

2024 CONTEST RULES

(Read carefully. Any violation will disqualify entry.)

1. Any poem submitted must:

- a. Be the original work of the contestant, and unpublished in any form, including digitally or placed on exhibition elsewhere. Award will be recalled if a winning poem is found to be in violation of rules before publication in the NFSPS anthology of prize poems, and lower prizes and honorable mentions will move up in classification.
- b. Be written in English be titled, unless poem is a form that is traditionally untitled (e.g. haiku, lute, etc.).
- c. Have a 40 line limit for all contests not stating line limit. Line limit includes every line, both **printed and blank**. A one line title and its following space is not counted in line limit. Specific forms (rondeau, sonnet, villanelle, etc.) should follow required format spacing and line limits.
- d. Be typed, photocopied or computer generated (not hand-written or hand-printed) and without illustration.

2. Poets give NFSPS exclusive first printing rights to all poems entered in the NFSPS annual contests. Poems winning cash prizes will be printed in *Encore*, the NFSPS anthology, and at the discretion of the Editor. Editor reserves the right to alter line breaks in poems having more than 50 characters per line, including punctuation marks and spaces. Printing rights revert to the poet after the anthology is published (approx. August of 2024). All prize winners will be notified, and others may obtain a list of winners in August 2024 by sending \$2 and a #10 SASE to:

Julie Cummings, Strophes Editor
9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433-4007

Submitted poems are not returned, poets should retain copies.

3. An eligible poem **may not be withdrawn** after submission. No **simultaneous submissions**.

4. Except as indicated in the NFSPS Founders Award (Cat. 1), contestants may submit only one entry in any contest, and may not submit the same poem in more than one contest.

5. Enclosed check or money order must be made payable to NFSPS, Inc (initials are sufficient) and **not** to an individual.

a. Non-members may enter most contests at \$1 each (except \$10 for each entry in the NFSPS Founders Award). Non-members may not enter contests marked with an asterisk (*) and which are designated members only.

b. Members may enter up to 10 contests for \$1 per poem or \$10 total for entry in more than 10 contests (except the NFSPS Founders Award which is \$5 per poem).

c. Entrants from outside the U.S. must send checks drawn on U.S. banks or branches, payable in U.S. funds, or send U.S. currency.

6. First prize winner in the NFSPS Founders Award (Cat. #1) is not eligible to enter that category the following year.

7. Judges will be selected by NFSPS, Inc. No ties will be awarded. Decisions of the judges will be final.

8. When to submit:

a. Start date - Entries must not be postmarked prior to **January 1, 2024**.

b. Deadline - Entries must be postmarked no later than **March 15, 2024**.

9. Individuals are "Members Only" eligible if a paid-up member of an NFSPS state society and listed in that society's membership roll. State societies must remit their annual dues by **January 15, 2024**, and update their membership information as required by **March 15, 2024**. Dues and membership list must be sent to:

Linda Harris, NFSPS Treasurer
49512 SE Weber Road, Sandy, OR 97055-7425

Update info may be sent via email:
Treasurer@nfsp.net

10. How to submit poems via US Postal Service:

a. Send two copies of the poem on 8.5 X 11 white paper (no onion skin or tissue) in black ink, single-spaced. If poem requires more than one page, staple together at the top **left** corner all pages of each copy.

b. On both copies, place number and name of contest in upper **left** corner.

c. On second copy only, put name, address, phone number, email address (if available), and state poetry society membership (or "non-member of NFSPS") in upper **right** corner. If a poem requires more than one page, also number pages on upper right corner of both copies.

d. Separate originals from duplicates. Stack in numerical order (1-50) with original on top. Count them.

e. Include an 8.5X11 cover sheet with poet's name, address, phone number, email (if available), and state poetry society membership (or "non-member of NFSPS"). List category numbers and poem titles for each contest you are entering. List total number of poems sent. Do not staple to entries or to entry fee.

f. Mail all entries at one time, unfolded, in a large envelope, include the cover sheet and entry fee. Mail to the Contest Chair by First Class, Priority Mail, or any form of delivery that does NOT require a signature upon receipt. Mail entries to:

2024 NFSPS Contest Chair
2412 E. 10265 S., Sandy, UT 84092

NFSPS, Inc. will not assume mailing costs and will not be responsible for any entries lost or delayed in the mail.

