

41st Annual Poetry Contest Rules & Guidelines

The Greater New Braunfels Arts Council and the New Braunfels Writers Guild are pleased to sponsor New Braunfels' 41st Annual Poetry Contest.

The competition comprises four divisions:

1. 5th and 6th Grade
2. 7th and 8th Grade
3. High School
4. Adult (18+)

Rules and Guidelines

1. Poem submission begins January 1, 2025 and ends February 28, 2025. By submitting a poem to the contest, the entrant agrees to abide by all contest rules.
2. An entrant may submit a maximum of two poems, but only one poem may place. Poets retain the rights to their poems. No poems will be returned.
3. The poem may be on any subject and written in any style except limerick.
4. All entries must be original works, composed in English. Plagiarism, which includes the use of third-party poetry, song lyrics, characters, or other writing, without written permission, will result in disqualification.
5. Poems generated or created by computer software and/or with the use of artificial intelligence (A.I.) will be disqualified.
6. No entry may have been published previously or performed publicly.
7. Use 1-inch margins on all sides, a typeface size 12 or larger, and double spacing. No illustrations. The poem must be a minimum of eight lines long and may not exceed one side of an 8½ x 11-inch sheet of paper.
8. Winners will be notified by message, letter, and/or phone call no later than April 3rd, 2025. Cash prizes and medallions will be awarded to the winners at a ceremony on April 24th, 2025, at the New Braunfels Public Library, located at 700 E. Common St, New Braunfels, Texas. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

9. When ready to enter, access the online entry form using the QR code, or follow this link: <https://form.jotform.com/243121323695149>. On the form, include the entrant's name, pen name (if any), mailing address, telephone number, and grade and school, if a student.



Questions? Email the Poetry Contest Coordinator, Gale Leach, at gnbacpoetry@gmail.com.

The Scoring Process

This year's contest has no specific theme, so poets are welcome to write about the topic of their choice.

Determination of winning places will be at the sole discretion of the judges. The judging panel is made up of experts and professionals in the field of literature. Their scoring rubric is based on a 100-point system. The following 10 areas will be rated from 1 to 10 points, for a possible total of 100 points:

1. Beauty, Power, Education, or Entertainment
2. Message and Interest
3. Technical Excellence
4. Rhyme and Meter
5. Assonance and Alliteration
6. Form and Flow
7. Choice of Words and Readability
8. Overall Impact
9. Originality
10. Style and Expertise

While keeping the poet's name confidential, the Greater New Braunfels Arts Council and the New Braunfels Writers Guild reserve the right to publish the poems and to keep them in their files for documentation purposes and for advertising future contests.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving submissions from our talented local writers!