



A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest, 2016

Official Rules

ELIGIBILITY: A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest is presented by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Estuary Program) in celebration of the Morro Bay estuary and all it offers. The contest is open to youth ages 12 through 17, and adults 18 years of age or older at the time of entry. Employees and members of the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay and their immediate families are not eligible to participate or win. The Estuary Program reserves the right to verify all eligibility requirements. All submissions will be considered for publication in the Estuary Program's annual report, and may appear on the Estuary Program website or in other Estuary Program publications. Entrants retain copyright of their individual poems.

Each entry must be written in English and follow the official rules to be eligible for judging. Rules for each category follow:

Estuarine Seventeen: All entries must follow the haiku form: a three-line poem with a total of seventeen syllables, written with a 5/7/5 syllable count. For more information on the haiku form, visit <http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/5782>. Poems must use the theme "Morro Bay estuary." All poems entered must be written after May 15, 2015, and must be unpublished as of the date of entry.

Estuary & Watershed Wildlife: Entries in this category may be written in any form, and should contain no more than 45 lines, including any blank lines between stanzas. Poems must focus on wildlife native to the Morro Bay estuary and/or the surrounding watershed. All poems entered must be written after May 15, 2015, and must be unpublished as of the date of entry. Please do not submit poems that have been entered in the A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest in any previous year.

CONTEST TIMELINE: Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m. on April 29, 2016. Winners will be announced on May 13, 2016. Celebratory reading will be held at Coalesce Bookstore (845 Main St, Morro Bay, CA 93442) on May 20, 2016, at 7 p.m.

HOW TO ENTER: Send entries by email to rpass@mbnep.org with the subject line "2016 Poetry Contest." Poems should be typed in an easy-to-read 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman, Calibri, etc. Please no cursive or fancy fonts.) **All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. (PDT) on April 29, 2016.** Submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. No hard copy entries will be eligible for the contest. Each entry (up to three per entrant) must be attached to the email in **Word format (.doc or .docx file type) or PDF format (.pdf file type).**



In the body of the email, please include:

1. **Author's first and last name:** The author's full first and last name as it should appear in publication.
2. **Contact information:** including email, phone number, and mailing address.
 - Youth entries should include the **author's age, grade level, current school**, and the **full name and contact information of the parent or guardian** who is giving permission for the youth to enter the contest.
 - Adults should include the **author's city of residence**.
3. The category or categories the author is entering. Category choices:
 - Youth Estuarine Seventeen (ages 12 through 17)
 - Youth Estuary & Watershed Wildlife (ages 12 through 17)
 - Adult Estuarine Seventeen (age 18 and up)
 - Adult Estuary & Watershed Wildlife (age 18 and up)

By entering, each entrant represents that the poems they submit are their own original creations, that they have not been copied from others, and that they do not violate the rights of any other person or entity. Any intellectual property infringement, misuse, or plagiarism of another person's work in any form or state will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of eligibility to receive all awards, recognition, and prizes.

CONTEST THEME: Morro Bay Estuary

FEES: There are no fees to enter A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest. No purchase necessary.

PRIZES: One winner will be selected from each category (see "How to Enter" for the categories). Each winner will receive a gift basket and Certificate of Participation. The winning poems from each category will be published in the Estuary Program's annual report (space permitting), on the Estuary Program's website, and in social media messages. One runner-up from each category will receive a Certificate of Participation, and their selected poem will be included on the Estuary Program website and in social media messages.

All prize details are at the sole discretion of the Estuary Program. No substitution, cash equivalent or transfer of prizes permitted by winners. The Estuary Program reserves the right to substitute a prize (or portion thereof) of comparable or greater value, at its sole discretion. Prizes are awarded "as is" with no warranty or guarantee, either express or implied by the Estuary Program.



