

2005-2006 SCBWI-Michigan Mentorship Program Novel Author Competition Information

Eligibility. The competition is open to current SCBWI members residing in Michigan who have not had a children's book published as a writer or illustrator. Because the winner of the competition will participate in the SCBWI-MI Mentorship Program, entrants must currently live in Michigan and expect to be living in Michigan from September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006. SCBWI membership must be maintained throughout the mentorship program.

"Unpublished" is defined as "never having received monetary compensation for," "not self-published," and "not under contract" for a children's book. *Note: if a publisher offers you a contract on a manuscript after you have entered the competition, but before the mentorship recipient is announced on June 11, 2005, contact the program coordinator to withdraw.*

Prizes. The grand prize is a one-year mentorship with Sue Stauffacher. The mentorship program includes written critiques by the mentor on a bimonthly basis. The first runner-up will receive a full scholarship to the SCBWI-MI Fall Conference. Runners-up will receive certificates.

Submission rules and procedure. One entry per person. There is a \$15 fee to enter. Entry must be the first ten (10) pages of a novel manuscript, double-spaced, on one-sided pages.

Manuscript format. Manuscript must follow normal SCBWI submission standards (typed, double-spaced, etc.) Use 8.5" x 11" white paper with good quality black type, in 12 point font. Consult "From Keyboard to Printed Page" in the SCBWI Guide to Publications if necessary. Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are required. DO NOT put your name on any part of your manuscript. After the first page, include a header line with the manuscript title in the upper left corner and the page number in the upper right corner. Retain copies of your work. Manuscripts will not be returned.

Submission Format. Your entry form must be accompanied by the following:

- **Goal Statement** – One or two typed paragraphs (single or double-spaced on 8.5" x 11" white paper) explaining how a mentorship would benefit you. Include your writing goals and how the mentorship would assist you in reaching these goals. Put your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if available), and the title of the manuscript being submitted on this page.
- **Four (4) copies** of the first ten pages of your novel manuscript.
- **Synopsis** – Write a one-page (single-spaced) synopsis of your novel. Do NOT write your name on the synopsis. Make **four (4) copies** of your synopsis.
- Your entry packet should be as follows: entry form, goal statement, four copies of your manuscript and four copies of your synopsis. Paperclip the entry form and goal statement together. Paperclip a copy of your synopsis to each copy of your manuscript.

Anonymity. In order to ensure an unbiased selection process, it is essential that no identifying marks or signatures appear on your manuscript or synopsis. Failure to comply with submission procedures will result in disqualification.

Deadlines.

- To be considered for the mentorship program, the submission and \$15.00 entry fee must be received by the program coordinator, Melinda Krasner, at the address below no later than April 25, 2005.
- Send by regular or priority mail or other delivery service that does not require a signature.
- **The first 25 manuscripts to be submitted in the correct format will be considered for the competition.**

Mailing instructions. Send your completed entry form (a copy is fine, but your signature must be original) along with your submission (as outlined above), to:

SCBWI-MI Mentorship Program
c/o Melinda Krasner, 13036 Spencer Road, Milford, MI 48380

Direct questions about the program to Melinda Krasner, melkras@earthlink.net, 248-684-8633

Selection process. In selecting the five finalists and determining the winning entry, judges will consider appropriateness of style and language, including usage, for the intended audience and genre; interpretation and development of the theme or concept; development of plot and characters; and overall impression/originality. Judges will also make brief comments they feel will be helpful to the entrant in strengthening the manuscript. The judges will choose the top five finalists and forward the top two entrants to the mentor for final selection.

Winners will be announced at the Spring Conference on June 11. You do not need to sign up for the conference in order to enter/receive an award.

(cut here)

SCBWI-MICHIGAN 2005-2006 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ENTRY FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____, MI Zip: _____
Phone, including area code: daytime _____ evening _____
E-mail (if available): _____
Manuscript Title: _____

STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY. I certify that I am a current member of SCBWI, reside in Michigan, and intend to reside in Michigan from September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006. I also certify that I have not had a children's book published as a writer or illustrator. ("Unpublished" is defined as "never having received monetary compensation for," "not self-published," and "not under contract" for a children's book.) *I agree that if a publisher offers me a contract on a children's book manuscript after I have entered the competition, but before the mentorship recipient is announced on June 11, 2005 I will contact the program coordinator to withdraw.*

I certify that all my writing is of my own creation. I understand that it is my responsibility to meet all submission deadlines and criteria; that noncompliance with any deadline or submission criteria will result in my disqualification; and that refunds will not be given for entries that do not qualify. I understand that judging is a subjective process and that all decisions are final.

Signature Date

I have signed and dated the above Statement of Eligibility and included it with the following as my entry:
___ Complete submission: goal statement and four copies of my manuscript (no more than 10 double-spaced, one-sided pages).
___ Self-addressed stamped postcard or e-mail address to confirm that the submission has been received.
___ \$15.00 entry fee (make checks payable to SCBWI-MI).