

The 13th Annual Lexington Sister Cities
Young Authors Showcase (Poetry)



2021 Theme:
“United in Hope”



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“United in Hope”

Submission Guidelines

DEADLINE: Friday, March 19, 2021

Theme:

The COVID-19 pandemic is a unique phenomenon in that it has affected every country around the globe. However, as is common in tragedy, hope shines through for those who persevere. [Hope is a uniting force during this time](#) as people struggle to cope with its ongoing effects and once again start to imagine a life without social distancing or wearing a mask. Indeed, the younger generation is capable of dreaming of a human existence that is even more dynamic, more advanced, and more resilient than ever before.

Students should explore the following questions [through the lens of citizen diplomacy and include creative ways that we stand together looking toward the future.](#)

How can the next generation of citizen diplomats help communities respond during and after the pandemic? In what ways does international experience affect an individual or community’s ability to stay hopeful? What are some examples or illustrations of coming together and celebrating our hope in humanity and its future? What are some unique ways that your city, country, or culture has proven to be hopeful during the past year?

Specifications:

- Students may only enter one (1) poem each into the showcase.
- Poetry submissions are not to exceed 200 words.
- Submissions must be written in English.
- All works must be original.

Entries:

Each participating student poet must be between 13 and 18 years of age by April 1, 2021. All entries must be the original work of the entrant. Only new pieces inspired by the theme should be submitted.

**Poems must be submitted to Lexington Sister Cities (via email)
by Friday, March 19, 2021.**

Email: lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com

Judging:

A panel will judge entries on the basis of originality, composition, and theme interpretation. Poet’s name, title, description of work and name of school are kept confidential until judging has been completed. The judges’ decision will be final. The top five poems selected will be sent to Sister Cities International for the international competition.

International Competition: First, Second and Third place winners will be selected in the international competition. The Grand Prize Winner (first place) will receive \$1,000, 2nd Place will receive \$250, and 3rd Place will receive \$100. The poems will be published on the Sister Cities International website.

Young Authors Showcase Entry Form (Poetry)

Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021

Please print clearly or type and attach this form with the poem

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

Parent Names: _____ Parent Email: _____

English/Writing/Language Arts Teacher: _____

Title of Work: _____

What inspired you to create this work?

All showcase entries become the artistic property of Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International. Although the poet retains his/her copyright for other uses, Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International will retain perpetual, non-exclusive rights to use submitted work in any future publication, promotional material and/or online service with no compensation other than credit with the poet's name and community. Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International reserves the right to free reproduction and exhibition of all submissions. Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International take no responsibility and will not compensate for any lost or damaged works.

By submitting the entry, we agree to give Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International, its members and affiliates, permission to publish and display the submitted entry at public exhibits, online, in publications and/or promotional materials, at the discretion of Lexington Sister Cities and Sister Cities International. We agree to abide by all the rules and terms of the showcase and agree to waive all claims of any kind against the showcase organizers.

Artist Signature _____ DATE _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ DATE _____

For more information, contact Lexington Sister Cities:

Kay Sargent, Executive Director

(859) 258 – 3137

lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com