2027 Quad Cities Summer Games

Literary Arts — Rules and Guidelines

Updated November 5, 2026

Eligibility

Participants must be at least 40 years of age by June 1, 2027. Entries must be the original work of the participant and must not have previously won a gold, silver, or bronze medal in Summer Games competition.

Participants may enter no more than one manuscript in each of the following four categories.

Competition Categories

1. Prose Fiction
2. Prose Nonfiction
3. Free Verse Poetry
4. Rhyming Poetry

Entries may address any subject. Judges reserve the right to reject entries containing inappropriate or offensive material or to reassign entries to a more appropriate category.

Submission Requirements

Entries may be submitted by email, U.S. Mail, or hand delivery to the Midwest Writing Center at the Rock Island Library.

Email: mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org

Mailing and Hand-Delivery Address:

Midwest Writing Center
c/o Rock Island Library
401 19th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

Submission period: April 1–May 12, 2027.

All entries, regardless of submission method, must be received no later than May 12, 2027. Hand-delivered entries are accepted beginning April 1 during regular Rock Island Library hours. Emailed entries will be confirmed by direct email reply; mailed and hand-delivered entries will be confirmed by telephone using the phone number provided on the entry.

Manuscripts must meet the following requirements:

- A maximum of 1,000 words, excluding the title page.
- Written in English.
- Standard 8½ × 11-inch page format, double-spaced, with standard margins and numbered pages.
- A title page identifying the title of the work, competition category, author's name, mailing address, telephone number, email address (if available), and date of birth.
- A single photograph or illustration created by the author may be included on the title page.

Manuscripts entered in previous Summer Games competitions may be entered again, provided they have not previously won a gold, silver, or bronze medal.

Participants are encouraged to retain copies of their manuscripts. Submitted manuscripts will not be returned.

Judging and Awards

Manuscripts will be evaluated by members or appointees of the Midwest Writing Center based on creativity, style, and overall impact.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded in each of the four categories. This is not an age-group competition; all eligible participants compete together within their respective categories.

Winners will be announced at the Quad Cities Summer Games Opening Ceremonies on June 1, 2027.

Public Reading and Author Reception

Manuscripts will be available for public reading at Opening Ceremonies on June 1, 2027, and at the Rock Island Library through June 30, 2027.

An author reading and reception will also be held at the Rock Island Library between June 5 and June 28, 2027. The specific date and time will be announced at Opening Ceremonies.