11. You may also enter via Submittable.com. Please read and follow the rules on Submittable as they are slightly different. Through Submittable there

are two separate entry fee transactions: one for Category #1 and one for Categories #2 through #50. If entering Category #1 plus any other Category, there will be two payment forms, pay attention to your payment details. Failure to remit entry fees timely (by **March 15, 2024**) will result in a disqualified submission.

Note: Amazon does not permit the publication of material that contains vulgar language because it is not suitable to minors. Entries which violate this standard will be disqualified.

For information on the following, email or send a #10 SASE to the appropriate Chair (addresses at www.nfspd.com):

NFSPS Contest Rules

2024 Contest Chair: ContestChair@nfspd.net

Contest Brochures Mailing

Julie Cummings, Strophes Ed: stropheseditor@nfspd.net

Stevens , CUP, and Manningham Mss. Editor

Steven Concert, 2nd VP ~ 2ndvicepresident@nfspd.net

Membership Coordinator

Russell Strauss ~ RSTRpoet@cs.com

Barbara Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition

Terry Jude Miller ~ stevenschair@nfspd.net

College Undergraduate Poetry Mss. Competition

Jessica Temple ~ 4thvicepresident@nfspd.net

BlackBerryPeach (BBP3) Awards

Joseph Cavanaugh, 1st VP ~ jcavanaugh1@gmail.com

NFSPS, Inc. is a nonprofit organization exclusively educational and literary. Its purpose is to recognize the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage. It is dedicated solely to the furtherance of poetry on the national level and serves to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding.

The NFSPS anthology, *Encore*, containing the winning poems from these contests will be published and available in August 2024 on Amazon.com and at NFSPS' convention in June 2025. For info on current editions, contact Kathy Cotton, editor at kalcotton@gmail.com. For info on available editions and prices, visit the website, select "publications."

Honorary Chancellors (past 30, in order of appointment)

Loring Williams	John Ciardi	David Wagoner
Harry M. Meacham	Robert Coles	Maxine Kumin
John Williams Andrews	Richard Shelton	Naomi Shihab Nye
August Derleth	Marcia Lee Masters	Li-Young Lee
William Stafford	Robert Penn Warren	Lewis Turco
N. Scott Momaday	Richard Wilbur	Ted Kooser
Richard Amour	William Stafford	Natasha Tretheway
Richard Eberhart	Rodney Jones	Peter Meinke
James Dickey	Tess Gallagher	Jo McDougal
Judson Jerome	Michael Bugeja	David Rothman

National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Originated in Baton Rouge, LA, October 17, 1959

64th Convention ~ 2024 Annual Contest

- 1. NFSPS Founders Award** - to honor Mary B. Wall.
Sponsor: NFSPS, Inc.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 100.
1st Prize: \$1,000. 2nd Prize: \$500. 3rd Prize: \$250.
Entry fee: **per poem** - members (\$5),
non-members (\$10).
Limit: **4 poems per contestant**.
- 2. The Margo Award**
Sponsor: her friends, in memory of Margo LaGattuta.
Subject: Finding Your Way Home, figuratively or literally. Form: Any. Line Limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.

3. Social Critique Poetry Award

Sponsor: Randy K. Schwartz. Subject: A poem that expresses a yearning for society to advance beyond the oppression of humans by humans. Form: Any. Line Limit: 75.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.

4. Donald Stodghill Memorial Award * (members only)

Sponsor: Pat Stodghill
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.

5. Winners' Circle Award

Sponsor: Sue Chambers, Pat Stodghill, Diane Glancy, previous prize winners of the NFSPS Founders Award
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 80.
1st Prize: \$115. 2nd Prize: \$85. 3rd Prize: \$60.