JUDGING CRITERIA: Each eligible entry will be reviewed equally based on the following criteria:

- Adherence to category theme. Haiku should adhere to the theme “The Morro Bay estuary.” Estuary & Watershed Wildlife poems should focus on wildlife native to the Morro Bay estuary and its surrounding watershed.
- Adherence to form. Entries for the Estuarine Seventeen categories will be judged on adherence to the haiku form. Entries for the Estuary & Watershed Wildlife category will be judged on adherence to the 45-line length limit described above.
- Imagery
- Creativity

Judges will give a score of 1–5 points for each of the criteria, 1 point being the lowest score and 5 points being the highest. The maximum number of points possible for all entries is 20. The entrant who submitted the entry that receives the highest score in each category (see “How to Enter” for details), as determined by the scores awarded by the Judges, will be the winner. If there is a tie, the Estuary Program reserves the right to break the tie with a judging panel vote. There will be one winner from each category and one runner up in each category.

JUDGES: The panel of volunteer judges includes guest judges Marguerite Costigan, Jerry Douglas Smith, and Patti Sullivan. Rachel Pass is the Morro Bay National Estuary Program representative.

Marguerite Costigan’s poetry reflects her love of art, nature, and the music of language. She has read poetry to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara audiences for 20+ years and has been published in *Asylum*, *Café Solo*, and *Pudding Magazine*. She’s been the featured reader at the live poetry series *Corners of the Mouth*, and San Luis Obispo’s annual *Poetry Festival*. Marguerite is the current [Poet Laureate for San Luis Obispo County](#).

Patti Sullivan’s books include, *For the Day, Not Fade Away*, and *At The Booth Memorial Home for Unwed Mothers 1966*. Other poems appear in *Solo Novo*, *LummoX*, *ARTLIFE*, and *Lilly Ledbetter: Women Poets Occupy the Workplace*.

She assists with the *Corners of the Mouth* at Linnaea’s, Poetry at the Steynberg, and the Annual San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival curated by Kevin Patrick Sullivan.

She is also a visual artist with several book covers to her credit and group and solo exhibits.

Jerry Douglas Smith is a Salida, Colorado native. He’s been a storyteller all his life. Living at 7000 feet in the heart of the Rockies, he acquired a natural education informed by rivers, raccoons, Native Americans, smart trout and wise old forests. A backpacker and fly-fisherman, he is a naturalist in the old sense—an insatiably curious student of human nature and the universe.

For 2013 and 2014 Jerry was Poet Laureate of San Luis Obispo. He's a founding member of 24-year-old Poets on the Edge critique group. For 15 years, he has hosted Second Sunday at Seven, a monthly poetry reading at Coalesce Garden Chapel in Morro Bay.



Rachel Pass is the Communications & Outreach Coordinator for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. She works with community members, partners, and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the Estuary Program's mission, and to encourage participation in restoration and preservation efforts. Rachel brings a background in writing, publishing, and teaching to her role. She loves to read and write poetry, and can often be found watching wildlife on the bay or hiking along the coast.

WINNER NOTIFICATION: Winners will be contacted by the Estuary Program and announced in a news release on May 13, 2016. The authors' names and winning entries will be printed in the Estuary Program's annual report, space permitting, and featured on the Estuary Program's website and social media channels.

USE OF ENTRY: By submitting an entry, entrant grants the Estuary Program and their designees an irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide perpetual license to use the entry and his/her name, city and state of residence for credit purposes in Estuary Program's online galleries, without further compensation, notification or permission, unless prohibited by law. In addition, each winner grants to the Estuary Program and their designees an irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide perpetual license to use and distribute the entry (as submitted, or as cropped by the Estuary Program), and his/her name, city and state of residence for credit purposes, in any and all media now or hereafter known, for purposes of promotion of this Contest and other Estuary Program contests and/or for purposes of advertising and promoting the Estuary Program and, except as otherwise stated herein, without further compensation, notification or permission, unless prohibited by law. Entrants retain copyright of their individual poems.

MISCELLANEOUS: In no event will the Estuary Program be responsible for any damages or losses arising out of access to and use of the websites or the downloading from and/or printing material downloaded from said site. The Estuary Program is not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, or misdirected entries.