

SOS Contest 2014

Save Our Synopses!

The SOS Contest is sponsored by the board of the Central Florida Chapter of American Christian Fiction Writers.

Entrants are to submit a **one-page synopsis with correct formatting**. The entry can be of any genre. It must be the author's original work and written for the CBA market. The synopsis may be for a proposed novel, work-in-progress, or completed but unpublished manuscript.

Format

The one-page synopsis is to be in Times New Roman 12, single-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Center the title on the first line, double-space, and begin the synopsis (left justified/right ragged).

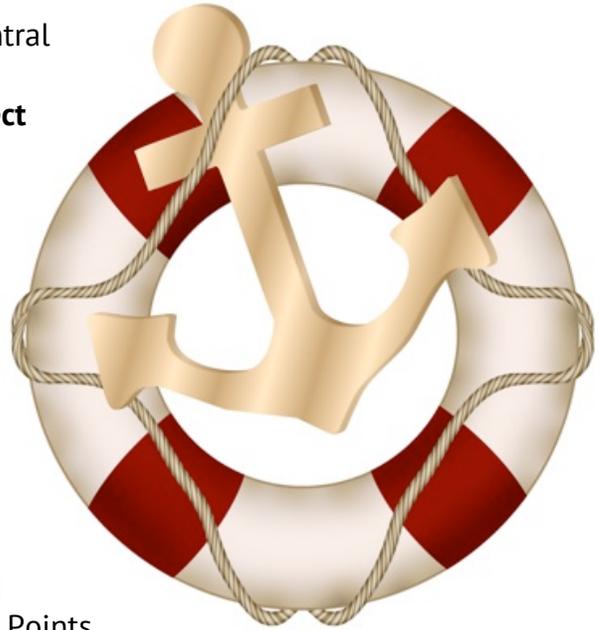
The contest coordinator will add a header to each entry with the entrant's assigned number. (We understand that this may cause the entry to be longer than one page. Points will not be deducted in this case.)

Prize

The writer of the winning synopsis will receive \$45 toward his or her American Christian Fiction Writers membership.

Rules

- Previous years' winners are ineligible.
- Entrants will write and submit a one-page synopsis that follows the formatting guidelines given above. Note that entries will be scored on formatting. Failure to follow formatting guidelines will result in a point deduction.
- Entrants may submit multiple entries; however, each entry must be submitted individually and a separate fee paid for each entry.
- The contest coordinator will assign each entry a number and remove the entrant's name (and any other identifying information) from the entry before forwarding the entry to the judges.
- Each entry will be judged by three first-round judges.
- First-round judging will be based on ten criteria to be scored as a whole number between one and five. The highest possible score is 50.
- The top three entries will be given to three final-round judges who will select the winning entry by ranking them 1, 2, and 3.



Entry fee

\$10 for members of the ACFW Central Florida Chapter

\$15 for nonmembers of the ACFW Central Florida Chapter

- The entry fee must be received before the entry can be placed in the judging process.
- The deadline for entry has been extended to midnight EDT, **July 31**, 2014.
- First-round judging will take place during August.
- The winner will be announced at the August meeting of the ACFW Central Florida Chapter.

Judging Criteria

Each item will be scored on a 1-5 scale, with five being the best. A perfect score is 50.

1. The synopsis is formatted according to contest guidelines.
2. Grammar, spelling, word usage, and punctuation are correct.
3. The first line or paragraph grabs attention.
4. The protagonist has a clear character arc.
5. The plotline is compelling, logical, and believable.
6. The setting and time period are either given or easily understood.
7. The conflict is sufficient for a full-length manuscript.
8. The synopsis concludes with a satisfying ending.
9. The author's writing and voice are confident and distinct.
10. After reading the synopsis, how interested are you in reading the manuscript? (Judges are advised to not allow reading/genre preferences to skew their scoring of this element but instead to consider how intrigued they are by the overall appeal of the synopsis.)

Entries may be submitted online beginning June 21:

<http://cfacfw.org/sos-contest-2014-save-synopses/>

If you have any questions, contact contest coordinator Fay Lamb at Faywrites@cfl.rr.com.