

**THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST**

**2025 OFFICIAL RULES – SPOKEN CATEGORY**

*The following rules pertain to the Spoken Category of the 2025 Missouri State Liars Contest, sponsored by MO-TELL (Missouri Storytelling).*

Each entrant in the **Spoken Category** of 2025 Missouri State Liars contest must:

* Submit a video or audio file (or web link to such) of the complete story being entered to Joyce Slater at [joyceslater20@gmail.com](mailto:joyceslater20@gmail.com).
* Submit a completed registration form with a **$15 entry fee for MO-TELL** **members,** or a **$30 entry fee for non-MO-TELL members** to:

Missouri Storytelling Inc

9621 Olive Blvd. #28994

St. Louis MO. 63132-9998

**Entries:**

* Each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories. Each story submitted must be accompanied by a separate registration form and $15 entry fee.
* Note that each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories in each category, the Spoken Category and the Written Category. The same story may be submitted in both categories, i.e., as an entry in the Spoken Category and the Written Category (separate fee for each). If both stories are selected in one category, entrant must choose which one is for the competition. If the same story is selected in both categories, entrant must decide in which category the story would remain for competition.

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**Deadline for Entering:**

* Story entries will be accepted until June 22, 2025.
* A panel of judges will choose the winners from among the entrants in the Written Category. Finalists will be notified on or around July 01, 2025.
* Finalists in the Spoken Category will be invited to compete in person at the final round on July 12, 2025.
* A panel of judges will select the winner of the Spoken Category, and the winner will be announced at the event that day.
* Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both the spoken and written categories.

**Eligible Stories:**

* Eligible entries for the Spoken Category of the 2025 contest include any story that’s *not completely true*.
* Entries may be original compositions, or they may be based partially or wholly on folklore or other material from the public domain.
  + Copyrighted stories are not allowed in the contest unless the contest entrant is the copyright holder.
* **Stories must be 10 minutes or less with a one minute allowance.**
* **Stories must also be PG-rated—i.e., appropriate for an all-ages audience**.
* **Any story entered in the contest which fails to meet these requirements, as deemed by the judges, will be disqualified.**

**Judging:**

* Although the performance of each entrant will be evaluated, the technical quality of the video or audio recording will not be a factor in the judging, if the story can be clearly heard and/or seen by the judges.

1. Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant in the following categories:
2. Technique - Delivery, confidence, general stagecraft
3. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, middle and end) in time available
4. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
5. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In judges’ opinion, taking audience response into consideration

* The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with a maximum of 20 points per competitor.
* **If an individual wins first place in the Liars Contest (Spoken) 5 times, they are no longer eligible to compete (in the Spoken category) and are elevated to the rank of Most Accomplished Liar in Missouri rank.**
* Any individual involved in collecting entries or arranging judges will be deemed a contest director and will be ineligible from entering the 2025 contest. Immediate family members of contest directors or contest judges are also ineligible.
* Additionally, professional politicians (defined as individuals who earn the majority of their income from elected office) are ineligible from entering the contest while in office.