



Mendocino Coast Writers Conference

July 26—28, 2012

Calling All High School Student Writers! Announcing the 2012 Mendocino Coast Writers Conference High School Scholarships

The Writers Conference will offer full-tuition scholarships to selected students currently in grades 9-12 at any high school or alternative high school program in Mendocino County. Home-schooled and independent study students are also eligible. Participants are invited to read their work in a public venue and possibly be published in the conference literary journal.

You will have the chance to meet other students and to work closely with leading authors, editors and agents in a variety of creative writing workshops, seminars and panels.

Deadline for Applications: May 1, 2012.

To apply, please fill out the separate Young Writers Application Form and send it, along with a 5-page writing sample, to:

MCWC, P.O. Box 2087, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

VERY IMPORTANT: FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR WRITING SAMPLES

As soon as he walked into the house, the tenseness left his body, like he'd stretched out on a comfy couch and had a whole day to kick back. Even vacant, the place had a coziness that made you want to snuggle up in it. (Unacceptable type faces for your writing sample)

As soon as he walked into the house, the tenseness left his body, like he'd stretched out on a comfy couch and had a whole day to kick back. Even vacant, the place had a coziness that made you want to snuggle up in it. (Times New Roman 12 pt double spaced)

Please follow these guidelines exactly. (Do NOT use decorative fonts like those in the top three lines of the sample above!) Your writing sample should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point, Times font, black ink, using 1" margins on white paper as in the bottom three lines of the sample above. You may submit more than one piece of writing if your pieces are short, for example, micro-fiction or poetry. 3-5 pages total. Poets and graphic novelists may disregard the double-spacing format requirement.

We will consider poetry, fiction, plays, graphic novels, nonfiction (journalism, essay, memoir), blogs, or multiple genres. If you're sending part of a novel, consider sending the opening, along with an outline of your book. Please mark outside of your envelope: "High School Writers Application." After you mail it, also send a copy of your manuscript via e-mail to **director@mcwc.org**. Put "High School Writers" in the subject line. Please use this e-mail for any questions about preparing your application, or ring and leave a message at (707) 937-9983.

Scholarship winners will be notified by May 15, 2012.

There is no cost to apply for the High School Writers' Scholarships.

Questions? Check out the website at www.mcwc.org



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High School Scholarship Application Form

Complete and return this form with your writing sample and short, personal statement to be considered for a High School Student Young Writers Scholarship.

Important: see the separate formatting instructions for your writing sample.

Mail to: Mendocino Coast Writers Conference
P.O. Box 2087
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Everything must be sent by regular post AND also send your writing sample by e-mail.

Deadline: May 1, 2012

For any questions: Maureen Eppstein, Director at director@mcwc.org, or leave a message at (707) 937-9983

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ High School: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ School Phone: _____

Are you currently (circle one) : Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Please provide the name of a teacher who might be contacted for a recommendation:

Name of Teacher: _____ Department or Title: _____

Teacher's Phone / email: _____

Please describe any accessibility needs you may have:

Indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for morning writing workshops:

Poetry ____ Short Fiction ____ Novel ____ Memoir ____ Emerging Fiction ____ Nonfiction ____

Attach a short personal statement of about 200 words concerning your interests in writing and in other areas of life. What do you hope to learn from the Conference?

Your signature below means that you approve and accept responsibility for the application of this student.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Parent or Guardian if under age 18

Selections will be made and you will be notified before May 15, 2012



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High School Writers—Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *Will I be the only young person at the conference?*

A. No! There are usually 6 - 10 high school and college aged writers who participate in the conference.

Q. *Are transportation and housing included?*

A. The conference tries to help with carpooling. Some housing options might be available if you don't have friends/family in the immediate College of the Redwoods area. In the past, some students have also stayed at a nearby motel within walking distance of campus. Meals during the conference are included for all conference attendees, except for Friday night, when writers choose from favorite cafes, restaurants, and shops in historic downtown Fort Bragg.

Q. *I'm not sure if my writing is good enough. I'm not an English major.*

A. All writers start somewhere. The purpose of the conference is to nurture new talent and offer new experiences for all attendees. If you do not apply, you are essentially rejecting yourself. So, polish your favorite writing and apply.

