



## Veterans Healing Farm's 10-Minute Playwriting Contest

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The arts offer impactful avenues for Veterans to connect through shared experiences and meaningful dialogue. Recognizing this, the Veterans Healing Farm is launching its inaugural Veterans 10-Minute Playwriting Contest, with selected plays to be presented as staged readings in November 2026.

This contest welcomes submissions from all individuals with a direct military connection, including active-duty personnel, reservists, National Guard members, Veterans, and their immediate family.

Play themes should directly address military service and/or its impact on communities. The contest and culminating festival aim to honor and celebrate those who have served and continue to serve. We seek diverse voices exploring both the difficulties and the positive contributions of Veterans within our community. Finalist plays will be chosen by judges for staged readings in November 2026, and selected plays for full productions in 2027. 1st place winner will be awarded a \$250 cash prize, 2nd place will be awarded a \$150 cash prize, and 3rd place will be awarded a \$100 cash prize.

### Important Dates

**July 30, 2026- Entry deadline**

**August 15, 2026 - Notification of finalists**

**November 2026 – Staged readings with post-performance discussions. Additional details forthcoming.**

### Contest Rules

- One submission per playwright. Email to [director@veteranshealingfarm.org](mailto:director@veteranshealingfarm.org) or via mail to Veterans Healing Farm, 138 Kimzey Road, Mills River, NC 28759
- Along with submission, include a bio and brief synopsis of the play
- Only original plays, not-yet produced or published, are eligible

- Musicals and adaptations are **not** eligibleBy submitting, you agree to allow the Veterans Healing Farm to produce the first staged reading
- Scripts meeting the rules and submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by judges
- Judging will be done by members of the WNC Veterans and Arts' community

## **Judging Criteria**

### Story

- Plot seems fresh, intriguing and original
- Something happens; sufficient conflict and tension throughout the play
- Plot is active, vital and dramatic on stage
- Story moves along; pace is engaging

### Voice

- Strong, interesting writing style
- Clear viewpoint that's well integrated into the play

### Characters

- Interesting and compelling characters
- Characters seem credible and real
- Main character evolves or develops through the course of the play

### Dialogue

- Dialogue suits the characters
- Dialogue sounds natural and credible for the plot and location
- Each character has own unique voice
- Dialogue seems fresh and compelling (not dull, boring, or generic)

### Appropriateness

- The play can be staged in the 10-minute time allotment with limited set, sound, and design

### Overall effect

- Play is transformative and memorable

### **Submitting Your Work**

The script must be in standard playwriting format with 12-point Courier font. Use double spacing when changing from one character to another. Use single spacing everywhere else. If you are unfamiliar with standard playwriting format, [please check out this example](#). Please submit to [director@veteranshealingfarm.org](mailto:director@veteranshealingfarm.org) or via mail to Veterans Healing Farm, 138 Kimzey Road, Mills River, NC 28759 (must be postmarked no later than July 30, 2026).

PLAYS THAT FAIL TO MEET THESE CRITERIA WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.