

DVS HALLOWEEN HORROR: STUDENT FLASH FICTION CONTEST

OFFICIAL RULES

(Terms & Conditions Bound by Participating)

1. Sponsor & Agreement to Rules

The **Contest** is sponsored by **Dark Veil Society** (“DVS,” “we,” “us,” or “our”), an international horror publishing collective based in the U.S. UK and international students are welcome where legal. By entering the Contest, each entrant (or legal guardian) agrees to these official rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, which are final and binding in all respects.

2. Eligibility

Contestants must be current students in **grades 9–12**, or the international equivalent of secondary education (typically ages 14–18), as of **September 15, 2025** for the current calendar year to be eligible, with valid proof of enrollment if requested, and where not prohibited by local law. Students enrolled in any post-secondary or university-level program are not eligible. **Parental or legal guardian consent** is required for all entrants under the age of 18. One (1) entry per person. Members of DVS, its affiliates, and their immediate family members are ineligible.

3. Contest Period

Submissions are accepted between **September 15, 2025** and **11:59 pm EST** on **October 15, 2025**. Late entries will not be accepted. The Sponsor’s clock is the official time keeper.

4. How to Enter

Visit the official Contest webpage and complete the submission form, providing all required fields. Upload a single horror fiction entry (**500–1,500 words**) in **.docx** or **.pdf** format, using the "Classic Shunn" formatting template. Ensure the file is legibly titled with your name. Incomplete or improperly formatted entries may be disqualified.

5. Entry Requirements

- Must be original and unpublished prose.
- Word-count: **500 min – 1,500 max**.
- Content must be **PG-13**: no graphic violence/gore, sexual content, profanity, hate speech, or explicit language.
- No portion of the text may have been written or edited by **any generative AI**.
- Only one (1) story per individual. Duplicate or plagiarized submissions will be disqualified.

6. Judging & Winner Selection

A judging panel appointed by DVS will evaluate each entry on: creativity, adherence to theme ("Halloween Fright"), tone, structure, clarity, and originality. The panel's decisions are final. Winners will be selected by **October 29, 2025**, and publicly announced on **October 31, 2025**.

7. Prizes

- **1st Place:** \$150 USD-equivalent Barnes & Noble gift card
- **2nd Place:** \$75 USD-equivalent gift card
- **3rd Place:** \$25 USD-equivalent gift card

Retailer may vary based on the winner's location but will be of comparable value. Winners also receive printable certificates and publication credit in a DVS-hosted online showcase. All prize details are non-transferable and subject to availability.

8. Notification & Claiming

Winners will be notified via the email address provided within five (5) business days after announcement. If a winner fails to respond within 48 hours or cannot verify eligibility, they forfeit their prize and an alternate may be chosen.

9. Rights Granted

Entrants retain full copyright to their submission; however, by entering they grant DVS a **non-exclusive**, worldwide, royalty-free license to publish, share, or feature the work in any media related to the Contest or future promotions, with proper author credit.

10. Representations & Warranties

By submitting, entrant (and parent/guardian if under 18) represents and warrants that:

- a. the entry is original and does not infringe on any copyright, privacy, or proprietary right of any person or entity;
- b. it has not been published elsewhere;
- c. it does not contain AI-generated text;
- d. the entrant has the right and authority to grant license.

Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any submission failing these terms.

11. Data Privacy

Information collected in connection with this Contest is subject to DVS's Privacy Policy. By entering, entrants consent to the collection, use, and retention of their personal data in accordance with that policy.

12. Taxes & Fees

All prize values are shown in USD. Recipients are solely responsible for any taxes or fees associated with the prize. No substitution or cash equivalents are allowed, except at Sponsor's discretion in case of prize unavailability.

13. Disqualification & Cancellation

DVS reserves the right to disqualify any entry or disqualify any entrant suspected of technical misconduct, fraud, duplication, or violation of these rules. DVS also reserves the right to modify or cancel the Contest should circumstances beyond its control compromise its integrity.

14. Release & Limitation of Liability

By entering, participants (and their guardians) release and hold harmless DVS, affiliates, and their respective directors, employees, and agents from any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Contest or acceptance/use of prizes, except as prohibited by law. DVS's total liability will not exceed the total prize value.

15. "No Purchase Necessary"

No purchase is necessary to enter or win; a purchase does not increase your chance of winning. Void where prohibited. This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state, provincial, and local laws. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any entrant if disallowed by law. Standard contest exclusions apply, including (in the U.S.) residents of Puerto Rico and territories unless otherwise permitted.

16. Governing Law, Disputes

These Official Rules and any disputes hereunder are governed by the laws of **Ohio**, without giving effect to any conflict-of-law provisions. Any dispute arising out of or relating to this Contest will be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts located in **Greene County, Ohio**.

17. Contact Information

For questions, complaints or assistance, email contests@darkveilsociety.com. A list of winners may be requested in writing between October 31, 2025, and January 15, 2026.

By entering, you acknowledge having read, understood, and agreed to abide by all aspects of these Official Rules.