

## CONTEST RULES

(Read carefully. Any violation will disqualify entry.)

- Any poem submitted must:
  - Be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including digitally or placed on exhibition, and not under consideration or accepted for publication elsewhere.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.)
  - Be written in English, be titled, unless the poem is a form that is supposed to be untitled (e.g. haiku, lune, etc.).
  - Have a 40 line limit for all contests **not** stating line limit. Line count includes every line, both **printed and blank**. A one line title and its following space is not counted in the line limit. Specific forms (e.g. rondeau, sonnet, villanelle, etc.) should follow required format spacing and line limits.
  - Be typed, photocopied or computer generated (not handwritten or hand printed) and without illustrations.
- Poets give NFSPS exclusive first printing rights to all poems entered in the NFSPS annual contests. Poems winning a cash prize of \$15 or more will be printed in the NFSPS prize poems anthology, *Encore*, at the discretion of the Editor. The 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 2023). All prize winners will be notified, and others may obtain a list of winners in August 2023 by sending \$1 and a #10 SASE to:

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

Submitted poems will not be returned, poets should retain copies.
- An eligible poem **may not be withdrawn** after submission. **No simultaneous submissions.**
- Except as indicated in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award, contestants may submit only one entry in any contest, and may not submit the same poem in any other contest.
- Enclosed check or money order must be made payable to NFSPS, Inc. (initials are sufficient) rather than to any individual.
  - Non-members may enter most contests at \$1 each (except \$10 for each entry in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award). Non-members may not enter contests marked with an asterisk (\*) and which are designated members only.
  - Members may enter up to 10 contests for \$1 per poem or \$10 total for entry in more than 10 contests (except for Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award which is \$5 per poem).
  - 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.
- First Prize winner in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award is not eligible to enter that contest the following year (NFSPS Founders Award only).

- Georgia Poetry Society Award** (\*Members Only)  
Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society.  
Subject: The American South – historical events, cultural aspects,

- Judges will be selected by NFSPS, Inc. No ties will be awarded, and the decisions of the judges will be final.
- When to submit:
  - Start date:** entries must not be postmarked before **January 1, 2023**.
  - Deadline:** entries must be postmarked by **March 15, 2023**.
- 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, 2023**, and update their membership information as required by **March 15, 2023**. 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 e-mail: Treasurer@NFSPS.com

- How to submit poems via USPS:
  - Send **two** copies of the poem on 8.5" X 11" white paper (no onion skin or tissue), in black ink, **single-spaced**. If the poem requires more than one page, staple together at the top **left** corner all pages of each copy.
  - On **both** copies, place number and name of contest in upper **left** corner.
  - On **second copy only**, put name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the poet, state poetry society membership or “Non-member of NFSPS” in upper **right** corner. If a poem requires more than one page, number pages also on upper right corner (both copies).
  - Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1 – 50) with originals on top. Count them.
  - Include an 8.5 X 11 cover sheet with poet’s name, address, phone number, e-mail address (if available), and state society membership (or “Non-member of NFSPS”). List on the cover sheet the category number(s) and the poem title(s) of each contest you are entering. List the total number of poems sent. Do NOT staple the cover sheet to entries or to entry fee.
  - Mail all entries at one time, unfolded, in a large envelope, including 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 contest entries to:  
2023 Contest Chair  
5858 Pintail Way, Frederick, CO. 80504-9668

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

- 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, 2023) will result in a disqualified submission.

- Power of Women Award**  
Sponsored by Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughter.  
Subject: The Power of Women. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.

**NOTE:** Amazon does not permit the publication of material that contains vulgar language because it is not suitable for minors. The printed edition of *Encore* will include the poetry of school-aged individuals and published via Amazon. **Entries which violate this standard will be disqualified.**

