

The 48th Annual Holiday Writing Contest

Calling all young writers and artists! Samuels Public Library invites students in grades K–12 to enter our Holiday Writing Contest. Share your creativity by submitting a short story or poem about the winter holiday season—add simple illustrations to make your entry shine! Plus, you can submit a festive drawing for a chance to be featured as the cover art of our Holiday Writing Contest Book.

Contest Rules:

1. Only one written entry per child.
2. Each entry must be solely the work of the student and must have a winter or winter holiday theme.
3. The author's name should not appear anywhere on the work itself. The entry form must accompany each entry and
should be stapled to the front of the work. Any entry submitted without the entry form attached will be disqualified.
4. Each entry must be neatly written or typed. Kindergartners may “dictate a few sentences” to an adult.
5. **Each entry should not exceed 500 words.**
6. All entries must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2026**
7. All entries are the property of Samuels Public Library and will not be returned.
8. Special needs participants simply enter the grade level that best matches their reading and writing ability.

Chronological age is not counted.

9. Art submissions must be drawings or paintings, no bigger than 8x11. **AI and submissions with glued items will be disqualified.**

A panel of community judges will carefully review all entries and select our winners. First place in each grade will receive a gift certificate to a local bookstore, while second and third place winners will earn special certificates. Plus, all winners will be featured in a keepsake booklet showcasing their amazing work! Winners will be contacted —good luck to everyone!

Samuels Public Library
48th Annual Holiday Writing Contest Entry Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

SCHOOL _____

GRADE LEVEL _____ Special Needs _____

TITLE OF ENTRY

NOTE: This completed form **must** accompany each entry and should be stapled to the front of the work. The author's name **should not** appear anywhere on the work itself. **The deadline for entries is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2026**

Please contact Michal Ashby at Samuels Library at (540) 635-3153 if you have any questions.