

The 2018 BlackBerryPeach Prizes for Poetry (BBP3): Spoken and Heard
National Federation Of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

[Printable Guidelines \(pdf\)](#)

GUIDELINES

- Open to all poets writing/speaking in English
- Original work by a single author
- Submit 4 audio files in .mp3 or .WAV format; each file (poem) limited to 3 minutes' duration. Voice only, please (no musical or percussion accompaniment). Winners can add music, finger snaps, dance, etc. during performance at the convention or in subsequent recordings, as long as the music is original and/or not protected by copyright.
- No video files, please; videos will be accepted of the winners after they are announced. Props and background music, etc. are subject to the same copyright restrictions as mentioned above.
- Submit a printed transcript of the poems as a single document in Word or .pdf format. Insert a page break between each poem. Title each poem.
- No author identification anywhere in transcript or on the audio files; no biographical information that could disclose your identity. Do not include your name as part of either audio or written file name. Substitute a fictitious name if your real name is in a title or poem; if you win, you can put your real name back into the work before publication.
- Pages of transcript numbered, one poem, one column per page. Poems may be continued on a second or third page, but do not put two poems on the same page.
- Single space your transcript. Use 12-point type in Times New Roman or similar font. Do not use fancy type fonts.
- Do not submit acknowledgments for previously published poems. If you win, you will be asked to supply an acknowledgments page for the chapbook.
- Only one entry of four poems per contestant, please. Multiple entries will disqualify **all** submissions from that contestant.
- The first place winner will not be eligible to compete in the following year.

Literary Standards:

While we honor your First Amendment right of free speech, be aware that any profanity used must be necessary to the literary integrity of the poem. Our judge will view the gratuitous use of profanity as a crutch for shoddy craftsmanship or as a cliché that has lost its shock value. The NFSPS will not give prizes for, nor publish, work that perpetuates derogatory stereotypes. Nor will it accept work that is obscene, prurient or sexually graphic, hate-mongering, or abusive of any social, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender group.

Deadline:

Submissions will be accepted between 1 January and 15 March 2018 using the Submittable.com online system, which will be accessible only during that time.

Entry fee and payments:

The submission fee is \$10 for NFSPS members, \$15 for nonmembers. Members of state poetry societies affiliated with NFSPS are members.

Click here [State Poetry Societies](#) to see if your organization is an NFSPS affiliate. Pay at Submittable.com with a credit card or PayPal.

Submission Guidelines:

Online Submissions Only.

- NFSPS uses Submittable.com, an online submissions manager, to receive contest entries. Visit nfsp.submittable.com/submit for further information.
Be sure both audio and document files are ready on your computer before you begin the submission process, because the online entry operation will direct you to upload them in tandem.
- The Submittable.com account is free, simple to set up, and instantly usable. If you currently have a Submittable account, you may use it to enter the competition.
If you do not have an account, use the online sign-up to get your free, personal, and permanent account.
- Create an audio file in mp3 or WAV format of your four poems, performed in the order they will appear on the accompanying document file. Do not identify yourself on the audio, but give the title of each poem you perform.
- Create a single document file in Word or .pdf format that contains your four poems, arranged in the order you will perform them. That is the way they will go into the book, should you be a winner. Title each poem and put a page break after each poem.
- You will be notified automatically that your entry has been received. Once the contest is over, the files will be securely archived, and you need not go back to withdraw them.

Judging:

All entries will be reviewed for compliance with guidelines and overall quality by the competition committee. Approximately 100 entries will be sent, without identification or acknowledgments, to an independent judge, who will remain anonymous until the results are announced. Results are final.

Publication:

A video of the winning performance will be posted on YouTube. The NFSPS website will post a link to the YouTube presentation and to Amazon.com for chapbook purchase. NFSPS, Inc. will design and publish a chapbook containing, at the editor's discretion, the four poems from each of the three prizewinners. NFSPS will publish the prizewinning entries in a 6" by 9" chapbook that it will market on Amazon.com. NFSPS, Inc., the publisher, will receive all proceeds from Amazon.com sales. NFSPS reserves first printing rights, which then revert to the authors. Each winner will receive 25 complimentary copies of the chapbook to give family or friends, or to sell while they are at the convention.

For additional information, contact Joseph Cavanaugh, BBP3 Chair, at jcavanaugh1@gmail.com.