

National Youth Poet Laureate Program

The NYPL is one of the nation's leading programs celebrating exceptional youth poets who use their voices to inspire

CHANGE



How it works

The NYPL celebrates our nation's top youth poets who are committed to artistic excellence, civic engagement, and social impact. Teen writers (ages 13-19) submit a portfolio of their original poetry and a CV that showcases their artistic excellence and community impact. Local and State Youth Poets Laureate participate in dozens on national convenings, workshops and performances each year.

Currently, the National Youth Poet Laureate Program serves programs in more than 70 cities, states, and counties, and has been featured in every major news outlet in the country including CNN, PBS, NPR, BBC, NY Times, LA Times, Washington Post, and The Guardian. Youth Poets Laureate have graced the stages of City Halls, the Library of Congress, the White House & the U.S. Capital.

Rules & Eligibility

1

Statewide submissions for Youth Poet Laureate applicants are open each year in the month of February (Feb. 1-29) to young writers ages 13-19 (at the time of submission). We encourage submissions from young writers and poets, as well as local, city and county YPL's. All are eligible.

Local, city and county Youth Poet Laureate programs and submissions run on different timelines throughout the year. Please visit our website to see if there is a local program in your region. Please note, you do not have to be a local, city or county YPL to submit to your state contest.

2

In order to participate, all entries must be submitted online at: youthlaureate.org

All applicants will select the "State" that they are submitting in and must be a resident of that state for at least 5 years.

3

SUBMISSION MATERIALS - Our judging rubric identifies teen writers who have exhibited artistic excellence and a commitment to civic engagement, youth leadership and social impact.

Submissions must include:

- Contact information
- Basic demographic information
- 3 poems in one document uploaded as either PDF or Word doc
- CV/resume information

In order to collect the CV/resume information, we have made it easier by creating text fields for contestants to “celebrate themselves” and enter information regarding school/extracurricular participation, community and civic engagement, awards & accolades, and more. We no longer require contestants to upload a CV/resume document.

There are also additional survey questions that will not affect the scores, but help us develop a better picture of our field, and the young people that we serve.

4

ALL entries are adjudicated by a diverse panel of judges – most of whom are writers, poets and community leaders. Our judging rubric considers both the strength of the poetry portfolio and the CV/resume items noted in the application. State YPL winners will be announced in late April.

Accessibility

The National Youth Poet Laureate Program and Urban Word are committed to the inclusivity of all programming, submissions, and performances. Accessibility is considered at all levels, from the development of program materials to the planning of competitions.

The National Youth Poet Laureate Program must not exclude, or limit participation based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability in compliance with federal law and regulations, in terms of both facilities and programs.

About the Program

Founded in 2008, the National Youth Poet Laureate Program is an initiative of Urban Word – the largest and most comprehensive youth literary arts organization in the country - in collaboration with local arts and literary organizations, Arts Councils and library systems; and is supported by the leading organizations in our field, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Academy of American Poets, the Poetry Coalition, the Library of Congress, the National Parks Service, and the Kennedy Center.

For more information visit



youthlaureate.org
urbanwordnyc.org