**For INFORMATION REGARDING the FOLLOWING:**  
E-mail or send a #10 SASE to the Chair in Charge.

- \* **2023 Contest Rules**  
2023 Contest Chair  
5858 Pintail Way, Frederick, CO 80504-9668  
E-mail: ContestChair.nfsp@gmail.com
- \* **2023 Contest Brochures Mailing**  
Julie Cummings/*Strophes* Editor  
9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433-4007  
E-mail: jcummings3@gmail.com
- \* **2023 Co-Contest Sponsors / Brochure**  
Steven Concert, 2nd VP / Stevens & CUP Manuscript Co-Editor  
49 Kitchen Avenue, Harveys Lake, PA 18618  
E-mail: paperlesspoets@gmail.com
- \* **Membership Coordinator**  
Russell H. Strauss  
18 S. Rembert St., Memphis, TN 38104  
RSTRpoet@cs.com
- \* **Stevens Manuscript Competition Co-Chair**  
Terry Jude Miller  
943 Holly Hall Drive, Richmond, TX 77406  
tmilleroftexas@hotmail.com  
E-mail: stevenschair@nfsp.com
- \* **2023 College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) Competition**  
Jessica Temple, Secretary / CUP Chair  
Alabama A&M University McCormick Building, Rm. 1  
P.O. Box 4900 Normal, AL 35762-4900  
E-mail: NFSPSsecretary@gmail.com
- \* **2023 BlackBerry Peach (BBP3) Awards**  
Joseph Cavanaugh, 1st VP / Development/Endowment / BBP3 Chair  
3722 Longford Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32174  
E-mail: jcavanaugh1@gmail.com

NFSPS, Inc. is a non-profit 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 of prize poems, *Encore*, containing the winning poems from these contests will be available upon publication in August 2023 on Amazon.com and at the NFSPS convention in June 2024. For information regarding current *Encore* editions, contact: **Encore Editor, Kathy Cotton** at kcalcotton@gmail.com. For information regarding available editions and book prices, visit the NFSPS website (select “Publications” in the menu).

- Utah State Poetry Society Award**  
Sponsored by the Utah State Poetry Society.  
Subject: Double Vision, two views of the same thing



**National Federation of  
State Poetry Societies, Inc.**  
www.nfsp.com

Organized in Baton Rouge, LA – October 17, 1959  
Constitution adopted in Philadelphia, PA – June 18, 1960  
Incorporated in Madison, WI – July 15, 1966

NFSPS, Inc. offers fifty national contests plus three student contests each year and conducts an annual convention hosted by one of its affiliated state societies. The 2023 Convention site will be announced soon! Check the NFSPS website for details.

### Honorary Chancellors (in order of appointment)

Joseph Auslander	Richard Armour	Tess Gallagher
John Crowe Ransom	Richard Eberhart	Michael Bugeja
Glenn Ward Dresbach	James Dickey	David Wagoner
Jessee Stuart	Judson Jerome	Maxine Kumin
Grace Noll Crowell	John Ciardi	Naomi Shihab Nye
Jean Star Untermeyer	Robert Coles	Li-Young Lee
Loring Williams	Richard Shelton	Lewis Turco
Harry M. Meacham	Marcia Lee Masters	Ted Kooser
John Williams Andrews	Robert Penn Warren	Natasha Tretheway
August Derleth	Richard Wilbur	Peter Meinke
William Stafford	William Stafford	Jo McDougal
N. Scott Momaday	Rodney Jones	David Rothman

### 63rd Convention ~ 2023 Annual Contests

- NFSPS Founders Award** (to honor Mary B. Wall)  
Sponsored by 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) and non-members (\$10)  
**Limit: 4 poems per contestant.**
- NFSPS Board Award**  
Sponsored by the NFSPS Executive and Appointive boards.  
Subject: Intersection. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.  
1st Prize: \$225. 2nd Prize: \$125. 3rd Prize: \$75.
- The Margo Award**  
Sponsored by her friends in memory of Margo LaGattuta.  
Subject: Windows. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.  
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- \* **Donald Stodghill Memorial Award** (\* Members Only)  
Sponsored by Pat Stodghill.  
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- Social Critique Poetry Award**  
Sponsored by 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.
- Winners' Circle Award**  
Sponsored by Diane Glancy, Pat Stodghill, Sue Chambers (previous prize winners in the NFSPS Founders Award)  
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 80.  
1st Prize: \$150. 2nd Prize: \$95. 3rd Prize: \$45.
- Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award**  
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Oklahoma.  
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.

weather, landscapes, etc. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$150. 2nd Prize: \$75. 3rd Prize: \$25.

#### 8. **Stone Gathering Award**

Sponsored by Danielle Dufy Literary French Press Editions.  
Subject: Any. Form: Prose Poem. Line limit: 40.  
Winning poems considered for publication in the print quarterly,  
*Stone Gathering: A Reader*. 1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$75. 3rd Prize: \$50.

