



A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest, 2019

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 All poems entered must be written after April 30, 2018, and must be unpublished as of the date of entry.

Free Verse: Morro Bay History: Entries in this category must be written in free verse and should contain no more than 45 lines, including any blank lines between stanzas. Poems must focus on an aspect of history that relates to the Morro Bay Estuary. All poems entered must be written after April 30, 2018, and must be unpublished as of the date of entry.

CONTEST TIMELINE: Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2019. Winners will be announced on Friday, May 10, 2019. Celebratory reading will be held at Coalesce Bookstore (845 Main St, Morro Bay, CA 93442) on Friday May 17, 2019, at 7 p.m.

HOW TO ENTER: Send entries by email to rpass@mbnep.org with the subject line "2019 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 30, 2019.** Submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. No hard copy entries will be eligible for the contest. Each poem entered must be attached to the email **in Word format (.doc or .docx file type) or PDF format (.pdf file type)**. Each poet may enter three poems in total. This could mean three poems all in one category, or three poems total spread over the two categories (e.g, two free verse poems and one haiku).

In the body of the email, please include:



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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, phone number, and email address 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 Free Verse (ages 12 through 17)
 - Adult Estuarine Seventeen (age 18 and up)
 - Adult Free Verse (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 form. Entries for the Estuarine Seventeen categories will be judged on adherence to the haiku form. Entries for the Free Verse: Morro Bay History category will be judged on adherence to the 45-line length limit described above.
- Adherence to category theme. Haiku should adhere to the theme “The Morro Bay estuary.” Free Verse: Morro Bay History poems should focus on an aspect of history that relates to the Morro Bay estuary.
- Sensory detail
- Originality

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: Poems will be judged by a panel of guest judge who are well versed in poetry, as well as an Estuary Program representative.

WINNER NOTIFICATION: Winners will be contacted by the Estuary Program and announced in a news release on May 11, 2019. The authors’ names and winning entries will be featured on the Estuary Program’s website and social media channels. Winners names will also be released to local media via a press release created by the Estuary Program.

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.



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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.