

AFMS BULLETIN CONTEST SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

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

1. Adult Article AUTHORS:

- must be an adult, 18 years of age or older
- must be a member of the club that submitted the entry in the regional competition
- may have only one AFMS submission per club per category per region
- have NOT won a 1st place trophy in Adult Articles
- do NOT earn a living in the earth science field
- have NOT had an article or book professionally published
- can enter the Adult Articles Advanced category the year following a 1st place trophy win in AFMS

2. An ORIGINAL ADULT article:

- was written expressly for the club bulletin from which it was entered
- was written for one bulletin and one region
- must be hobby-related
- was NOT written by the current regional BEAC
- was NOT written for a regional newsletter
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar
- is NOT a report
- can be only one part (published in 1 bulletin issue) of a series of articles (i.e.: only Part 1 of a 4-part series)
- should list sources in a bibliography if research was required
- illustrations/photos should be credited, and if copyrighted must include permission to reprint
- should not be copied verbatim from a source (plagiarism!)

3. Original Adult Articles Advanced AUTHORS:

- must be an adult, 18 years of age or older
- must be a member of the club that submitted the entry in the regional competition
- may have only one AFMS submission per club per category per region
- has accomplished at least one of the following:
 - has won a 1st place trophy in AFMS Adult Articles OR
 - has earned a living in the earth science field OR
 - has had an article or book professionally published
- is NOT eligible to enter Adult Articles Advanced the following 2 years after winning a 1st place trophy in AFMS Adult Articles Advanced
- may enter any other categories as per rules for those categories

4. An Original Adult Article **ADVANCED**:

- was written expressly for the club bulletin from which it was entered
- was written for one bulletin and one region
- must be hobby-related
- was NOT written by the current regional BEAC
- was NOT written for a regional newsletter
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar
- is NOT a report
- can be only one part (published in 1 bulletin issue) of a series of articles (i.e.: only Part 1 of a 4-part series)
- illustrations should be credited, and if copyrighted must include permission to reprint
- should not be copied verbatim from a source (plagiarism!)
- should include references if research was done
- might not include references if the article was based on personal experience
- should be written in a manner easily understood by club members

5. Written Features **AUTHORS**:

- may be an adult or a junior
- must be a member of the club that submitted the entry in the regional competition
- may have only one AFMS submission per club per category per region

6. A Written Feature:

- is NOT a poem
- is hobby-related
- is an original contribution that does not follow an article format
- is generally shorter than 1 page in length
- may be any of the following:
 - humorous anecdote
 - president's column
 - shop hints
 - play on mineral names
 - special club contest
 - club history commentary (not just copied quotes from past newsletters)
 - member biography/accolade
 - website commentary
 - book review
 - field trip report/travelogue
 - review of a program
 - report of a presentation for a school/community
- shows originality, wit, and/or creativity in enlightening the reader
- was written expressly for the club bulletin from which it was entered
- was written for one bulletin and one region

- was NOT written by the current regional BEAC
- was NOT written for a regional newsletter
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar

7. Drawn Features ARTISTS/AUTHORS:

- may be an adult or a junior
- must be a member of the club that submitted the entry in the regional competition
- may have only one AFMS submission per club per category per region

8. A Drawn Feature:

- is hobby-related
- is an original creation of the artist/author
- is NOT computer-generated (i.e.: NOT computer graphics, ClickArt®, Clipart, Photoshop, etc.)
- is NOT a word search, word scramble, anagram, or crossword puzzle
- should have a heading/description, but the drawing predominates
- may be any of the following (but not limited to these):
 - puzzles made up of a form or shape
 - cartoons
 - crystal structures drawn by the author and incorporated in an original application
- was created expressly for the club bulletin from which it was entered
- was created for one bulletin and one region
- was NOT created by the current regional BEAC
- was NOT created for a regional newsletter
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar