

# 2021 Official Rules

## Fourth Annual

### Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®

### Songwriting Contest

<https://wwals.net/pictures/2021-08-21--songwriting/>

1. **Submissions open April 1, 2021.** Really, no fooling.
  - a. Only one (1) entry per act (band or individual).
  - b. Contest is open to amateur, semi- and professional songwriters.
  - c. Lyrics and melody must be the original creation of the entrant(s).
  - d. Song may not be more than 4.5 minutes in length.
  - e. Musical accompaniment is permitted.
2. **To submit your entry** by the deadline, go to [wwals.net](https://wwals.net) and submit online.
  - a. This is the entry form: <https://forms.gle/tWrqas7qPWdKgpqF6>
3. The following **must be received by the deadline of July 7, 2021, extended to July 14, extended to July 21, 2021**, in order to be considered for the Contest:
  - a. Entry form, including the song title, the lyrics, date of creation, and the composer(s) name, email, mailing address and phone number
  - b. WAV or MP3 file audio recording of composition
  - c. Affirmation of eligibility and release of recording rights and publicity
    - i. The affirmation will state that the winner's song is original work and he/she holds all rights to the 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.
  - d. WWALS reserves the right to extend the deadline of the competition if needed.
  - e. Entries will not be returned or deleted, but all rights, other than as specified above and in the release, remain with the songwriter(s).

4. **Once the submissions are received**, the WWALS Songwriting Contest Committee (Committee) will vet them for minimal criteria (see #5) and post them for public online voting.
5. **Once the online voting is completed**, the 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 or Estuary (no crocodiles; no flamingos).
  - e. Explicit lyrics (vulgar or violent) will not be accepted.
  - f. New for 2021: **submissions will be put on the web for public voting** before the final committee selection of finalists, taking into account the results of the voting.
  - g. Any judge who is also a member of the Committee shall not vote on selection of finalists, so as to avoid even any appearance of any conflict of interest.
6. **Applicants will be advised by August 4, 2021**, if they have been selected to compete as finalists.

7. 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 14, 2021**, which is one week before the Contest.
8. Finalists agree to perform their song at **the Songwriting Contest, which begins at 7PM on Saturday, August 21, 2021**, 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. The Committee reserves the right to change the precise start and end time of the Contest.
  - b. Finalists must arrive at the venue by two hours before the contest start time for sound check.**
  - c. Upon request, WWALS will pay mileage at the usual WWALS rate for finalists from 50 up to 125 miles from the venue.
9. **Criteria the judges will use for selecting winners** from the finalists include:
  - a. 5 pts. Integrity, historical value, and/or present value of the waters
  - b. 5 pts. Originality of lyrics
  - c. 5 pts. Originality of music
  - d. 5 pts. Performance
  - e. + Extra credit for:
    - i. 3 pts. Naming the most rivers (springs, etc.) in a way that shows their value (even just listing them counts).
    - ii. 3 pts. Storytelling: creating a narrative regarding the history and/or attributes of the Suwannee River Basin.

## 10. 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.
    - i. New in 2021: plus one day of studio recording time selected by the Committee!
  - 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.
11. **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.

For more information: email [song@wwals.net](mailto:song@wwals.net) or [song@suwanneeriverkeeper.org](mailto:song@suwanneeriverkeeper.org) or call 850-290-2350.

**About WWALS:** Founded in June 2012, **WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS)** advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities. John S. Quarterman is the **Suwannee Riverkeeper®**, which is a staff position and a project of WWALS as the member of Waterkeeper® Alliance for the Suwannee River Basin.

