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!)

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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