



Youthful Voices Storytelling Contest Guideline

Eligibility: Florida students in grades 1 through 12 who have not previously won the FSA Youthful Voices Storytelling Contest are eligible to participate.

Guidelines:

1. Entries must be a 5 - 7minute video of a selected story (folktale, fairytale in public domain) , uploaded to YouTube and linked
2. Please follow the FSA Youth Voices Rubric on this tab to receive insight into the judging process.
3. Entries must be received by **November 16,2026**
4. Fill out the entry form at <https://flstory.com/festival/youthful-voices/>
5. Upload the video to the entry form or supply a link to the video

Prior to the FSA Festival: The Youthful Voices committee will judge the recorded entries following the FSA YV Rubric and will select five (5) finalists. All participants and the sponsoring organization or individual adult sponsor will be notified of the outcome of the contest by **Dec. 1, 2026** via email and phone.

At the Festival: January : After a day of special workshops and activities, the six finalists will share their entry stories at the 2027 Florida Storytelling Festival, Mt. Dora, Florida, during the Youthful Voices Concert on the Main Stage, **Saturday, January 30, 2027 at 7:00 p.m.**

A parent or guardian (21+) must accompany each youth storyteller to the FSA Festival. The student will receive the Virginia Rivers Youthful Voices Scholarship, which includes Festival registration and one night's lodging at the Lakeview Inn for the youth and a parent or guardian.

Meals and transportation to the FSA Festival in Mt. Dora, Florida are NOT included. Other family members attending will need to purchase festival admission for \$20.00 for a family concert pass.

Please fill out entry form and provide URL link or upload video

<https://flstory.com/festival/youth-voices/>



2027 Youthful Voices Storytelling Contest

Entry Deadline: Nov. 16, 2026

Media Specialist, Teachers, Coaches and Parents: Record your finest young storytellers in grades 1 through 12 for the **Florida Storytelling Association's Youthful Voices Storytelling Contest, January 30, 2027!**

Six finalists will receive the Virginia Rivers Youthful Voices Scholarship to attend the Florida Storytelling Festival to be held in Mount Dora, FL, **January 28-31, 2027**. Scholarship recipients will be treated to an unforgettable weekend that includes:

- Festival registration for the youth teller and **one** adult chaperone
- One night accommodation at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday night.
- Participation in the Youthful Voices Concert on Saturday Evening, Jan. 30 at 7:00 p.m.
- Specialized workshops that will enhance storytelling skills
- Storytelling concerts by outstanding nationally recognized storytellers
- Individual coaching/mentoring with a master storyteller on two Zoom sessions
- Socialize with other youth tellers and storytellers

Please note: Meals and transportation to the Florida Storytelling Festival in Mount Dora, Florida are NOT included.

Florida Storytelling Festival only lasts a weekend, but the benefits last a lifetime! No matter what path our young storytellers take, their storytelling skills will provide a bright light to lead the way.

Please download the guidelines and rubric <https://flstory.com/festival/youthful-voices/>

Contact: Debra Weller- debteller136@gmail.com



Youthful Voices Submission Form

Complete this form, scan, Dropbox or email the form along with a video of the student performing the story by **Nov. 16, 2026** to debteller136@gmail.com

Student Information:

Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Adult Chaperone Information:

Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

About the Story:

Title _____

Source of Story and author _____

Length of Story _____

Is this a copyrighted story? _____ Do you have permission to tell the story? _____

Why did you choose this story? _____



Rubric for FSA's Annual Youthful Voices Storytelling Contest

	<i>5 points</i>	<i>3 points</i>	<i>1 point</i>
Preparation			
Choice of Appropriate Story	Story content and age level appropriate for teller and audience	Questionable story content or age level appropriateness for teller and/or audience	Story content or age level inappropriate for teller and/or audience
Knowledge of story	Not memorized word for word, but story flows in conversational tone	Some pauses, loss of place, memorized word for word	Frequent pauses, steps out of story, loses place, rambling, no story line
Comfort with story	Choose story they love and are able to share the enthusiasm, definite beginning, middle and end; builds suspense	Wants to share story, but not completely comfortable with it, awkward, stilted	Tells story with monotone voice, does not show enthusiasm or desire, as if someone else had chosen story
Presentation			
Physical Presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye contact • Absence of distracting mannerisms • Confidence • expression 	Relaxed: teller is enjoying himself/herself and "standing tall"	Occasional loss of eye contact, talking too fast Off and on connection with listener	Wooden style; flat presentation; frequent loss of eye contact No connection with the story or audience
Telling Style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearness of voice and appropriate volume • body language (facial expressions and appropriate gestures and movements) • connection with audience • continuity in language 	Draws audience into the story; charismatic; expressive; excited Gestures seem natural Listeners want to hear more	Nervous, but able to continue Listeners will not be lost in the story Gestures seem rehearsed	Discomfort apparent; shows fear; wants to stop Body stiff or lifeless Presentation robotic
Requirements			

Length of story- Must be 7 minutes or less	7 minutes or less, leaves audience wanting more	7 minutes or less; story seems to be stretched or too short	7 minutes or less; too short; any length would be too long
PRACTICE!	POLISH!	PAUSE!	PLAY!