



Mountain-Bay Trail Poetry Walk

Submission Guidelines

Where Art Walks in Nature

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The first annual **Mountain-Bay Trail Poetry Walk** invites poets and photographers to submit original work for possible inclusion in a community arts installation along the Mountain-Bay State Trail.

The 2026 Poetry Walk will be displayed along an approximately **6-mile Shawano-area section of the trail, from West Shawano to Thornton**. The installation will not cover the full Mountain-Bay State Trail.

This year's theme is **Travels**, honoring both literal and figurative journeys. Submissions may explore movement, memory, change, place, nature, community, homecoming, distance, discovery, or any other interpretation of the theme.

Selected poems and photographs will be posted along the trail from **August 15 through September 26, 2026**. Selected work may also be included in the annual Poetry Walk collection.

This opportunity is **not limited to Wisconsin residents**. Poets and photographers from anywhere are welcome to submit.

There is **no submission fee**.

Submissions are being accepted now and are due by **Sunday, July 26, 2026**.

Poetry Submission Guidelines

Who May Submit

Poets of all experience levels are welcome to submit. You do not need to be a professional or previously published poet.

This opportunity is open to poets from anywhere and is not limited to people who currently live in Wisconsin.

There is **no submission fee**.

Theme

The 2026 theme is **Travels**.

Poems may respond to the theme in any way, including literal journeys, emotional journeys, family journeys, memory, movement, change, homecoming, nature, community, or the experience of making your way through the world.

Submission Requirements

- Poets may submit up to **three original poems**.

- Poems must be the original work of the submitting poet.
- Poems may be written in any style or form.
- Poems must be suitable for a family-friendly public outdoor setting.
- Poems should be no more than **24 lines** so they can fit clearly on trail display pages.
- Poems should be submitted with the poet's name, contact information, poem title, poem text, and a short bio of **30 words or fewer**.
- Previously published poems may be submitted only if the poet retains the right to grant permission for this project.

Rights and Permissions

Poets retain copyright to their work.

By submitting, poets grant the Mountain-Bay Trail Poetry Walk permission to use selected poems in the trail installation, related project materials, public readings, public displays, presentations, social media promotion, and the annual Poetry Walk collection.

Submission does not guarantee selection.

Selection Process

Submitted poems will first be reviewed by the project editors for acceptability and fit with the project guidelines.

Acceptable submissions will then be sent to the poetry judge for final selection.

Selected poets will be notified after the judging process is complete.

Important Dates

Submissions Due: July 26, 2026

Poetry Walk Installation Open: August 15-September 26, 2026

Friends of the Mountain-Bay Trail Anniversary Celebration: September 26, 2026

Photography Submission Guidelines

Who May Submit

Photographers of all experience levels are welcome to submit. You do not need to be a professional or previously published photographer.

This opportunity is open to photographers from anywhere and is not limited to people who currently live in Wisconsin.

There is **no submission fee**.

Theme

The 2026 theme is **Travels**.

Photographs may respond to the theme in any way, including literal journeys, emotional journeys, movement, nature, community, the Mountain-Bay Trail, surrounding towns, people, seasons, paths, distance, memory, or discovery.

Submission Requirements

- Photographers may submit up to **three original photographs**.
- Photographs must be the original work of the submitting photographer.
- Photographs should connect in some way to the theme of **Travels**.
- Photographs must be suitable for a family-friendly public outdoor setting.
- Photographs may feature nature, trail scenes, communities, people, objects, or other theme-related subjects.
- Photographs should be submitted with the photographer's name, contact information, photograph title, optional brief description or location, and a short bio of **30 words or fewer**.
- Previously published photographs may be submitted only if the photographer retains the right to grant permission for this project.

People in Photographs

If a photograph includes identifiable people, the photographer must have permission from those individuals.

If a photograph includes an identifiable person under age 18, the photographer must have permission from that person's parent or legal guardian.

Photographers may be asked to provide permission forms or written confirmation of permission before a selected photograph is displayed or published.

All responsibility and liability for obtaining permission from identifiable people remains with the photographer.

Rights and Permissions

Photographers retain copyright to their work.

By submitting, photographers grant the Mountain-Bay Trail Poetry Walk permission to use selected photographs in the trail installation, related project materials, public readings, public displays, presentations, social media promotion, and the annual Poetry Walk collection.

Submission does not guarantee selection.

Selection Process

Submitted photographs will be reviewed by the photography judge for final selection.

Selected photographers will be notified after the judging process is complete.

Important Dates

Submissions Due: July 26, 2026

Poetry Walk Installation Open: August 15-September 26, 2026

Friends of the Mountain-Bay Trail Anniversary Celebration: September 26, 2026

Questions

For questions about poetry submissions, photography submissions, volunteering, or community support opportunities, contact:

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