



2026 ANNUAL CONTEST CATEGORIES

Please Read Guidelines & Rules Carefully

Maximum 42 lines per poem (See Guidelines/Rules for details. Specific forms (e.g. rondeau, sonnet, villanelle, etc.) should follow required formatting, spacing and line limitations.

1. ASPS AWARD

Sponsor: ASPS Form: Any / Subject: Any

2. AGING

Sponsor: Walter Ralston Form: Any / Subject: Aging

3. CENTO

Sponsor: Tucson Poetry Society Form: 14 line Cento/ Subject: Any

4. GARDENING

Sponsor: Laura Rodley Form: Any / Subject: Gardening

5. ISSA AWARD IN HAIKU

Sponsor: DE Navarro Form: Traditional Haiku/ Subject: Any

6. HUMOR / SATIRE

Sponsor: East Valley Poets Form: Any / Subject: Humor/Satire

7. JESSIE BELLE RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL AWARD

Sponsor: Linda Rittenhouse In honor of Poetry Society of America Founder and 1st recipient of the Robert Frost Medal. Form: Any rhyme scheme using END rhyme / Subject: Dusk

8. LEGACY AWARD

Sponsor: CChristy White In honor of Priscilla H. White, former ASPS President. Form: Any / Subject: Spiritual

9. SHORT POEM

Sponsor: Martha H. Balph Form: Any / Subject: Any serious topic - **12 lines** of poetry

10. NATURE'S GIFT

Sponsor: Janet Rives Form: Any / Subject: Nature

11. EKPHRASTIC POEM

Sponsor: West Valley Poets Form: Any / Subject: Any art form

12. PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED POEM -

Sponsor: Alan Perry Form: Any / Subject: Any. Include publication name & year poem published on summary page

13. PREVIOUSLY REJECTED POEM

Sponsor: Bill Moody Form: Any / Subject: Any. Include publication name & year rejected on summary page. Poem may be edited from prior submission.

14. CURRENT EVENTS

Sponsor: Kris Perry. Form: Any. Thoughtful commentary—no vulgar language.

15. RHYMING POETRY FOR CHILDREN

Sponsor: Elaine A Powers. Form: Any rhyming / Subject: Any

16. WIZARDS & ROCKET SHIPS

Sponsor: Brick Cave Media Form: Any / Subject: Genre Fiction Poetry (Fantasy, Superhero/Steampunk, etc)

17. SONNET

Sponsor: John Crawford Form: Any 14-line sonnet style/scheme / Subject: Patience

18. TURQUOISE & COPPER

Sponsor: Scottsdale Mustang Poets. Form: Any/ Subject: Arizona treasures

19. SHORT RHYMING POEM

Sponsor: Patricia Clark In honor & memory of Betsy Huhn Clark, a lifelong rhyming poet. Form: Short Rhyming Poem / Subject: Any

20. WILD PLACES, OPEN SPACES

Sponsor: Steve Chaffee In honor of poet adventurer, John Dell. Form: Any / Subject: Landscapes void of human habitation & development

21. IMAGINE MY SURPRISE

Sponsor: Chuck Thompson Form: Any / Subject: A surprise that lingers in your memory

GUIDELINES/RULES Submissions Accepted June 1 - August 31, 2026

QUALIFICATIONS

- Original, unpublished poems not currently submitted to other contests or journals/publications (excluding category 14) / Eligible poems may not be withdrawn after submission
- Poems written in English only
- Each poem may be entered in only one category
- Unlimited submissions of different poems for each category
- All categories are open to ASPS members and non-members; sponsors may enter their own categories
- **NOTE:** By submitting your poem(s), you give ASPS permission to publish them if they win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place

[Additional Information on Page 2](#) →

FORMAT

- Times New Roman 12 point
- Single spaced only (no 1.5x or 2x spacing)
- No illustrations or graphics
- **Maximum 42 lines**, including blank lines, epigraph, and text of any kind; **does not include title and blank line below title.**
- Editor may alter line breaks in poems having more than 50 characters per line, including punctuation marks and spaces.

Electronic Submissions Preferred

- Submit to: christywhite.smp@azpoetry.net
- Subject Line: 2026 Annual Contest Entry
- Word or text documents **only** attached to the email: **No PDF's or Google docs**
- In the email, list poem titles & number of poems

Paper Submissions and Paper Payment

- 8 1/2 x 11" white, unlined, **no staples**
- Check or Money Order payable to ASPS, mailed with submission(s) to:

**Christy White,
1145 E Kaler Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85020**

Entry Fee Per Poem:

ASPS Members - \$3 / Non-Members - \$4

Electronic Payment Options:

PayPal or Zelle

<https://form.jotform.com/221418112048041>

SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:

Summary Page (1 page w/ poem titles)

Upper Right Corner

- Poet's Full Name
- Complete Mailing Address
- Email and Phone
- Number of Poems Submitted
- Total \$ of Entry Fees Submitted

Body of Summary Page

- List **ONLY** following items for each poem:
Category Number, Name, & Poem Title

- For Categories 12 & 13 name the publication that published/rejected the poem and year.

Poem(s) Page(s)

- **Upper Right Corner:** Category Number & Name
- **Body of Document:** Poem Title and Poem
- **DO NOT** write your name or any identifying information on this page. Your name and details are **only** on the Summary Page
- **DO NOT** title any poem to match the name of the category/topic you are entering

Judges: Qualified Poetry Judges who are not members of ASPS will judge all categories. Their decisions are final.

Winners: Winners will be notified in October. All winning poems will appear in the 2026 *Sandcutters* anthology with the list of Honorable Mentions.

SAMPLE SUBMISSION ENTRY PAGE

Submissions consist of ONE cover page with a **TITLE LIST** of all poems submitted. **Separate page for EACH POEM** submitted electronically by email or by postal mail.

Summary Cover Page Example

Poet's Full Name
Street Address or PO Box
City, State, Zip
Email & Phone
Number of poems submitted
Total \$ fees submitted

Category Number and Category Name
Title of Poem
First Line of Poem

For Categories 12 & 13 list the Publication that accepted or rejected your poem & year

Poem Page Example

Category Number
Category Name

Poem Title

Typed Poem - do not put your name on this page!

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes are as follows:

Category 1

First Place	\$100
Second Place	\$65
Third Place	\$35

Categories 2-21

First Place	\$50
Second Place	\$30
Third Place	\$20

By submitting to the Annual Contest, you confirm that all your work and submissions are yours alone and that no part of your submission has been generated by any artificial intelligence content generator. We reserve the right to reject your work at any time in our review, acceptance, and publication process if we discover that content has been AI generated or plagiarized.

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