

Lower Columbia County Anthology

Submission Guidelines

We want your stories, essays and poems!

This anthology has several purposes:

- Introduce the diverse group of local writers to readers in Columbia County
- Create a network of writers for the purpose of encouragement, education, and growth
- Give unpublished writers publishing experience

The theme for this anthology is: A Great Escape

Who Can Submit:

Only writers who meet **at least one** of the following requirements may submit to this anthology:

- have attended St. Helens Writer's Guild or Scappoose Library Writing Group meetings
- subscribe to either group's email list
- participate in either Facebook Group

If you don't meet those requirements, it's easy enough to join the Facebook Group or subscribe to their email list.

Specific Submission Parameters:

- Submissions of the following are being accepted:
 - original short story (not to exceed 7,500 words),
 - original personal essay or memoir piece (not to exceed 7,500 words),
 - original flash fiction (between 500 and 1,000 words) or
 - original poetry (limit five per author; poetry **does not** count toward the 7,500-word total)
- Writers may submit more than one original submission. However, the total word count for ALL their submissions may not exceed 7,500 words
- All fiction genres are welcome as long as the content is rated PG (no excessive profanity, no on-the-page sex or graphic violence). Editorial discretion on this is final.
- Submissions should not contain partisan political content. Editorial decision on this is final.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) cannot be used to generate text for any submission
- Connection to the stated theme must be obvious. Submissions that don't incorporate the theme will not be accepted. Editorial decision on this is final.

- Submit publication-ready, professionally edited work.
- All prose submissions will undergo professional copyediting. While author input on these changes will be considered, the decision to incorporate the edits rests with the project manager.

Submission Deadline:

Submissions will be accepted until **midnight PDT on August 15, 2026**

Specific Instructions for Submitting:

- Submissions should be in standard [manuscript format](#): **double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and submitted as a DOC or DOCX**
 - Name your file using this format: LAST NAME_STORY TITLE_FINAL
- Email the manuscript as an attachment with the subject line: SUBMISSION _ (TITLE OF YOUR STORY/POEM) to lowercolcoantho@gmail.com
- If you are sending multiple flash fiction and/or poetry pieces, send them in a single document.

Submissions will be published independently by the Columbia County Authors Alliance (CCAA) in March 2027. Exclusive first print and digital rights granted for one year, then non-exclusive rights thereafter for as long as the anthology remains in print.

Payment:

This is a “pay to participate” project.

Authors are expected to contribute up to \$30 to fund copyediting and proofreading, cover design, and project management fees, such as promotion materials for the release. Payment will be due before a submission is accepted on **August 15, 2026**.

Royalties **will NOT be paid** to contributors from the sale of this anthology. All proceeds will return to the CCAA to help fund the 2028 anthology.

Each author will be given a digital file of the completed collection and paperbacks will be available for purchase at the author price (plus shipping). Proceeds from sales of any individual author’s copies belong to said author.

Questions?

Direct any questions regarding these guidelines to the project manager, Sharon Hughson, at lowercolcoantho@gmail.com.