



## Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program: Youth Poetry Contest Rules

as of 19 August 2019

### PURPOSE:

- This Poetry Contest promotes written expression, encourages the pursuit of literary exploration and excellence, and provides a venue for students to share their poetic works. It also promotes verbal expression (speaking before a crowd) and reaching others through poetry.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- The Contest is open to all students, grades 3 through 12, who attend school or are home schooled in Cochise County for the school year 2019-2020. Only seniors are eligible to submit poems for scholarship consideration.
- Poems must be unpublished, *the sole work of the entrant*, and not be entered in any other concurrent contest. Only poems written in the English language can be judged. Foreign phrases are acceptable. Plagiarized material WILL be grounds for disqualification. Only ONE poem per student poet may be submitted for the contest.

### CRITERIA:

- Poems should reflect the Western Heritage theme and demonstrate an understanding and creative use of cowboy language. Topics should relate to development of the Arizona Territory, the western life and experiences such as ranching, animals, land, environment, home, family, events, pets, friends, and characters.
- Our theme for this year is: "It's Cool to be a Cowboy". Only poems submitted for scholarship must relate to this year's theme.

### SUBMISSION:

- Your poem should be typed and double spaced on the single side of 8.5" X 11" white paper, with 1-inch margins on all sides. Use a standard font and avoid embellishments. Do not use ALL CAPS. Do not include any photos or graphics. Do not put your name on your poem. There is no limit on the length of your poem, but if you win you will be required to present your poem from memory.
- All entries must be accompanied by a completed copy of the Official Entry Form. Students should keep a copy of their poems. Submissions will not be returned.

### DEADLINE:

- All poetry submissions must be received by The Gathering by Friday, November 12, 2019. Schools/organizations should establish internal deadlines and if needed, conduct their own internal judging and submit no more than thirty (30) poems from each grade. Poems should be mailed to CCPMG: WHSOP, PO Box 3201, Sierra Vista, AZ, 85636.

### AWARDS:

- The Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering will recognize six categories of winners: First Grand, Second Grand, First Place, Second Place, Third Place and Honorable Mentions.
- The CCPMG may award up to five \$1000 scholarships to seniors. The Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering has dedicated one of the five scholarships to Roy "Bud" Strom and will henceforth be known as the "Bud Strom Memorial Scholarship".
- All winning students and their families will be invited to the annual Poetry Contest Winners' Party – called the "CowPie Party".
- All winners may receive a small monetary prize, but they must perform their poems from memory on stage during The Gathering to receive their prize money.
- All winners will have their poems published in the *Saddlebag of Poems* and receive a complimentary copy.
- All winning students will have the opportunity to have their picture taken by a professional photographer and have their pictures included in the *Saddlebag of Poems*.
- All winning students and their parents will receive complimentary tickets to the show(s) for the date(s)

of their performance.

**JUDGING:** See separate document: Criteria for Judging Cowboy Poetry

- Entries will be judged on *creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality, and mastery of poetic expression*. Poems are to be written on subjects relating to our western heritage and generally follow the style of Western Poetry. Prose is not acceptable. "Family-friendly" language is required. Profanity or other potentially offensive language will disqualify the submission.
- Poems must be the student's own work. We reserve the right to disqualify, without notification, any entry not complying with these rules.
- The Gathering reserves the right to award only those submissions that meet the judging criteria and are selected for an award by the judges. The judges' decisions are final. See Criteria for Judging (separate).
- All written poems will be judged on 16 November 2019.
- Scholarship poems will be judged during two sessions: In addition to written poem judging on Nov 16, 2019, scholarship finalists will also perform their poems from memory before the judges on Dec (TBA), 2019 for final selection of the winners.
- Third through Twelfth Grade winners and Scholarship finalists will be notified no later than Dec.1, 2019. Winners will be notified via email and mail at the addresses provided on their entry form.

**RIGHTS:**

- All winning poems will be published in the *Saddlebag of Poems*, which will be copyrighted by the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering. Poems may also be published in the event program and in our local paper(s) for advertising purposes. The Gathering retains no ownership rights to your poetry. Such rights remain with the poet at all times.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:**

- Scholarships may be used for any undergraduate course at any accredited college or university. They may also be used for books and fees. Scholarship winners must graduate from high school before they can use the funds. Failure to graduate from HS will result in forfeiture of the award monies.
- Scholarship funds are sent directly to the accredited college or university of the student's choice, and deposited in the student's account. The student is responsible for providing the contact information for the College or University's bursar. The scholarship monies are available for three years following the award presentation, but if not used in that time, are forfeited. For this year's award, the Scholarship funds are available for school years 2020/21-2022/23.

**PERFORMANCES:**

- All winning students will perform their poems on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at Buena High School. Performance times to be announced. Poems will be performed from memory and should be presented in a convincing and enthusiastic manner.
- The First Grand, Second Grand and First Place winners will ALSO perform their poems from memory during one of the two Headline Performances on February 7 or 8, 2019 at Buena High School.
- All Scholarship winners will ALSO perform their poems from memory during one of the two Headline Performances on February 7 or 8, 2019 at Buena High School.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:** If there are any questions, contact:

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Visit the Gathering's official website <http://www.cowboypoets.com/> for more information.