



## ***The 2026 Paradise Chocolate Fest Young Authors Writing Contest!***

**Butte County K–12 students are invited to join the fun and festivities of the 21st Annual Paradise Chocolate Fest as we celebrate youth literacy!** The Paradise Chocolate Fest *Young Authors Writing Contest* encourages young writers to spark their creativity and develop their storytelling skills. This inspiring contest invites students to express themselves through the art of fiction, cultivating both confidence and a love for writing.

### **Contest Rules:**

- Contest open to all Students K-12 throughout Butte County.
- Entries must include the word “**Chocolate**” in the story.
- **Deadline to submit is April 15, 2026.** Mailed entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2026.
- All entries must be an original creation.
- Only one entry per person may be submitted.
- Age Categories:
  - K-1; 2-3; 4-5<sup>th</sup> grades (no minimum or maximum number of words; illustrations may be included.)
  - 6-7-8; 9-10; 11-12<sup>th</sup> grades (500-2,000 words; entries must be typed; Font 12-point Times New Roman or Arial; no illustrations.)
- A completed Entry Form must be paper clipped to each entry.
- Top of first page must include the Title of your story. Please, Do NOT put your name on your story. (Your Name should be on Entry Form only, attached to your submission by paperclip.)
- All entrants under 18 years old are required to provide parent/guardian approval of their entry (see Entry Form).
- Be creative, be bold and have fun!
- Entries become the property of Youth on the Ridge Community Foundation, Inc. / Paradise Chocolate Fest and may be included in an anthology of youth stories, benefiting Paradise Chocolate Fest youth groups in future years.

**Judging:** Each story is judged on its literary merit as a short story including: story structure (plot, characters, and setting) style, grammar and creativity. Judging will be by a panel of local educators and community members.

**Awards:** Contest results will be announced at Paradise Chocolate Fest, Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am on the Chocolate Fest’s Main Entertainment Stage.

- All entries will receive 2 Tickets to the Paradise Chocolate Fest.
- K-1; 2-3; 4-5<sup>th</sup> grades -
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner & First Two Runner’s up each age group will receive \$20 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.
- 6-7-8; 9-10 grades -
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners will be awarded \$40 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.
  - First two runners-up will each be awarded \$20 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.
- 11-12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner will be awarded a \$200.00 scholarship.
  - First two runners-up will each be awarded a \$100.00 scholarship.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

Mail entries to: **Youth On the Ridge Community Foundation • PO Box 8188 • Chico, CA 95927**

**Since 2006, the Paradise Chocolate Fest has proudly distributed more than \$440,000 to non-profit organizations that support youth on the Paradise Ridge.** These funds have helped provide vital educational, enrichment, recreation, and leadership opportunities for local young people. This year, *seventeen* youth-focused organizations will receive funding. Their programs include music and academic enrichment, summer camp and dance scholarships, youth leadership training, sports equipment, food bank support, vision screenings, updated technology, and much more.

**Youth on the Ridge Community Foundation, Inc. / Paradise Chocolate Fest  
Debbie LaPlant Moseley, Executive Director • 530/342-4896 • info@chocolatefest.us • www.chocolatefest.us**



***Paradise Chocolate Fest***  
***Young Authors Writing Contest!***  
***Official Entry Form***

(please see writing contest announcement for complete contest rules and submission guidelines)

Deadline to submit is April 15, 2026. Mailed entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2026.

**Remember – Do Not Put Author’s Name on Story.**  
**Include Title at the Top of your Story.**  
**Paperclip this Entry Form to the Title Page of your Story.**

(Please print legibly)

Title of Story: \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Author’s: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Each contest entrant will receive two admission tickets to the Paradise Chocolate Fest. Tickets will be held under the student’s name at the Fest entry gate at Terry Ashe Park (6626 Skyway). Entry is accessible via Luther Drive and the Vet’s Hall parking lot.

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For grades 6-12, write the name of your English Teacher)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for Paradise Chocolate Fest to retain ownership of Student’s/Author’s story. Student & parent signatures confirm that this is the original work of the above author.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student/Author’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

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