**Citrus Writers of Florida** - **APPLICATION**

**Writing Scholarship and Publishing Opportunity**

***—Characters of the Nature Coast—***

**DUE DATE**: April 1, 2026 **AWARD**:1st Pl: $1,000, 2nd & 3rd PL: $500

**Who**: Graduating seniors in Citrus County seeking higher educational opportunities are eligible for these scholarships.

**What**: Citrus Writers of Florida, a not-for-profit unincorporated association established by local professional and amateur writers, poets, and essayists, is sponsoring a writing competition. **This opportunity carries a first-place scholarship prize of $1,000, as well as a second- and third-place scholarship of $500**. The three winning entries will be included in our Anthology, Volume VI – *Characters of the Nature Coast*, to be released in the fall of 2026.

**When**: The submission deadline is Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Please see the Anthology’s Guidelines attached to this application for further details.

**Why**: The principle behind the formation of Citrus Writers of Florida is “writers helping writers.” This scholarship was created for young writers to encourage their creativity together with the opportunity of being published.

**How**: Send us your best work. Stay within the guidelines, incorporate the anthology’s theme of “Characters,” (however you wish to define the word), and locate your work within Florida’s Nature Coast. We will accept unpublished fiction, non-fiction, flash fiction, poems, plays, and essays, and we look forward to reading what you create within these parameters. Word length is 1–3,000 words, with no GPA requirement. Send all submissions to CitrusWriters@gmail.com.

*Now, tell us a little about yourself:*

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**: I have read and understood the attached Anthology Guidelines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **INFORMATION** |
| NAME |  |
| EMAIL |  |
| GRADUATION YEAR |  |
| SCHOOL |  |
| TITLE OF SUBMISSION |  |

Please submit this form with your entry. Thank you.

Contact CitrusWriters@gmail.com for additional information.

**Citrus Writers of Florida**

**2026 Anthology Guidelines**

**for Members and Scholarship Participants**

***Volume VI – Characters of Florida’s Nature Coast***

Citrus Writers of Florida is once again excited to offer its members the opportunity to have their writing published in our sixth annual anthology. If you write Flash Fiction, Short Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Essays, Poetry, or Plays located in or around the Nature Coast, we would be delighted to consider your work for publication in Volume VI — *Characters of the Nature Coast.*

Volume IV, *Spirits of Florida’s Nature Coast* (2024), currently on sale, has been very successful, and we are anticipating the release of Volume V, *Treasures of Florida’s Nature Coast,* on November 1st.

**It is also our pleasure to announce a Writing Competition** for college-bound high school seniors in Citrus County. Three winners will be chosen, with the top entry receiving a $1,000 Scholarship, the second- and third-place entries will each receive a $500 scholarship. All winning entries will be published in Volume VI in the fall of 2026.

**Submission Guidelines**

* Formatting is as follows: **Spacing**: 2.0 (double spacing); **Font**: Times New Roman, 12 Pt.; **Margins**:1.0, top, bottom, and sides; **Scene breaks**: Three asterisks (\*\*\*), centered; and. no page numbers or chapter headings.
* No PDFs will be accepted. Word documents only.
* Multiple submissions are acceptable and encouraged but must be submitted separately to CitrusWriters@gmail.com no later than the submission deadline(s) noted below.
* **All work must be located within Florida’s Nature Coast (Citrus, Dixie, Hernando, Jefferson, Levy, Pasco, Taylor, and Wakulla counties). All work must adhere to the “Character or Characters” theme in any way the author wishes to interpret or define the word.**
* All entries submitted must be the original work of the person submitting them.
* Entries must be complete, properly edited, and formatted as noted above.
* Entries must be submitted on or before the specified deadline.
* Any AI-generated content will automatically disqualify your submission.
* The number of submissions is limited to two entries per prose category, e.g., fiction, nonfiction, play, essay, etc., and three maximum entries for poetry.
* The maximum word count is 3,000 words per entry. There is no minimum word count.
* All authors are asked to include a short biography—three or four lines written in the third person—at the end of their submission.

**Rules**

* By participating, the author grants Citrus Writers of Florida the right to publish their work in print and/or as an eBook without remuneration. (Authors retain all copyrights but agree to allow Citrus Writers of Florida the free use of the material.)
* By participating, the author grants Citrus Writers of Florida the exclusive right to publish entries for six (6) months. Any work previously performed (such as plays) or posted (prose or poetry) on other sites, including the author’s website is ineligible. After the six-month exclusivity period, the author can publish the entry elsewhere.
* All authors agree to participate in the sale and marketing of the anthology and are encouraged to participate as a contributor in at least one group author or book fair event.
* The Citrus Writers of Florida Anthology Review Committee reserves the right to change the rules, cancel the anthology, or decline to publish any story without explanation.
* The Committee is not responsible for late submissions because of hardware or software problems or human error.
* The Citrus Writers of Florida Anthology Review Committee reserves the right to edit or correct typographical errors and formatting, as well as the option to return submitted work to the author for revision.
* The Citrus Writers of Florida Anthology Review Committee has the right to cancel the publication of the anthology if it deems the number of submissions insufficient. If the anthology is canceled for any reason, all entries will be returned to the authors.

**High School Senior Deadline:**  **April 1, 2026 (early submissions will be accepted)**

***Scholarship winners will be submitted to the Citrus County School Board on May 1st.***

**Member Submission Deadline:** **July 15, 2026 (early submissions will be accepted)**

**Publishing start date:**  **October 1, 2026**

**Anticipated release date:**  **October 15, 2026**

**Send all submissions to:**  **CitrusWriters@gmail.com**

Please contact CitrusWriters@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding submissions for Volume VI – *Characters of Florida’s Nature Coast.* Thank you.