

2009 AFMS BULLETIN CONTEST GUIDELINES
(2008 Bulletins, Articles, & Features)

***ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES,
ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES ADVANCED,
WRITTEN FEATURES, and DRAWN FEATURES***

1. Original articles submitted for AFMS competition **must be written expressly for the club bulletin from which they were entered.**
2. **Authors** whose original articles are submitted for AFMS competition **must be members of the club that submitted the entry in the regional competition.**
3. An **original article** for AFMS competition **should have been written for one bulletin and one region** to avoid duplication of AFMS Awards and Trophies. If some authors/editors who belong to more than one club/region were to send **different articles** to two or more club bulletins in one or more regions, it would not cause any duplication and would be acceptable in the AFMS competition.
4. Original **articles/features written for Regional Newsletters ARE NOT ELIGIBLE** for AFMS Club Bulletin Awards.
5. **The BEAC should have chosen the best article by each author to submit for competition.** If the Regional Federation allows multiple article entries per author, and one author has more than one article eligible for AFMS competition, the BEAC may make the decision on which article to submit to the AFMS judge. **BEACs may submit ONLY ONE original adult article per author in AFMS competition.**
6. If an **article has been published** in a magazine or company publication, used for a display case or show handout or class/seminar, etc. it is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for AFMS Original Article competition.
7. **Reports should not be entered in AFMS competition as original articles**, although they are a vital part of the bulletin. Field trip reviews and vacation travelogues are reports. If an author writes about geological features of the area, gives a good description of materials found, and/or uses research to enhance the educational value of the article, it **CAN** be submitted as an original article for competition. The BEAC should screen and reject entries that are reports. The judge will make the final determination of acceptance as an article or rejection as a report.
8. AFMS article competition is geared primarily for the single article written in one issue of the bulletin. If members write a **series of articles or Part I, Part II, etc.**, they should be written so that each month's segment could be entered individually, along with necessary bibliography. Each "part" of a series will be considered a separate article for AFMS competition. BEACs **may enter ONLY ONE part of a series in AFMS competition.**
9. **Articles that required research should have a bibliography. Illustrations** (drawings or photographs) **should list the sources**, and if they are copyrighted illustrations they would require permission granted to copy.
10. **Copyrights are ownerships and should not be violated.** Avoid verbatim copying! Avoid changing a few words then copying. Copying without permission from the original author is plagiarism, and is grounds for disqualification.
11. **Original Adult Articles** is the category for persons who are eighteen years of age or older and who:
 - Have not won a first place trophy in Adult Articles, OR
 - Have NOT earned a living in the earth science field, OR

- Have not had an article or book published.

Whenever the amateur Adult Article author accomplishes any one of the above three feats, he/she moves up to the Adult Articles Advanced category, just as in the exhibit competition.

Adult Article 1st place trophy winners may enter the Adult Articles Advanced category in the following year's competition. All future entries of an Adult Article 1st place trophy winner who writes more articles will be in the Advanced category.

12. **Original Adult Articles Advanced category** is for persons eighteen years of age or older who:

- Have won a 1st place trophy in Adult articles OR
- Have earned a living in the earth science field OR
- Have had an article or book published.

13. Experienced writers (**Adult Advanced**) are capable of writing quality articles. **If knowledge is not drawn from experience and/or observations, articles should be well researched and include a bibliography.**

14. All **original articles** published in the club bulletin and entered in the AFMS competition **are assumed written for the benefit of club members**. Therefore, the articles **should be written in a manner that can be easily understood by club members**.

15. **The 1st place trophy winner in AFMS Adult Articles Advanced category** is NOT eligible for competition in this category in AFMS for the following two years. However, he/she would be eligible to enter other categories, such as special publications or poetry.

16. **Written Features** will include items (other than poems) in sentence form which add spice to a club bulletin, but do not necessarily follow the form of an article. They must be original, and there is no length limitation. A possible entry would include a humorous anecdote, president's column, shop hints, play on mineral names, special club contest, or club history commentary (not just copied quotes from past newsletters; the author must introduce personal input/analysis).

17. **Drawn Features** will include original items that bring spice to a bulletin but do not follow a literary form. Included here are puzzles that are made up of a form or shape (not word puzzles), cartoons, crystal structures (drawn by author and incorporated in an original application). **The drawn feature should have some accompanying description/heading to add to the originality but the drawing predominates.**