#### \*9. **Poetry Society of Texas Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas.  
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

#### 10. **Jim Barton, Bard of the Pines Award**

Sponsored by the South Arkansas Poets of the Pines. *In Memory of James Nathan Barton, past President of NFSPS and cheerleader to all writers, who saw wonder and poetry everywhere in nature.*  
Subject: At the Edge of the Woods. Form: Rhymed. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.

#### 11. **Lucille Morgan Wilson Memorial Award**

Sponsored by Julie Cummings and Carla Jordan  
Subject: Garden. Form: Any. Line limit: 40  
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.

#### \*12. **Al Laster Memorial Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by Diana Gagne. Subject: An Ekphrastic Poem – written in response to viewing a painting, photograph, sculpture, drawing, or other piece of visual art. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.  
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$50.

#### 13. **Arizona State Poetry Society Award**

Sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS).  
Subject: Magical Connections. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

#### \*14. **Jim Barton Memorial Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the 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** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the 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**

Sponsored by the 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**

Sponsored by 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**

Sponsored by Linda Eve Diamond.  
Subject: Listening. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

1st Prize: \$70. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### 20. **The Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial Award**

Sponsored by her friends in the Peregrine Writers.  
Honoring the author of *A Mutable Place* and *Wavering Reflection*  
Subject: Leaving Home. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### \*21. **Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by her daughter, Nancy Baass.  
Subject: Domestic 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.

#### 22. **League of Minnesota Poets Award**

Sponsored by 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.

#### 23. **Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award**

Sponsored by the Shavano Poets Society of Colorado.  
Subject: Any. Form: Villanelle. Line limit.: (follow form)  
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### 24. **Poetry Society of Indiana Award**

Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Indiana.  
Subject: “Hello, again!” Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### \*25. **Nevada Poetry Society Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the Nevada Poetry Society.  
Subject: Any. Form: Minute. Line limit: (follow form).  
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### 26. **William Stafford Memorial Award**

Sponsored by the 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.

#### 27. **The New York Poetry Forum Award**

Sponsored by the New York Poetry Forum.  
Subject: The Art of Poetry. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### \*28. **Columbine Poets of Colorado Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the Columbine Poets of Colorado.  
Subject: Visions of Peace. Form: Any. Line Limit: 30.  
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### 29. **Morton D. Prouty & Elsie S. Prouty Memorial Award**

Sponsored by 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. **Jimmye Inez Sessions Memorial Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas.  
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 28.  
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

Form: Any. Line limit: 45.

1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

#### 32. **Illinois State Poetry Society Award**

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

#### 33. **The Robbie Award**

Sponsored by 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**

Sponsored by the 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)

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

#### 36. **Ohio Award**

Sponsored by the Ohio Poetry Association.  
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

#### 37. **WyoPoets Award**

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

#### 38. **Florida State Poets Association, Inc. Award**

Sponsored by the 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.

#### 39. **Poetry Society of Michigan Award**

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

#### 40. **Mississippi Poetry Society Award**

Sponsored by the Mississippi Poetry Society.  
Subject: Any. Form: Sonnet (include sonnet pattern on entry). Line limit: (follow form)  
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

#### 41. **Jesse Stuart Memorial Award**

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

#### 42. **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.

#### 43. **Barbara Stevens Memorial Award**

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

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

#### 45. **Save Our Earth Award**

Sponsored by the 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.

#### 46. **Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award**

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

#### \*47. **Poetry Society of Tennessee Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Tennesseee.  
*In Memory of Norma Young.*  
Subject: Gardens or Gardening. Form: Any. Line limit: 10—40.  
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

#### 48. **Maine Poets Society Award**

Sponsored by the Maine Poets Society, fostering poetry since 1936.  
Subject: An Encounter with Nature. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.  
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

#### \*49. **Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by Russell H. Strauss.  
Subject: Any. Form: Rubaiyat (linked) - AABA BBCB CCDC etc. final stanza may be EEEE, EEAE, or EEFE. Line limit: 12—20.  
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

#### \*50. **The Poets Northwest Award** (\* Members Only)

Sponsored by Poets Northwest, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, celebrating 36 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**

Sponsored by 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**

Sponsored by the 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**

Sponsored by the 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 competitions. Open only to students in grades 3 thru 12. Include grade with name and summer mailing address on the second copy only (see Contest Rule 1) or enter via Submittable. One poem per student. Mail entries to 2023 Contest Chair.