**AFMS/RMFMS BULLETIN CONTEST SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**

***ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES,***

***ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES ADVANCED,***

***WRITTEN FEATURES, and DRAWN FEATURES***

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

-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

-must enter the Adult Articles Advanced category the year following a 1st place trophy win in AFMS

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!)

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

-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 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!)

-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

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

**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 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

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

**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 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

**9. (RMFMS ONLY) Photo Collage ARTISTS/AUTHORS:**

-may be an adult or a junior

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

-may have only **one** RMFMS submission per club per category

-note: currently, AFMS does not include this category

**10. (RMFMS ONLY) A Photo Collage:**

-visually depicts a club activity **OR** is used as support for a written feature

-photo(s) were taken by the artist/author

-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

-judging criteria include: originality, focus, sharpness, contrast, lighting, composition, & layout