

2026 Poetry Competition

New York State Fair Wegmans Creative Arts Center

(315) 728-4328 – Creative Arts Center Office

nyscreativearts@agriculture.ny.gov

Presented by the New York State Fair, Syracuse, New York 13209,
from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily (6:00 pm on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026)

Fees:

- \$15.00 Exhibitor Fee
- **Adult Class** - \$10.00, with a limit of TWO (2) entries, ONE (1) entry per Division.
- **NEW! NO ENTRY FEES for Youth entries** – with a limit of TWO (2) entries, ONE (1) entry per Division.

POETRY RULES:

1. Please see the **Creative Arts Center General Rules and Regulations** and the **Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule** that is on the NYS Fair website under “Creative Arts Center”. This schedule contains all dates and times that pertain to entering and exhibiting in the NYS Fair Creative Arts Center Competitions.
2. The rules printed herein are made a part of the conditions under which all entries of exhibitors are made, and exhibitors are respectfully requested to read them carefully, thereby avoiding confusion at the time of the competition and to make certain in which classes their entries belong.
3. Poems must be the entrant’s own original work, **recent within 2 years**, and have not been previously published or self-published, either in print or electronically.
4. Poems must not exceed 40 lines in length. (**Includes Spacing**, approximately one, 8” x 11” page).
5. Only one (1) entry per poet – adult or youth, per division. We are looking for your very best work!
6. Each poem should be computer-printed or type-written on one sheet of white paper in a simple, 14 point, Times New Roman.

7. Poems must be emailed in an attached PDF format by entry deadline of August 3, 2026. The Email must contain the author’s name, contact phone number, email address, mailing address, title of work and Division/Class entered. Please note that none of this info, except the Poems title, can be on the PDF File of the poem entered. Any entry not following this rule will be automatically disqualified. If entering both Divisions, please send separate emails/PDFs. Email all entries to: Yvonne.bakowski2@agriculture.ny.gov
8. **NOTIFICATION:** Exhibitors will receive an email(s) notifying you if your entry(s) was “Accepted” or “Not Accepted” by 4:00 pm on Friday, August 14 following judging days. Please note that only entries that placed, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & HM will be displayed during the fair. If you have not received an email by Monday, August 17, you may call the Creative Arts Center Office at 315-728-4328 or email Yvonne.bakowski2@agriculture.ny.gov to verify the status of your entry(s). **PLEASE NOTE** that results will **NOT** be given.
9. There will be a group reading of winning and selected poems of Honorable Mention on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM in the Creative Arts Center Empire Theatre.
10. **ALL** entries/ribbons that are on display during the NYS Fair, can be picked up after the fair on the scheduled Claim Entry Days listed in the Exhibitor Schedule or by appointment in the Creative Arts Center Office.

DIVISION A

Poems **MUST BE** prompted by either NYS agriculture or anything that is New York itself. Some examples are as follows: State fruit, apple; State beverage, milk; State tree, sugar maple; State flower, rose; State insect, ladybug; State bird, bluebird; State animal, beaver; State freshwater fish, brook trout; State fossil, Eurypterus recipes; State gem, garnet; State muffin, apple muffin; State shell, bay scallop; State bush, lilac; State reptile, snapping turtle; State marine or saltwater fish, striped bass.

CLASS:

	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Adult – ages 18 and over – based on NYS agriculture or anything that is New York itself.	\$100	\$75	\$50
2. Youth – ages 17 and under – based on NYS agriculture or anything that is New York itself.	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class.

DIVISION B

Poems may be any theme that is deemed appropriate and follows all NYS Fair Rules and Regulations. This Division has no subject limitations.

CLASS:

1. Adult – ages 18 and over – no subject limitation
2. Youth – ages 17 and under – no subject limitation

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50
Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class.

BEST OF SHOW AWARD - ADULT: \$125.00

BEST OF SHOW AWARD - YOUTH