**AFMS BULLETIN CONTEST SPECIFIC GUIDELINES –** *Revised 7/30/2023 for contests beginning in 2024*

***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

-is **not** the current regional or AFMS BEAC (there is now a category specifically for BEACs)

-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

-after winning a 1st place trophy in AFMS, they must enter any **articles** they write in Adult Articles Advanced

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! – copyright violation!)

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

-is **not** the current regional or AFMS BEAC (there is now a category specifically for BEACs)

-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 or AFMS 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! - copyright violation!)

-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

-is **not** the current regional or AFMS BEAC (there is now a category specifically for BEACs)

-may have only one AFMS submission per club per category per region

-1st place AFMS **adult** winners are ineligible for this category for the following 2 years

\*Juniors may have 2 entries in each category – 1 from their local club & 1 from ***Crack the News***

-1st place AFMS **junior** winners are ineligible for this category for the following 1 year

**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 or AFMS 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

-is **not** the current regional or AFMS BEAC (there is now a category specifically for BEACs)

-may have only one AFMS submission per club per category per region

-1st place AFMS **adult** winners are ineligible for this category for the following 2 years

\*Juniors may have 2 entries in each category – 1 from their local club & 1 from ***Crack the News***

-1st place AFMS **junior** winners are ineligible for this category for the following 1 year

**8. A Drawn Feature:**

-is hobby-related

-is an original creation of the artist/author

-CAN be computer-generated (i.e.: 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 or AFMS 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