

## 2026 LAD Fair Rules & Information

LAD membership is open to anyone who encourages and supports young writers.

### RULES

1. LAD member submitting entries must be a *current* member of LAD. **To join LAD, visit the LAD website ([www.ladfair.com](http://www.ladfair.com)) to complete the most current membership form and pay membership dues.**  
LAD Dues Deadlines:  
Purchase Order & Invoice: March 2, 2026.  
Membership Dues: March 20, 2026, \$25  
Dues paid on Sort Day, March 27, \$30.
2. LAD member may submit a maximum total of four entries per category, *regardless of the number of grade levels taught*. If a LAD member exceeds the allowed number of entries in a category, the entries will be pulled and disqualified.
3. Complete a **2026** entry form for each entry.
  - Entries **must** have the **current** year's entry form.
  - Be sure to use the current category numbers as some have changed this year.**
  - LAD member listed on entry form will be the person listed on all winners' lists and any LAD-associated lists.
  - Students must sign the form attesting to the originality of their work.
  - Only one LAD member's name is to be listed on entry form. Please see Rule 2.
  - LAD member may sign for entries submitted by groups.
  - No information identifying student or LAD member should appear on individual entries. (Names may be covered or masked.)
  - PLEASE:** Cut off lower left-hand corner of the form so it will not be caught in the staple. Fold under the bottom half of entry form on the dotted line. Attach form with one staple (no paper clips!) to the **FRONT** of the entry at the **TOP** left-hand corner.
  - Hint:** Fill an entry form with LAD member name, school, etc. to use as a master copy. Make copies of master entry form to use for student entries.
4. Each LAD member's entries must include a Category Tally Sheet showing the total number of entries in the appropriate categories. **Be sure to use the current category sheet and numbers as some have changed this year.** *Each person should submit his/her own Tally Sheet* (do **not** put multiple LAD members on one sheet).  
**Hint:** Make a copy of Category Tally Sheet and use when picking up entries on LAD Fair Day.
5. Written entries must be original works produced by the student.  
**NEW:** LAD Fair entrants are allowed to use the internet responsibly for research, inspiration, and reference. However, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to generate or complete written or artistic work is not permitted. All submissions must be the original work of the student. LAD values creativity, independent thinking, and honest effort. Plagiarism, AI-generated content, or any form of misrepresentation will result in disqualification.
6. **IMPORTANT DEADLINE INFORMATION:** ALL mailed writing and art entries must be postmarked by March 20, 2026.  
Mail entries to Casey Daugherty  
LAD Entries  
Republic High School  
4370 Repmo Drive, Republic, MO 65738.

Any LAD member who is going to deliver entries in person must bring them on Friday, March 27, 2026 to Republic High School by 4:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Doors will be locked at 4:30 p.m. LAD member who delivers entries in person should stay to sort entries.

REMINDER: To submit writing and art entries member must be a current LAD member. See LAD website for membership link.

7. **ALL Art entries (categories 74-80) must be delivered on Sort Day, March 27, 2026. LAD member must set up her/his own entries for judging and must pick them up by the end of Judging Day, March 28, 2026.**

**REMINDER:** Each art entry **must** have a card attached explaining relationship of art to literature.

8. An entry without a category designation, a category number, a grade level designation, or not meeting requirements outlined in these rules or on the category tally sheet will be pulled and disqualified. An entry submitted in the wrong category will not be judged.
9. **All entries must be titled.** Untitled entries will **not** be judged.
10. Writing entries (including books) should be on paper no larger than 8½ x 11. Only poster poems may be submitted on larger (maximum 14 x 22) paper. Elementary entries, which often include artwork, must be able to be folded into a size no larger than 8½ x 11.
11. Typed prose entries must be double-spaced, 12-point font.
12. If a prose piece is 20 pages or longer, excluding anthology categories, the student should indicate a 10-page excerpt for the judge's initial reading. If no excerpt is indicated, judge will read the first 10 pages of entry.
13. It is vigorously encouraged that any LAD member submitting 25 or more entries volunteer for at least one LAD event (Sort Day, Judging Day, Setup Day, or Fair Day). Member submitting 50 or more entries should volunteer for at least two LAD events (Sort Day, Judging Day, Setup Day, LAD Fair Day). Thank you for volunteering. It takes many people to make the fair a success.
14. **The official LAD rules and entry forms** are available online at [www.ladfair.com](http://www.ladfair.com). The website also has other useful information such as LAD meeting location information and winners' lists. **Please check website regularly for updates. You can also check LAD's Facebook page for updates. Click here:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Language-Arts-Department-of-Southwest-Missouri-LAD-153336568038179>

