Playwrights Project

California Young Playwrights Contest 2026 – Entry Form

Our annual statewide playwriting contest is open to all Californians under the age of 19. All contest entrants who request feedback will receive an individualized script evaluation. Winning plays will be performed as part of our annual festival of *Plays by Young Writers* in 2026. Contest winners between the ages of 15-18 will receive a full professional production and undergo a revision process. Winners aged 14 and under will see their plays performed as rehearsed readings. For more details about the contest, please visit: https://playwrightsproject.org/programs/california-young-playwrights-contest/

Submit your script by June 1, 2026

Online: https://playwrightsproject.org/programs/california-young-playwrights-contest/

By Mail: send this Entry Form, Cover Letter, and 1 copy of the script to:

3675 Ruffin Rd. Suite 130

San Diego, CA 92123

Remember to number the pages of your script, and to secure your script with a clip (no staples).
Scripts are read anonymously. Please do NOT put your name on the script, other than on the cover page.

Writer's name: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The address above is a: □ Home/Personal Address (preferred so we may contact you directly)
□ School Address

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Birth date: _____/_____/_____ Age: _____

School: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____ Playwrights Project Teacher: _____

(If a teacher encouraged you to submit your script to the contest, please indicate their name.)

Additional Writers' Names (if applicable): _____

Each individual who co-authored the play should complete a separate entry form for submission with the script.

Information about Your Play (*Submit only one play per entry form. Complete a new entry form for each additional play.)*

Name of Your Play: _____

Describe your play in one sentence: _____

_____

(Example: "A comedy about friends, foes and French fries." Or "Will Adam find lasting love as a fast food fry cook?")

Why is this play important to you, and why are you writing it now? _____

_____

Has this play been produced before? □ Yes □ No If yes, where? _____

Would you like to receive feedback on your script? □ Yes □ No

How would you like to receive your feedback? (check one) □ Email □ Regular Mail

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California Young Playwrights Contest 2026 - Guidelines

WRITE A PLAY! Professionals will evaluate your entry, and if you're one of the winners, your play will receive a professional production, performed for a public audience and school groups. This program is focused on the development of new plays - so if you're a winner, be prepared to revise your script with the support of a professional dramaturg (or writing mentor), director, designers, and actors.

WHO? Californians under the age of 19 as of June 1, 2026.
Collaborations and group plays will be accepted. Scripts will be evaluated in two groups. Winning writers aged 15 and older will receive full professional productions; younger winning writers will receive staged readings performed by professional actors.

WHEN? Entries must be received or postmarked no later than June 1, 2026. If you are in a writing residency that extends beyond June 1, your deadline is extended to one week after your last class. In Fall 2026, winning playwrights will be notified, and written script evaluations will be sent to entrants who request them in their cover letters. Scripts will be produced in the Spring of 2026 at a professional theatre in San Diego or streamed online if required (due to health concerns related to COVID-19 or variants).

WHAT?

- Original unpublished scripts only.
- Subject, style, and form are up to you.
- Length must be a minimum of ten, typed pages using play format.
- Previously submitted scripts are only eligible if significant changes have been made to the script in response to judges' comments.
- Tips for writing scripts can be found online at: www.playwrightsproject.org/tips.htm

Note: School groups are the primary audience for the festival. Mature content may need to be altered for production, but that should not stop you from submitting. Your dramaturg will support you in finding adaptations that work for you.

HOW?

- Type the script using play format.
- Number the pages.
- Do not staple your script.
- Title page requirements: title of play, your name, address, phone, and date of birth.
- Scripts are read anonymously. Please only put your name on the cover page, not on other pages.
- Include a brief cover letter about yourself and why you wrote this play.
- If a teacher encouraged you to enter, include the teacher's name and school in your letter.
- To submit:
    - Online – fill out the online Contest Entry Form and upload your cover letter and script: https://playwrightsproject.org/programs/california-young-playwrights-contest/
    - Mail – fill out the Contest Entry Form and mail along with your cover letter and one copy of your script to:

      Playwrights Project
      3675 Ruffin Road, Suite 130
      San Diego, CA 92123

- If you submit your script by mail, keep the original. Scripts will not be returned.

Questions? Call us at (858) 384-2970 or email us at write@playwrightsproject.org