



Sci-Fest L.A. & Light Bringer Project Present

THE TOMORROW PRIZE

**for Short Science Fiction by Los Angeles County
High School Students Writing Competition**

ABOUT THE TOMORROW PRIZE

Sci-Fest L.A. and Light Bringer Project invite Los Angeles County high school students to submit their short science fiction stories to The Tomorrow Prize from September 15, 2020 through February 1, 2021. Selected finalists will be chosen and have their stories read in their honor by celebrity guests during a special performance. First, Second, and Third place winners will be chosen from the Finalists and all Finalists as well as the Honorable Mentions will receive certificates recognizing their work. The First place winner will also be published in L.A. Parent Magazine. The Tomorrow Prize partner, the Los Angeles Audubon will present The Green Feather Award, which highlights an environmentally focused sci-fi story.

Through The Tomorrow Prize we seek to nurture imagination, creativity, and excellence in writing amongst Los Angeles high school students. Science fiction writing provides a unique opportunity for students to develop the ideas and narratives that will shape the future of humanity -- from addressing pressing scientific, social, philosophical, and environmental issues to inspiring us to develop new technologies and explore outer space. We are excited to read original stories that are imaginative, thoughtful, well-told, and well-written.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST:

- Entrants must be currently enrolled in a Los Angeles County high school.
- Students may submit up to two (2) stories, each 1,500 words or less (excluding the title).
- Stories must be submitted via email as an attached Microsoft Word document and include a cover page in the email body with the following information: Applicant's name, email address, phone number, high school, title of the story, story word count, and whether they wish their story to be considered for The Green Feather Award.
- Students who wish to be considered for The Green Feather Award for best environmental themed story (see additional info below) must indicate this in their cover email. Stories submitted for The Green Feather Award will be considered for the other prizes if they are not a Green Feather Award winner.
- Stories must not have previous publication online or in print.
- Stories must be original work. Stories that feature characters, settings, or other defining features of any existing media properties (books, film, TV, etc.), including fan fiction, will not be considered.
- Stories should be submitted to TheTomorrowPrize@gmail.com and received by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021.

PRIZES

- First place: \$250.00 & *L.A. Parent Magazine* publication online (in full) and in print (excerpt).
- Second place: \$150.00
- Third place: \$100.00
- The Green Feather Award presented by Los Angeles Audubon: \$250.00 & online publication (see below)

Certificates will also be awarded to the Finalists and Honorable Mentions. Prizes and certificates will be presented at The Tomorrow Prize Reading & Awards in spring 2021.

ABOUT “THE GREEN FEATHER AWARD” PRESENTED BY LOS ANGELES AUDUBON

This award recognizes an outstanding science fiction short story by a teen author [or team of authors] that centers on overcoming today's environmental challenges. Strong entries will highlight the importance of ecology and biodiversity in some way, and we would be particularly excited to see the local ecology, geography, culture, and environmental concerns of Southern California emphasized. We recognize that issues of social and environmental justice strongly overlap with those concerning wildlife conservation, sea level rise, water conservation, climate change, and energy. Keeping that in mind, a story about a single neighborhood or school overcoming an environmental challenge would be equally as valid as a story that tackles a much broader scale.

The winner will receive a \$250 cash prize, online publication by Los Angeles Audubon Society, and a one year Los Angeles Audubon membership.

**Stories not chosen for The Green Feather Award will be considered for the other prizes.*

Tips for a Solid Tomorrow Prize Submission

- Focus on telling an engaging story with strong characters, imagery, mood, tone, themes, etc.
- While we appreciate a strong plot, this isn't always necessary. Don't be afraid to experiment with your writing style.
- Know the difference between science fiction and fantasy - don't submit a story about magic. However, we do accept a broad range of science fiction genre types, including science fiction with fantastical elements. Feel free to contact the competition organizer with questions.
- Read the competition description carefully. Think about what interesting themes you can weave into your narrative.
- Polish your work - make sure to edit your story, correct errors, and improve your telling.
- Don't be afraid to ask for someone (teacher, friend, or someone you trust) to proofread your story - a second set of eyes can help catch things you may have missed.
- HAVE FUN! Don't over worry. Above all, have fun with your story writing. Write about what interests you!

Tips for A Strong Green Feather Award Submission

- Engage environmental issues (including both conservation and justice issues) as a lens for our future.
- Consider exploring how life (especially wildlife, birds, plants) in Southern California might be different in a future time.
- We are specifically looking for positive outcomes - stories that show overcoming our environmental challenges instead of doomsday scenarios.
- Tell us what a better future environmental world might look like - climate change, energy use, species extinction/proliferation, and greener/more just urban lives and landscapes.
- Make sure your work reflects great storytelling: strong characters; an engaging, interesting, original, and a clear plot.
- While you can experiment with writing style, your story should be clearly science fiction with strong writing that's edited and polished before submission.