

2020 Official Rules

Third Annual

Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®

ongwriting ontest

1. Only one (1) entry per participant.
1. Contest is open to amateur, semi- and professional songwriters.
2. Lyrics and melody must be the original creation of the entrant(s)
 - a. A stage plot will be required for any performances utilizing more than one musician and should be received by WWALS no later than Saturday, August 15, 2020, which is one week before the Contest.
3. A committee will select finalists from the entrants using criteria including:
 - a. The song must be about one or more of the Suwannee or its tributaries the Little, Black, or Gopher, the Withlacoochee or its tributaries the Little or New, the Alapaha or its tributaries the Alapahoochee, Willacoochee, Little Alapaha, or Dead, or other Rivers, creeks, springs, sinks, swamps, or ponds in the Suwannee River Basin or Estuary.
 - a. *Not* about the Santa Fe River or waterbodies in that sub-basin, because there's another contest for that.
 - b. Avoid proselytizing religion.
 - c. Avoid partisan politics or specific candidates, but issues are OK.
 - d. Avoid things that don't exist in the Basin (no crocodiles; no flamingos).
 - e. Explicit lyrics (vulgar or violent) will not be accepted.
4. Criteria the judges will use for selecting winners from the finalists include:
 - a. Integrity and value of the waters
 - b. Historical value
 - c. Originality of lyrics
 - d. Originality of music
 - e. Musical Consistency
 - f. Performance
 - g. Clarity of Message
 - h. Extra credit for naming the most rivers (springs, etc.). Even listing them counts; tying them together in a way that shows their value is better.

5. The following must be received by the deadline of ~~July 8, 2020~~ extended to ~~July 14, 2020~~ final deadline July 21, 2020, in order to be considered for the Contest:
 - a. Entry form
 - b. Lyrics sheet of composition submission
 - i. lyrics sheet must contain the song title, the lyrics, date of creation, and the composer(s) name, email, mailing address and phone number
 - c. WAV or MP3 file audio recording of composition, and
 - d. Affirmation of eligibility and release of recording rights and publicity
 - i. The affirmation will state that winner's song is original work and he/she holds all rights to song. Failure to sign and return such affirmation and release within 14 days or provision of false/inaccurate information therein will result in immediate disqualification and an alternate winner will be selected. Affirmation and release for entrants under 18 years of age at time of award must be countersigned by parent or legal guardian. Affirmation and release subject to verification by WWALS and its agents. Entry constitutes permission to use winner's names, likenesses, and voices for future advertising and publicity purposes without additional compensation.
6. Song may not be more than 4.5 minutes in length. Musical accompaniment is permitted.
7. WWALS reserves the right to extend the deadline of the competition if needed.
8. Prizes:
 - a. All qualified finalists will receive an annual WWALS membership and a video of their performance at the Contest on Youtube.
 - b. A cash prize of \$300 will be awarded to one First Prize Winner.
 - c. Two prizes by geography will be awarded to different finalists other than who wins First Prize:
 - i. \$50 for Local (submitter lives within the Suwannee River Basin)
 - ii. \$50 for Non-local (from without)
 - d. Separate prizes will be awarded one per music genre.
 - e. One or more prizes will be awarded to contestants younger than 18 years.
 - f. Prizes will be awarded jointly to all authors of any song; division of the prize is the responsibility of the winners.
 - g. The winners release sponsors from all liability regarding prizes won. Taxes are winners' responsibility.
9. WWALS will video-record each accepted entrant for Youtube. Signing the consent (application) is acknowledgment of this opportunity. WWALS wishes to publish ALL performances on Youtube. WWALS reserves the right to not upload any or all of the performances. If the artist chooses to not participate in Youtube offer for any reason after performance, they will have 24 hours to contact us via e-mail to decline the Youtube offer. If the entrant wants a copy of the performance, they may contact the production

company on their own. No other person may purchase a copy of the performance without express written consent of the entrant.

10. Entries will not be returned or deleted, but all rights, other than as specified above and in the release, remain with the songwriter(s).
11. Applicants will be advised by August 5, 2020, if they have been selected to compete.
12. Entrants agree to perform their song at the Songwriting Contest, which begins at 7PM on Saturday, August 22, 2020, at the Turner Center Art Park, 605 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia, 31601, just north of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.
 - a. Finalists must arrive at the venue by 5 PM for sound check.
 - b. Upon request, WWALS will pay mileage at the usual WWALS rate for finalists from 50 up to 125 miles from the venue.
13. To submit your entry by the deadline, go to wwals.net and submit online.
 - a. The entry form must be submitted online.
 - b. If the sound file submission form does not work for you (maybe you don't have a google account), or you just don't want to use it, you can instead email your sound file to song@suwanneeriverkeeper.org
 - c. If email doesn't work for you, either, you can mail your sound file on a USB stick or CD to:
WWALS, PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632
 - d. If you use paper mail for your sound file, it must be postmarked by the deadline.

For more information: email song@wwals.net or song@suwanneeriverkeeper.org or call 850-290-2350.
