DragonComet Short Story Contest Rules

The contest is divided into the following divisions:
1. Adult Writers (Ages 18+)
2. School Age Writers (9th - 12th grade at contest deadline)
3. Young School Age Writers (5th - 8th grade at contest deadline)

Entry Guidelines:
- By entering the contest, the author agrees to abide by all contest rules.
- There is no entrance fee.
- Only one entry is allowed per person. Only one division can be entered per term. No simultaneous or previously published entries will be accepted.
- Stories must be science fiction or fantasy in nature and no more than 10,000 words.
- All entries must be in English. All communication will be done in English.
- All entries must be the author's original work. No fan-fiction is permitted. Any plagiarism will result in the immediate disqualification of the entry.
- No graphic sex, language, violence, or profanity (as determined by the judges) will be allowed.
- No entries generated by AI or assisted by AI will be accepted.
- Team members of Sibyl's Scriptorium and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate.
- All entries must be submitted electronically by the term deadline.

Contest Terms and Deadlines Information:
- The contest year is divided into two terms: the Fantasy Term and the Science Fiction Term.
- Each term will have up to three winners for each division.
- Winners are not eligible to enter another term during the contest year.
- Fantasy Term Details:
    - The Fantasy Term is open March 1 – April 15
    - All stories submitted in this term must belong in the fantasy genre or subgenres.
- Science Fiction Term Details:
    - The Science Fiction term is open April 16 – May 31
    - All stories submitted in this term must belong in the science fiction genre or subgenres.
- For entries which are both Science Fiction and Fantasy, pick the term which fits the work best.

Submission Preparation Guidelines:
- All manuscripts must be in Microsoft Word format.
- Entries need to be double-spaced with one-inch margins. The text needs to be in a 12-point monospaced font, such as Courier New. For more specifics please see the example entry provided.
- The author's name and all identifying information must not appear anywhere on the story.
- Each page of the manuscript must include a header with the story's title, a page number, and contest division information.
- The file name must be the title of the story.

Judging Information:
- All judging will be done blindly to avoid any bias of the judges.
- All judging decisions are final.
- Finalists will be announced after each term's judging is completed.

Thank you for your interest in the DragonComet Short Story Contest. Please pass word of the contest on to anyone you feel may be interested.

Please email contests@sibscript.org for any questions or information.