

ConStellation 15's Bryce Pfeiffer Memorial Writers Contest

ConStellation, Lincoln, Nebraska's annual science fiction and fantasy convention, is holding a writers contest in conjunction with our 2026 convention, Constellation 15 (constellationne.net/constellation2025) to be held March 7-9, 2026.

Who May Enter: Writers of all ages and experience levels

Genres: All types of science fiction and fantasy

Types of Submissions: Short stories up to 5,000 words and poems of any length

How to Enter

There is no entry fee; preregistration for ConStellation 15 does not affect entrants' chances of winning.

One submission (one story and/or one-to-three poems) per entrant.

Submission format:

Include as a separate file attached to your email.

Microsoft Word (*preferred* — .doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf).

Double spaced in a common font; [Shunn manuscript format](#) is welcome.

Cover letter format:

Include a cover letter as a separate file or in the body of your email.

Include in your cover letter your:

- Name
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Phone number
- Title of story or poem(s)
- Age division: Adult (writers age 18 and older), Teen (writers age 13 to 17), or Youth (writers age 12 and under) as of March 7, 2026
- Experience division: Novice or Professional ([as defined by SFWA](#))

Send your submission and your cover letter to Roxanne Rector at writerscontest@constellationne.net.

Submission Deadline: Submit your entry no later than Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Questions?

Email Roxanne Rector at writerscontest@constellationne.net.

Judging and Winning

All winners will receive:

- A weekend membership to Constellation 15 (or an equivalent prize if already registered)
- A weekend membership for a chaperone (winners age 12 and under)
- A \$25 bookstore gift card
- Publication of their work on our website and/or the ConStellation 15 program book
- Recognition during ConStellation 15 opening ceremonies

The number of submissions will determine the number of award divisions and winners.

For each submission, personal information about the author (other than age and experience divisions) will be withheld from judges to assure blind judging.

By submitting, the author agrees to allow ConStellation to publish their name, their age/experience divisions, and their entry on our website and in print (our conference program).

Beyond ConStellation's right to first publish submitted entries, authors retain all others rights to submitted works.

Fine Print

PLEASE READ. Failure to abide by these rules may result in disqualification.

Submissions must not have been published elsewhere (including anywhere online).

Submissions must be completely original to the author.

Submissions may not be set in anyone else's intellectual property (i.e., no fan fiction).

Keeping our broad audience in mind, submissions must not have language or themes that exceed the equivalent of a PG-13 movie rating.

About Bryce Pfeiffer

Bryce Pfeiffer was an integral part of ConStellation as well as a monthly science-fiction-and-fantasy book club in Lincoln. He loved reading and discussing great speculative fiction, and he supported his wife Karen Pfeiffer in coordinating and judging ConStellation's writers contest for years. We continue to honor Bryce's memory as our contest continues to inspire new writers to bring science fiction and fantasy to life on the page.