6. NFSPS Board Award

Sponsor: NFSPS Executive and Appointive Boards.
Subject: Any. Form: Ballade. Line Limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$175. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50

7. Stone Gathering Award

Sponsor: Danielle Dufy Literary.
Subject: Any. Form: Prose Poems. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$75. 3rd Prize: \$50.

8. Poetry Society of Texas Award * (members only)

Sponsor: Poetry Society of Texas
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

9. Jim Barton, Bard of the Pines Award

Sponsor: South Arkansas Poets of the Pines. *In Memory of Jim Barton, past President of NFSPS and cheerleader to all writers, who saw wonder and poetry everywhere in nature.* Subject: Wind in the Pines. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.

10. Lucille Morgan Wilson Memorial Award

Sponsor: Julie Cummings and Carla Jordan
Subject: Gardens. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.

- 1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.
11. **Al Laster Memorial Award** * (members only)
Sponsor: Diana Gagne. Subject: an Ekphrastic poem—written in response to viewing a painting, drawing, photograph, sculpture, or other piece of visual art. Form: Any. Line Limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$50.
12. **The Countee Cullen Poetry Prize**
Sponsors: M. Palowski Moore and Toby Palowski
To provide a space for poetry that reflects the experiences & perspectives of the many facets of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community. Subject: 2SLGBTQIA+ Perspectives. Form: Any. Line Limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.
13. **Arizona State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsor: Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS)
Subject: Magical Connections. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
14. **Jim Barton Memorial Award** * (members only)
Sponsor: Poets Roundtable of Arkansas
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
15. **Alabama State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsor: Alabama State Poetry Society. Subject: Breaking the Rules. Form: Choose a form but break it—modify an existing form to make it your own. Note form and modifications on entry. Line Limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
16. **Land of Enchantment Award**
Sponsor: New Mexico State Poetry Society. *To honor the memory of Susan Paquet.* Subject: A poem related to "borders," real or imagined. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
17. **Poet's Work Award**
Sponsors: Paul Ford and Marie Andrews.
Subject: Life as Other. Form: Persona poem. Line Limit: 40.
- 1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
18. **The Listening Poem Award**
Sponsor: Linda Eve Diamond
Subject: Listening. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
19. **Mildred Cummings Memorial Award**
Sponsor: Friends of Mildred Cummings
Subject: Family Meals. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
20. **Power of Women Award**
Sponsor: Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughter.
Subject: the Power of Women. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$70. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$20.
21. **The Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial Award**
Sponsor: Her friends in the Peregrine Writers.
Honoring the author of *A Mutable* and *Wavering Reflection*. Subject: Something observed and/or overheard. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
22. **Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance Award**
* (members-only) Sponsor: Nancy Baass, in loving memory of her wonderful mother, a truly beautiful lady, inside and out, who served two terms as Poet Laureate of Texas. Subject: Cats - their endearing habits, intelligence, loyalty, beauty, etc. (no reference to cruelty or abuse). Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
23. **League of Minnesota Poets Award**
Sponsor: the League of Minnesota Poets.
In Memory of John Rezmerski.
Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 45.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
24. **Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award**
Sponsor: Shavano Poets Society of Colorado.
Subject: Any. Form: Villanelle. Line Limit: (follow form)
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
25. **Poetry Society of Indiana Award**
Sponsor: Poetry Society of Indiana
Subject: "A Perfect Storm." Form: Any. Line Limit: 40
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
26. **Nevada Poetry Society Award** * (members only)
Sponsor: Nevada Poetry Society.
Subject: Humorous. Form: Shakespearean sonnet
Line Limit: follow the form.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
27. **William Stafford Memorial Award**
Sponsor: Oregon Poetry Association and Friends of William Stafford. *In memory of William Stafford, Oregon's late Poet Laureate and twice Honorary Chancellor of NFSPS.*
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
28. **Columbine Poets of Colorado Award**
* (members only).
Sponsor: Columbine Poets of Colorado
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
29. **Morton D. Prouty & Elsie S. Prouty Memorial Award**
Sponsor: daughters, Catherine P. Horn and Carol P. Ostberg and their families. *In memory of Morton D. Prouty, Jr. who served as NFSPS Treasurer and Poet Laureate of Alabama, and Elsie S. Prouty.*
Subject: a Nature poem. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
30. **Loretta Diane Walker Memorial Award**
* (members-only). Sponsor: Poetry Society of Texas.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 28.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
31. **Utah State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsor: Utah State Poetry Society
Subject: Double Vision, two views of the same thing. Form: Any. Line Limit: 45.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

