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

**ORIGINAL ARTICLES – JUNIORS (only)**

**WRITTEN FEATURES** *(for junior entries in this category)*

**DRAWN FEATURES** *(for junior entries in this category)*

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

1. Original Junior Articles **AUTHORS**:

-must be under 12 years of age for the youngest junior category when published

-must be 12-17 years of age for the older junior category when published  
-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

-1st place AFMS trophy winners may NOT enter the same category the following 1 year (juniors age out too quickly to sit out longer than 1 year)

2. Original Junior **Articles**:

-must be penned by the junior him/herself  
-was written expressly for the club bulletin from which it was entered **OR** was written expressly for the AFMS Juniors Newsletter, ***Crack the News***  
-if an article was published in both the local club bulletin and in ***Crack the News***, it must be entered from the publication with the earliest publication date  
-must be hobby-related  
-was NOT written for a regional newsletter (i.e.: CFMS, NFMS, RMFMS, etc.)  
-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  
-is NOT minutes of the meeting/program  
-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!)

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

3. Written Features **AUTHORS**:

**-may be an adult or a junior;** *currently, adults & juniors compete together in this category*

-must be a member of the club that submitted the entry in the regional competition

-was written expressly for the club bulletin from which it was entered **OR** was written expressly for the AFMS Juniors Newsletter, ***Crack the News***  
-if a written feature was published in both the local club bulletin and in ***Crack the News***, it must be entered from the publication with the earliest publication date

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

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

**4. 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 (i.e.: CFMS, NFMS, RMFMS, etc.)

-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

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

5. Drawn Features **ARTISTS/AUTHORS**:

**-may be an adult or a junior;** *currently, adults & juniors compete together in this category*

-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

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

**6. 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 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