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