However, we are still accepting submissions of physical books. Guidelines for digital submissions and physical submissions are outlined below.

* Guidelines for Digital Submissions:
  + Books may be an original digital document, saved as a .pdf.
  + Books may also be a scanned version of a physical copy, saved as a .pdf.
  + Submissions must use this format for file name: grade\_category\_title
    - examples:

2\_poetry\_Puppies,\_Popsicles,\_and\_Playgrounds

or

10\_non-fiction\_Impact\_Of\_Social\_Media

* Each author must use the current Young Authors Entry Form that includes a mandatory [**Verification of Authenticity**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/144iPEA4i9k4d11wdAPeqBluv2B2ZYCZje_J9Sn6oZH0/copy).  A digital copy of the submission form and the **Media Release Form** must accompany the submission.
* Because submissions must be anonymous for judging, the author’s name must not appear on the cover or title page nor in the file name–only in the accompanying entry form, please.