

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 - be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including electronically and placed on exhibition, not under consideration or accepted for publication. (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 haiku or another form that is supposed to be untitled;
 - have a 40 line limit for all contests not stating line limit. Line count includes every line, both **printed and blank**, except the title and its following space.
 - be typed or computer generated (not handwritten or hand printed) 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 2021). Printing rights to poems winning less than \$15 (or no prize) revert to the poet after the list of winners is published in the August, 2021 NFSPS newsletter, *Strophes*. All prize winners will be notified, and others may obtain a list of winners in August, 2021 by sending \$1 and a #10 SASE to:

Paul Ford, Strophes Editor
10239 Hickory Point Dr., Sandy, UT 84092

No poems will be returned, so poets should retain copies.
- An eligible poem **may not be withdrawn** after submission.
- 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.
- Check or money order enclosed must be made payable to NFSPS, Inc. (initials sufficient) rather than to any individual.
 - Non-members may enter most contests at \$1 each (except \$5 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.)

- Judges will be selected by NFSPS, Inc. No ties will be awarded, and the decisions of the judges will be final.
- When to submit poems:
 - Contest **starting date**: entries must not be postmarked before **January 1, 2021**.
 - Contest **deadline**: entries must be postmarked by **March 15, 2021**.
- “Members Only” eligible if a paid-up member of a state society, listed in alphabetical membership roll mailed by a state society along with NFSPS dues to:

Linda Harris
711 6th St. SE
Altoona, IA 50009-1926

by **January 15, 2021** and updated as required by the Contest deadline. (E-mail: harristaxes@aol.com)

- How to submit poems via USPS:
 - Send **two** copies of the poem, typed, photocopied, or computer-generated, 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 poet, state society membership or “NON-MEMBER 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.
 - Prepare a 3” x 5” lined file card (leave first line blank) and list poet’s name, address, phone number, E-mail address (if available), state society membership (or “NON-MEMBER”). List on the card the number, but not the title of each contest you are entering. List the total number of poems sent. Do NOT staple the card to entries or to entry fee.
 - Mail all entries at one time, unfolded, in a large envelope, including the file card 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 Entries to:
2021 Contest Chair Carla Jordan
P.O. Box 2863
Evergreen, CO 80437-2863

The 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](http://Submittable.com). **Please read and follow the rules on Submittable as they are slightly different.**

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:

E-mail or send a #10 SASE to the Chair in charge:

• Rules, 2021 Annual Contests

2021 Contest Chair: Carla Jordan
P.O. Box 2863, Evergreen, CO 80437-2863
ContestChair.nfsps@gmail.com

• Brochures Mailing, 2021 Annual Contests

Paul Ford, 1st VP/*Strophes* Editor
10239 Hickory Point Dr., Sandy, UT 84092
E-mail: pmford3@yahoo.com

• Co-Contest Sponsors/Brochures

• Membership

Julie Cummings, President
9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433-4007
E-mail: Julie@JulieCummingsPoetry.com

• Stevens Manuscript Competition

Julie Cummings, Acting Stevens Manuscript Chair
9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433-4007
E-mail: stevens.nfsps@gmail.com

• 2021 College Undergraduate Poetry Competition

• Co-Contest Sponsors/Brochures

Steven Concert, 4th VP/Competition Chair
49 Kitchen Avenue, Harveys Lake, PA 18618
E-mail: PaperlessPoets@gmail.com

• The 2021 BlackBerryPeach (BBP3) Award

Joseph Cavanaugh, 2nd VP/Development/Endowments/BBP3 Chair
3722 Longford Cir., Ormond Beach, FL 32174
E-mail: jcavanaugh1@gmail.com

STUDENT AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 32 line limit.
Grades 9-12 Sponsored by Catherine L’Herisson and Julie Cummings
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
7 Honorable Mentions: \$5 each.

POETRY IN THE CLASSROOM AWARD

Grades 6-8 Sponsored by New Mexico State Poetry Society
1st Prize: \$25 2nd Prize: \$15. 3rd Prize: \$10.

Grades 3-5 Sponsored by New Mexico State Poetry Society
1st Prize: \$25 2nd Prize: \$15. 3rd Prize: \$10.

