



Georgia Poet Laureate's Prize Guidelines

Georgia's Poet Laureate Chelsea Rathburn, in collaboration with Georgia Council for the Arts, is pleased to announce the tenth annual Poet Laureate's Prize, awarded for an original poem written by a Georgia high school student. A winner and four finalists will be selected by the Poet Laureate and announced in the spring of 2026. The winning poet and finalists will be recognized by Governor Brian P. Kemp* and the Poet Laureate in the spring. The winning and finalist poems will be published by *Atlanta Magazine* at atlantamagazine.com. The student authors of the winning and finalist poems will receive a signed book of poetry by the Poet Laureate. Previous winners' poems and the required entry form are available at <https://gaarts.org/programs/poet-laureates-prize/>.

Eligibility

The Poet Laureate's Prize contest is open to all Georgia high school students, grades nine through 12, currently enrolled in a Georgia public school, accredited private school, or home school. All participants must be a resident of the State of Georgia. Minors must have their parent's or legal guardian's permission to enter (see entry form for details).

Entry Guidelines

- Only one poem per student will be accepted.
- Only original work will be considered and cannot contain previously published and/or copyrighted material in any part by any 3rd party.
- The poem may not be offensive or inappropriate.
- The poem may not be longer than 36 lines and should contain no more than 250 words.
- Poems must be printed in an easy-to-read, non-italic, black font that is 12 points or larger.
- Entrants share with Georgia Council for the Arts the rights to print and publish submitted poems.
- Entries from minors must be accompanied by a parent's or legal guardian's signature giving permission for entry.
- Entries of a poem that is inspired by or modeled after another poem should indicate that with a note below the title reading "after (the title of the poem, by the name of the author)." If possible, it would be helpful to provide a document with the text of the original poem or a link to the poem online.
- To be eligible, entries must be submitted with a complete entry form, including signatures. The entry form is available at <https://www.cognitoforms.com/GDECD1/GeorgiaPoetLaureatesPrizeEntryForm>.

Submission Deadline

February 20, 2026

**subject to scheduling*