## INFORMATION

1. Competition levels are grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12.
2. **LAD Sponsored Scholarships:** LAD awards 3 scholarships to the first-place winners in grades 11/12 anthologies. **Categories 29, 33 & 37 are open to all grade levels, but scholarships are given only at the 11/12 grade level.**
  - Joan Collins Scholarship (Category 29) Original Poetry Anthology by an Individual.
  - George Gleason Scholarship (Category 33) Original Prose Anthology by an Individual.
  - Kathy McQueen Scholarship (Category 37) Original Prose & Poetry Anthology by an Individual.

3. **More Scholarship Opportunities:** Organizations work closely with LAD to award scholarships. These scholarships have their own application forms and submission rules. Please see the forms and application rules, available on the LAD website, for each separate scholarship.
- Nick Harkins Memorial Scholarship
  - Inspired by Nature Scholarship
  - Spirit of Service Award
  - Marine Corps Honor, Courage, Commitment Scholarship
  - Marine Corps Veteran Dependent Scholarship
- Please see website for any additional scholarships.
4. **Please** become an active member of LAD. LAD needs your input and your help!  
LAD has three meetings a year: Fall: October, first Thursday, evening  
Winter: January, fourth Thursday, evening  
Summer: June, second Saturday, day  
Exact time and place will be announced on the LAD website, [www.ladfair.com](http://www.ladfair.com).  
**Everyone is welcome!**
5. LAD member may pick up certificates on the day of the fair at the information table. Member should indicate on the Category Tally Sheet the number of certificates needed. LAD member unable to pick up certificates should have another LAD member pick them up.
6. LAD member may pick up *writing* entries **AFTER** 11 a.m. on April 25. **LAD member (or a representative) MUST pick up entries the day of the fair by noon.** LAD is not responsible for entries that are not picked up.
- REMINDER:** All art entries are to be picked up on Judging Day, March 28. See Rule 7 for more information.
7. After picking up entries, if any entries are not yours, please contact the LAD member listed on entry form to get entry returned to correct student. Please be diligent, *prompt* and thoughtful about this; every student deserves his/her entry returned.
8. LAD is not responsible for lost or damaged entries.
9. **Important 2025-26 dates:**
- Fall Meeting:** Thursday October 2, 2025, 5-7 p.m., Republic School Board Meeting Room.
  - Winter Meeting:** Thursday, January 22, 2026, 5-7 p.m., Republic School Board Meeting Room.
  - Purchase Order and Invoice Deadline:** Monday, March 2, 2026.
  - Postmark & Dues Deadline:** Friday, March 20, 2026. Mail entries to Casey Daugherty, LAD Entries, Republic High School, 4370 Repmo Drive, Republic MO 65738.
  - Entry Deadline:** Friday, March 27, 2026. Deliver entries in person to Republic High School, 4370 Repmo Drive, Republic, MO by 4:30 p.m.
  - Sort Day:** Friday, March 27, 2026, at Republic High School.
  - Judging Day:** Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Republic High School.
  - Setup Day:** Friday, April 24, 2026, at Republic High School.
  - LAD Fair Day:** Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8-11 a.m. at Republic High School.
  - Summer Meeting:** Saturday, June 13, 2026, 9 a.m-2 p.m., Republic School Board Meeting Room.

**Please check LAD's website or LAD's Facebook regularly for updates.**

**Website: [ladfair.com](http://ladfair.com)**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Language-Arts-Department-of-Southwest-Missouri-LAD-153336568038179>**

**The official LAD rules, entry forms, deadlines, and other useful information** are available online at [www.ladfair.com](http://www.ladfair.com). The website also has information such as LAD meeting dates, locations and times, and winners' lists.

**Please like LAD on Facebook:  
Language Arts Department of  
Southwest Missouri (LAD)**