



2026 Youth Contest Opens January 15, 2026 Closes March 31, 2026

4477 W. Pyracantha Dr, Tucson ** <https://azpoetry.net>

Rules

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! FOLLOW RULES SO YOUR POEM IS INCLUDED IN THE CONTEST.

Open to all Arizona students, grades 1-12 with no entry fee for the contest. Poems can be on any topic with a limit of three submissions per person. **Poems written in other than English must include an English translation. Please proofread your work thoroughly.**

SUBMISSIONS: Email is preferred, but can be accepted through mail:

- **EMAIL: Do NOT put your name and address on the poem.** Attach a copy of the poem to your email **IN WORD.DOC OR PDF ONLY!!** In the body of your email, enter **Poem Title with your name, grade/age, your address, school, email & phone.**
- **MAIL:** enclose a **copy of the poem with no identifying information, and a second sheet** with Poem Title, your name, grade/age, address, school, email & phone. **Do NOT put your name and address on the poem**
- **Each entrant must make a declaration of originality. Include the following signed statement with your submission email or on the mailed second page with your name/address/age.** Poems without this declaration **will be disqualified.** Put this statement with identifying information NOT on the poem.

"I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems, poetic, or artistic work in print, posted on the Internet, or any other form."

Signed: _____

FORMAT: All poems and personal information should be typed (Times New Roman font, 12 pt) or hand printed very clearly. **NO ILLUSTRATIONS! Submitted in WORD.DOC OR PDF ONLY!**

Poems can have a **maximum of 40 lines per poem** and a **limit of 50 characters per line**. **Spaces or breaks between stanzas will count as a line** but poem title does not count as a line.

DEADLINE: Entries must be Emailed by midnight, **March 31, 2026, OR** postmarked by **March 31, 2026**.

<u>EMAIL TO:</u>	OR	<u>MAIL ENTRIES TO:</u>
Grades 1-4: <u>kadmussen.youth1-4@azpoetry.net</u>		Karen Admussen, 1727 E. Buck Ridge Pl., Tucson, AZ 85737
Grades 5-8: <u>youthcontest5-8@azpoetry.net</u>		Dianne Brown, P.O. Box 1291, Wellton, AZ 85356
Grades 9-12: <u>youthcontest9-12@azpoetry.net</u>		CChristy White, 1145 E Kaler Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85020

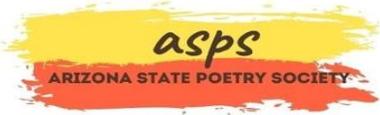
PARENTAL or GUARDIAN PERMISSION SLIP (Page 2): To list name/school/city on our website and for the winning poem to appear in the ASPS *Sandcutters* anthology, the permission slip **MUST** be provided when winners are notified. **Failure to provide the signed Permission Slip will result in disqualification of your submission(s).**

Prize Awards: Cash prizes awarded to First, Second and Third Place Winning Poems according to grade bracket:

<u>Grades 1-4</u>		<u>Grades 5-8</u>		<u>Grades 9-12</u>	
First Place	\$30.00	First Place	\$35.00	First Place	\$50.00
Second Place	\$20.00	Second Place	\$25.00	Second Place	\$30.00
Third Place	\$10.00	Third Place	\$15.00	Third Place	\$20.00

Winning poems will appear in Sandcutters 2026, Anthology of Arizona State Poetry Society, first rights only

All rights to individual poems remain with the contributing poets. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, or by use of any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted by the individual poet. We ask that credit be given to ASPS when reprinting is granted. Individual authors confirm that these poems are their original creations, and to the publisher's knowledge these poems were written by the listed poets. ASPS does not guarantee nor assume responsibility for verifying the authorship of each work.



PARENTAL/GUARDIAN PERMISSION SLIP 2026

ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY

1145 E. Kaler Dr., Phoenix ** <https://azpoetry.net>

Dear Parents or Guardian:

This form grants permission for your child to have their name, city/state, school name and poem title placed on the ASPS website at <https://AZpoetry.net> announcing Winners and Honorable Mentions of our 2026 Arizona Youth Poetry Contest. Also, you grant permission for your child’s name, city/state, school name and the winning poem to appear in our annual anthology, *Sandcutters*. Your child will receive a complimentary copy.

By signing this form, you give permission and hold harmless the Arizona State Poetry Society and its Board of Directors from any and all liability.

Child’s name (please print clearly) _____

City/State of Residence _____

School _____ Grade & Age _____

Parent’s Name (please print clearly) _____

Parent’s Signature _____

Date: _____

Thank you,

Christy White
ASPS Youth Contest Chair
christywhite.smp@azpoetry.net

For Those Who Place First, Second or Third in the Youth Contest

Winners will be notified in May 2026. We will send a complimentary copy of *Sandcutters* at the end of the year, so please provide your mailing address as well as a telephone number and email, should we need to reach you. To send the winning prize money to you, please let us know if you would prefer to receive a check and to whom it should be made payable. We can also send the money via Zelle if you provide your Zelle email.

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Zelle Email: _____

Prefer to receive the payment as a check made payable to _____