

Chester Public Library Annual Poetry Contest

CPL first introduced its annual poetry contest in the spring of 2016. Sadly, as with many other activities, the contest was put on hold during the Covid19 pandemic. We are very excited to bring back this tradition in 2025 and hope that it will continue for many years to come! Libraries are a bastion of freedom to express and learn, and we invite you to do so with us.

Timeline

- January-February: Submissions open
- March: Submissions closed, judging begins
- April 12th: Reception at the library at 10am for all participants and the public. Winners and runners up will be announced.

General Guidelines

- Any style of poetry is acceptable.
- Entries are encouraged to remain suitable for general audiences regarding profanity and subject matter
- Entry forms are available at the circulation desk and at chesterpubliclibrary.com
- Entries will be judged in the following groups: Junior High (grades 5-8), Young Adult (grades 9-12), and Adult
- Winners and runners-up will be invited to read their submissions at the reception on April 12th at the library. The public is also invited to attend.
- Prizes and reception are provided by the Friends of the Library

Rules for Entry

- Entries must be original works by the writer. Entries will be evaluated for plagiarism and use of AI.
- One entry per person
- Entries must be typed or computer generated on 8.5x11 inch white paper in Arial or Times New Roman font.
- Must have a title
- **Do not include the contestant's name on the poem;** entries are judged anonymously.
- Entrant must reside within Chester Unit School District #139
- All entries must be received by February 28th at 1:00pm. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Submit entries either as a hard copy (**not the original**) at the library circulation desk or attached as a PDF to an email and sent to chesterpubliclib@gmail.com.
- Entries must include a signed copy of the Entry Form
- All decisions by judges are final
- The Chester Public Library reserves the right to print, reuse in whole or in part, any work submitted to the contest.