

Rules for the Fifth Annual Battle of the Bards Poetry Contest, 2017 (5-year anniversary)

- Entries must be received between February 1st and February 22nd, 2017.
- Poets must reside in the service area or be customers of the Poudre River Public Library District.
- Poets may enter in one category only: Teens (grades 6-12) or Adults (ages 18-up).
- Each poet may submit no more than two poems.
- Poems must be unpublished and original content.
- Poems may be submitted by amateur (not professionally published) poets.
- Poems must be geared for a general audience that will be attending the poetry reading where the top thirty poets will be honored and winners announced.
- Poems should be no longer than 50 lines.
- Poems must be typed into or copied & pasted into the *official online entry form for the contest*, located on the library website: www.PoudreLibraries.org.
- The entry form and contact information must be filled out correctly and completely.

How to Enter

- Entries must be sent via the special link for the contest on the library website. ***Please double check your poem(s) for spelling and content accuracy before submitting.***
- Entries must include the poet's name ***in the space provided***, complete street address, zip code, phone number, and email address.
- Select the appropriate entry form tab for either "Adult" or "Teen."
- By clicking "Adult" or "Teen," the entrant confirms that he/she is in the actual age/grade group indicated.
- ***One or two*** poems may be submitted per poet, and poems must be typed or copied & pasted into the entry submission text box. Use a ***separate*** online entry form for each poem.
- A title must be included at the heading of each poem in the text box, but ***without*** the poet's name.
- Entrants are responsible for reading and following all the rules and must click the box provided that says: "I confirm that I have read and understand the contest rules and I agree to abide by them."

Criteria for Judging

- **Originality:** Unique thoughts, ideas, and/or perspectives.
- **Creativity:** Skillful choice of words to evoke a strong mood, idea and/or image.
- **Poetic Form:** Effective usage of the poetic form in which the poem is written.
- **Overall impact:** Is the poem thought-provoking, moving, and/or memorable?
- **Technical Excellence:** Contains no grammatical errors, misspelled words, or typos (unless they are done purposefully and creatively for a poem's full effect).

Judging and Announcement of Winners

- The entries will be judged by committees comprised of local English language professionals, library staff with a knowledge of poetry, plus, for the Teen segment, teen poets from the Library District's Interesting Reader Society library teen advisory group. Judging will be anonymous and the judges' decisions are final.
- Ten poems will be selected in each category as finalists (ten Adult/ten Teen).
- Finalist and Honorable Mention poets will be notified between March 27th-31st.
- Finalist and Honorable Mention poets will be invited to read at Battle of the Bards Poetry Reading program on Friday, April 21st, at the Harmony Library Round from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to celebrate National Poetry Month. A reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Harmony Library Community Room.
- By April 14th, notified poets must respond that they will be present to read at the formal poetry reading on April 21st.
- Chapbooks containing the twenty Finalist and ten Honorable Mention entries will be available at the poetry reading program. The chapbooks will also be available in downloadable eBook format on the library website after the program.
- Finalists and Honorable Mentions will be acknowledged during, and winners will be announced at the conclusion of, the April 21st poetry reading program.

Prizes

- Adult winners will receive VISA gift cards for First Place (\$75); Second Place (\$50); and Third Place (\$25).
- Teen winners will receive VISA gift cards for First Place (\$75); Second Place (\$50); and Third Place (\$25).
- First, second, and third place winning poems will be published by Wolverine Farm Publishing in their May 2017 issue of the Fort Collins Courier newspaper.
- All finalists and ten Honorable Mentions will receive certificates and other special tributes.

The Poudre River Public Library District is not responsible for entries that were not received. By entering this contest, you give the Library and Wolverine Farm Publishing permission to publish your name and poem, should your entry win.