A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest, 2020

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 its watershed. The contest is open to youth ages eight (8) through seventeen (17), and adults age eighteen (18) or older at the time of entry. Employees 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 to 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 All poems entered must be unpublished as of the date of entry and must not have been submitted to the Morro Bay Estuary poetry contest in the past.

> **State of the Bay 2020:** Entries in this category may be written in free verse or any other poetic form and should contain no more than 45 lines, including any blank lines between stanzas. Poems must focus on a topic covered in the *State of the Bay 2020* report. All poems entered must be unpublished as of the date of entry and must not have been submitted to the Morro Bay Estuary poetry contest in the past.

CONTEST TIMELINE: Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020. Winners will be announced on April 17, 2020. A celebratory reading will be held at Coalesce Bookstore (845 Main St, Morro Bay, CA 93442) on Friday May 8, 2020, at 7 p.m. Contest judges and contest winners will be invited to participate.

HOW TO ENTER: Send entries by email to poetry@mbnep.org with the subject line "2020 Poetry Contest." Poems should be typed in an easy-to-read 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman, Calibri, etc. Please no script or other fancy fonts.) **All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. (PDT) on March 31, 2020**. Submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. No hard copy entries will be eligible for the contest unless prearranged with an authorized representative of

the Estuary Program. 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)**.

The body of the email must 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. The Estuary Program will not share or sell this contact information and will use it only for the purpose of contacting the entrant or the entrant's legal guardian in regards to the poetry submission.
   - 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 that the author is entering. Category choices:
   - Youth Estuarine Seventeen (ages 12 through 17)
   - Youth State of the Bay 2020 (ages 8 through 17)
   - Adult Estuarine Seventeen (age 18 and up)
   - Adult State of the Bay 2020 (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.

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

PRIZES: One first-place winner and one second-place winner will be selected from each category (see "How to Enter" for the categories). Each first-place winner will receive a gift basket and Certificate of Participation. The winning poems from each category will be published on the Estuary Program's website MBNEP.org, and may also be published in print publications, greeting cards, and on social media platforms.

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." State of the Bay poems should focus on a topic covered in the Estuary Program's *State of the Bay 2020* report.
- Adherence to form. Entries for the Estuarine Seventeen categories will be judged on adherence to the haiku form. Entries for the Estuary & State of the Bay category will be judged on adherence to the 45-line length limit described above.
- Use of language
- 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 25. 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 first-place winner from each category and one second-place winner in each category.

JUDGES: Poems will be judged by a panel of guest judge who are well versed in poetry. An Estuary Program representative will manage the judging process and may serve as an additional judge as needed.

WINNER NOTIFICATION: Winners will be contacted by the Estuary Program and announced in a news release on April 17, 2020. The authors' names and winning entries will be featured on the Estuary Program's website and may be published on social media channels and/or print publications.

USE OF ENTRY: By submitting an entry, entrant and/or entrant's legal guardian 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, social media platforms or the downloading from and/or printing material downloaded from said site and social media platforms. The Estuary Program is not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, or misdirected entries.