No entry fee required. 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.

The NFSPS anthology of Prize Poems, *Encore*, containing the winning poems from these contests, will be available upon publication in August on the Amazon.com Website and at the 2020 NFSPS summer convention. For information regarding current *Encore* editions contact: **Encore Editor, Kathy Cotton at kalcotton@gmail.com**. For information regarding available editions and book prices, visit the NFSPS Website (select Publications in menu).



National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

www.nfsps.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. 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. NFSPS, Inc. offers fifty national contests each year and conducts an annual convention hosted by one of its affiliated states. The 2021 Convention site will be **announced soon!** Check the Website at www.nfsps.com 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 Trethewey |
| August Derleth | Richard Wilbur | Peter Meinke |
| William Stafford | William Stafford | Jo McDougall |
| N. Scott Momaday | Rodney Jones | David Rothman |

61st Annual Convention ~ 2021 Annual Contests

- NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD (to honor Mary B. Wall)**
Subject: Any. Form: Any. 100 line limit. Sponsored by NFSPS, Inc. 1st Prize: \$1,000. 2nd Prize: \$500. 3rd Prize: \$250.
Entry fee – members and non-members: \$5 per poem.
Limit: 4 poems per contestant.
- THE NFSPS BOARD AWARD**
Subject: Piece(s) Form: Any.
Sponsored by the NFSPS Executive and Appointive boards.
1st Prize: \$225. 2nd Prize: \$75 3rd Prize: \$50.
- THE MARGO AWARD**
In memory of Margo LaGattuta who encouraged poetry in every one she met. Subject: Wolves. Form: Any. 50 line limit. Sponsored by her friends. 1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- DONALD STODGHILL MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**
To honor the memory of Don Stodghill, who served as President of the Poetry Society of Texas and Legal Advisor of NFSPS.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by Pat Stodghill.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- *5 GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD (*Members Only)**
Subject: Life in the Future, beyond Earth or on it.
Form: Any Rhyming Form., slant acceptable, no nonce forms, identify form on entry 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$150. 2nd Prize: \$75. 3rd Prize: \$25.

*** 6. WINNERS' CIRCLE AWARD**

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 80 line limit. Sponsored by previous prize winners in Contest 1, NFSPS Founders Award: Diane Glancy, Harriet Stovall Kelley, Pat Stodghill, Pat Underwood.
1st Prize: \$150. 2nd Prize: \$70. 3rd Prize: \$40.

7. STONE GATHERING AWARD

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

*** 8. POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS AWARD (*Members Only)**

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

9. ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: "When the Door Opens" Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS).
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

***10. JIM BARTON, BARD OF THE PINES AWARD**

In memory of James Nathan Barton, Past President of NFSPS and cheerleader to all writers, who saw wonder and poetry everywhere in nature. Subject: In the Pines Form: Any.
Sponsored by the South Arkansas Poets of the Pines
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.

***11. AL LASTER MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

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

***12. JIM BARTON MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

13. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD (*Members Only)

In honor of John Chambers, Riley Kelly, Helen Norris, and all the other ASPS poets we have lost. Subject: Tell Me Something Beautiful Form: Any. 50 line limit.
Sponsored by the Alabama State Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

14. LAND OF ENCHANTMENT AWARD

To honor the memory of Susan Paquet
Subject: A Poem Related to "Borders," real or imagined. Form: Any. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the New Mexico State Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.

15. POET'S WORK AWARD

Subject: Life as Other Form: Persona Poem
Sponsored by Paul Ford and Marie Andrews
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25

16. POWER OF WOMEN AWARD

Subject: The Power of Women. Form: Any 40 line limit
Sponsored by Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughner
1st Prize: \$70. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$20.

***17. THE VIRGINIA CORRIE-COZART MEMORIAL AWARD**

Subject: Mutability Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Honoring the author of A Mutable Place and Wavering Reflection
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.

18. MILDRED VORPAHL BAASS REMEMBRANCE AWARD (*Members Only)

In loving remembrance of Mildred Vorpahl Baass, who served two terms as Poet Laureate of Texas, 1993-1994 and 1994-1995.
Subject: Domestic Cats—their endearing habits, intelligence, loyalty, beauty, etc. (no reference to cruelty or abuse). Form: Any. 40 line limit. Sponsored by her daughter, Nancy Baass.
1st Prize: \$60, 2nd Prize: \$40, 3rd Prize: \$20.

19. LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS AWARD

In memory of John Rezmerski
Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. 45 line limit.
Sponsored by the League of Minnesota Poets.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.

20. JESSICA C. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Villanelle. Line Limit: 19.
Sponsored by the Shavano Poets Society of Colorado.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.

21. POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA AWARD

Subject: A Daily Ritual. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Indiana.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

22. NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: 2020, A Year to Forget?. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Nevada Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

23. WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD

In memory of William Stafford, Oregon's late Poet Laureate and twice Honorary Chancellor of NFSPS. Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Oregon Poetry Association and Friends of William Stafford.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

***24. THE NEW YORK POETRY FORUM AWARD**

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

25. COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO AWARD (*Members Only)

Subject: 2020 In Review. Form: Any. 30 line limit.
Sponsored by the Columbine Poets of Colorado.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

26. MORTON D. PROUTY & ELSIE S. PROUTY MEMORIAL AWARD

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. 40 line limit. Sponsored by daughters, Catherine P. Horn and Carol P. Ostberg and their families.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

27. LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 lines or less.
Sponsored by the Louisiana State Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

***28. NAOMI STROUD SIMMONS AWARD(*Members Only)**

In memory of Naomi Stroud Simmons. Subject: Any. Form: Any. 28 line limit. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

29. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: Heritage. Form: Any. 50 line limit.
Sponsored by the Utah State Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

30. CSPS JAMES E. MACWHINNEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Blank Verse –Iambic Pentameter. 50 line limit.
Sponsored by the California State Poetry Society.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: 20.

31. ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

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

32. THE ROBBIE AWARD

Subject: Loss of a Child. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by Joyce Wilson
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

33. OHIO AWARD

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

34. FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION, INC. AWARD

Subject: A Celebration of Florida History or Culture—or any other Florida topic, historic or contemporary. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Florida State Poets Association, Inc.
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.

35. POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARD

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

36. MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Sonnet (Indicate sonnet pattern on entry).
Sponsored by the Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc.
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15

***37. JESSE STUART MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

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

38. MISSOURI STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: The Show Me State. Form: Any. 40 lines or less.
Sponsored by Missouri State Poetry Society
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

39. BARBARA STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD

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

***40. ALICE MAKENZIE SWAIM MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

Subject: Any. Form: Traditional Sonnet (indicate sonnet pattern on entry). Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15

***41. POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA AWARD (*Members Only)**

Subject: Any Form: Pantoum –16 line limit.
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Oklahoma.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

42. SAVE OUR EARTH AWARD

In memory of David F. Balph. Subject: Environmental Issues.
Form: Any. 40 line limit. Sponsored by Martha H. Balph.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

43. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

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

***44. POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE AWARD (*Members Only)**

In memory of Jeanine Mah. Subject: Music- any type (classical, popular, country, etc.). Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Tennessee.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

45. IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION AWARD

Subject: Poetry For Children. Form: Any. 40- line limit.
Sponsored by the Iowa Poetry Association.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

46. WYOPOETS AWARD

Subject: Wyoming or the West. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the WyoPoets of Wyoming.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

***47. SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION AWARD (*Members Only)**

Subject: Homemade with Love. Form: Any, no Haiku or Prose. 32 line limit. Sponsored by the San Antonio Poets Association, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas for 40 years.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

48. MAINE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: the Sea or Seacoast. Form: Any. 40 line limit.
Sponsored by the Maine Poets Society, fostering poetry since 1936.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

***49. MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

Subject: A Burma Shave poem. Form: comic rhymed poem suitable for a series of road signs. 5-6 line limit.
Sponsored by Russell H. Strauss.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

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50. THE POETS NORTHWEST AWARD (*Members Only)

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 36 line limit.
Sponsored by Poets Northwest, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, celebrating 32 years of encouraging and inspiring poets in their craft. 1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15

***Please see the back of this brochure for information on the Student Award (formerly Contest 50)