32. Illinois State Poetry Society Award

Sponsor: Illinois State Poetry Society
Subject: Rivers. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

33. The Robbie Award

Sponsor: Joyce Wilson.
Subject: Loss of a Child (not necessarily by death).
Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

34. Iowa Poetry Association Award

Sponsor: Iowa Poetry Association.
Subject: Poetry for Children. Form: Any. Line Limit: 50
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

35. Wallace Stevens Memorial Award * (members only)

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc.
Subject: Any. Form: Rondeau. Line Limit: (follow form)
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

36. Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award

Sponsor: Poetry Society of Oklahoma.
Subject: Any. Form: Trimeric. Line Limit: 13 (follow form).
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

37. Ohio Award

Sponsor: Ohio Poetry Association.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

38. WyoPoets Award

Sponsor: WyoPoets of Wyoming.
Subject: Wyoming or the West. Form: Any.
Line Limit: 40
1st Prize: \$40. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

39. Florida State Poets Association, Inc. Award

Sponsor: Florida State Poets Association, Inc.
Subject: a Celebration of Florida History or Culture,
or any other Florida topic, historic, or contemporary.
Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

40. Poetry Society of Michigan Award

Sponsor: Poetry Society of Michigan.
Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

41. Mississippi Poetry Society Award

Sponsor: Mississippi Poetry Society
Subject: Any. Form: Sonnet (include sonnet type
on entry). Line Limit: (follow form).
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

42. Poetry Society of Tennessee Award * (members only).

Sponsor: Poetry Society of Tennessee.
In honor of Ann Carolyn Cates. Subject: Humorous
poem. Form: Rhymed & Metered. Line Limit: 16.
1st Prize: \$30. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15

43. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award * (members only).

Sponsor: Russell H. Strauss. Subject: peaceful
event in American history before the year 2000. No
war poems. Form: Any. Line Limit: 10 - 40.
1st Prize: \$30. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

44. Jesse Stuart Memorial Award

Sponsor: Kentucky State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

45. Barbara Stevens Memorial Award

Sponsor: South Dakota State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any Serious Theme. Form: Any. Line Limit: 12.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

46. Missouri State Poetry Society Award

Sponsored by the Missouri State Poetry Society.
Subject: The Show Me State. Form: Any.
Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

47. Save Our Earth Award

Sponsor: Martha H. Balph. *In memory of
David F. Balph.* Subject: Environmental Issues.
Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.

1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

48. Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award

Sponsor: Massachusetts State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

49. Maine Poets Society Award

Sponsor: Maine Poets Society, fostering poetry
since 1936. Subject: the Face of Climate Change
in Nature. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

50. The Poets Northwest Award * (members only)

Sponsor: The Poets Northwest, a chapter of the
Poetry Society of Texas, celebrating 37 years of
encouraging and inspiring poets in their craft.
Subject: The City. Form: Any. Line Limit: 36.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

Student Award: Grades 9 –12

Sponsor: Julie Cummings (CO), Catherine L'Herisson (TX).
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 32.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
7 Honorable Mentions: \$5 each.

Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 6 –8

Sponsor: New Mexico State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 32.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$15. 3rd Prize: \$10.

Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 3 –5

Sponsor: New Mexico State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 32.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$15. 3rd Prize: \$10.

No entry fee is required for these student contests. Open
only to students in grades 3 thru 12. Include your grade with
name and home mailing address on the second copy only
(per contest rule 1), or enter via Submittable. One poem per
student. Mail entries to 2024 Contest Chair.