Q. *What if my grades aren't that great? Do you look at my transcript?*

A. The MCWC is not interested in your transcript or grades. The conference wants to inspire and instruct new writers. Your actual writing and dedication to the power of the written word are what matters.

Q. *Will I be penalized if English is not my native language?*

A. Not at all. If you write in another language, please supply an English translation. The Conference encourages voices from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Q. *The formatting instructions are confusing. I need help.*

A. Please e-mail your particular question to the director at director@mcwc.org. She may be able to offer suggestions. Don't wait until the last minute, though. In other words, if you wait until April 30, it is probably too late to receive an answer back.

Q. *Will it matter if my spelling and grammar are messed up?*

A. That depends. Have you made an effort to have someone like a teacher, friend, or parent proofread your work for obvious mistakes? Does your manuscript follow the formatting instructions? Everyone makes some errors. The writer's job is to correct everything to the best of your ability. In the real world, editors will help with the rest. Do your best!

Q. *My parent/guardian is worried that I won't have adequate supervision.*

A. Consider this a preview of college. You'll have most of your time accounted for while in workshops and seminars at the College of the Redwoods campus. You'll have choices about how to spend your free time. In the past, most participants hang out with the editors, authors, and other writers enjoying the bounty of snacks, coffee, tea, and exciting conversation. Feel free to contact the conference director with any particular concerns, and she will set your folks up with references from parents of past attendees.

Q. *Do I have to attend all the workshops?*

A. Yes. And no. This is a great chance to explore many different aspects of writing. If you are in a morning

intensive workshop, you should plan to attend and participate each day to get the most out of the workshop. You're free to decide which afternoon seminars you want to attend; maybe try something new like nonfiction if you mostly write poetry. Or hide in a quiet niche to fine-tune your work-in-progress.

Q. *Am I guaranteed to get my first choice of workshop leader?*

A. That depends on how early you apply and whether the director thinks it would be a good fit. Staff makes every effort to grant all participants their first choice. In past years, most writers have been glad about their workshop assignments, even if they aren't their first choice. Consider it a chance to experiment and explore. Each of the MCWC faculty is selected on the basis of top teaching ability—not just on reputation as a best-selling or prize-winning author.

Q. *Is there homework each day?*

A. No. There may be in-class exercises, depending on your workshop. There are no grades given and no credit issued. It's up to you how much you want to write, and how much you want to share with the group. Or, not.

Q. *I'm not sure I want to be a writer. I just love books. Can I still apply?*

A. Yes! Please do. High school and college are times to experiment. The MCWC brings together professionals from many aspects of the publishing world. You might discover a career path that you've never heard of before: editor, illustrator, book-packager, book reviewer, blogger, literary agent, copy editor, book designer, graphic novelist, sports writer, anthologist, journalist. Also: prize-winning novelist, spoken-word poet, journalist for Rolling Stone, memoirist, science writer, political analyst.

Q. *I can't get my application in by May 1. Will you take it late?*

A. No. Get used to it: in writing and in life, deadlines are a reality.

Q. *Why do I need to send my writing sample by e-mail and snail-mail?*

A. Electronic submission of your writing sample helps the publisher of MCWC's literary journal bring the journal to press on time. All prizewinners and scholarship recipients are invited to publish their work in the journal. The snail-mail application is what the Scholarship Committee needs to review before making awards. Plus, your parent/guardian's signature is required unless you are 18.

Q. *Can I apply with a friend?*

A. Of course! Each application will be considered individually. Even if your friend changes his/her mind, or isn't awarded a full scholarship this year, you'll meet students from other high schools and make a new network of writer friends at the conference.

Q. *When will I know for sure? I have an application in for science camp and my boss at work wants to set up the summer schedule.*

A. All high school writers will be notified by May 15; at that time, you'll receive a complete schedule of conference activities and other details.

Q. *How do I know what the choices are for workshops?*

A. Check out the website at **www.mcwc.org**. Different pages describe Faculty, Schedule, and so forth. The website is updated as new faculty and presenters confirm.