

# Chicagoland Poets & Patrons 67th Annual POETRY CONTEST

**Submission period: July 15 – August 31, 2023**  
**(Electronic entries only; must be received by midnight CDT on 8/31.)**

**PRIZES:** \$50, \$30, \$20, plus three Honorable Mentions in each category.

**ENTRY FEES: \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members.** This covers one poem per category. This basic fee will be the same whether you enter in just one category or all of them. However, if you wish to enter more than one poem in any category, you will need to pay an additional \$1 per poem if you are a Poets & Patrons member, or \$2 per poem if you are not a member. **Limit of 3 poems per category.** Note: Poets cannot be awarded or recognized more than once in any category.

## CONTEST CATEGORIES:

Note: All categories are open to all unless otherwise noted.

#1	<b>Free Verse</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Peter Gordon
#2	<b>Formal Verse</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Dan Campion
#3	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Rebecca Kanan
#4	<b>Humorous Poem</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Roderick Bates
#5	<b>Miniature Poem (12-line limit)</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Marianne Paul
#6	<b>Social Justice or Conscience</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Catherine Moran
#7	<b>Ekphrastic</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Michael Escoubas
#8	<b>Home</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Elizabeth Kerlikowske
#9	<b>Secrets</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Deborah Petersen
#10	<b>Ancestors</b>	<b>Judge:</b> Ricardo Ruiz
#11	<b>Endangered Animals and Plants</b> (see “Notes About Winners,” below, for unique opportunity)	<b>Judge:</b> Michael Magee
#12	<b>Chicago</b> (open <i>only</i> to Poets & Patrons members and those who live within 100 miles of Chicago)	<b>Judge:</b> Kim Ransom

## CONTEST RULES:

**Poems must be in English, unpublished in print or electronically (even on your own website or blog), and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.** In addition, poems must not have won previous cash awards from Poets & Patrons. Please, no unusual fonts or graphics/photos. You may not enter the same poem in more than one category. **Limit of 3 poems per category.**

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**Line limit: 60 lines** (counting epigraph, section numbers, and blank lines between stanzas, if any). **Miniature poem: 12 lines** (including spaces between lines). Poems that exceed the line limits will not be considered.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

**Email only; no paper entries accepted. Submit 7/15 – 8/31.**

### How to Prepare Your Poems for Submission

Save each poem as a Word document or a PDF with the **category description and poem title as the document name** (for example, Humorous-Johnny Carson). **DO NOT** put your name or any other identification on each poem.

### How to Email Your Poems

Email your poems to Maggie Kennedy, Contest Chair, at [maggiev@ameritech.net](mailto:maggiev@ameritech.net). Please follow these instructions:

1. In the email subject line, use the words "**Contest**" and your **last name** in the subject line (for example, Contest-Smith).
2. In the body of your email, note the following:
  - Your name, mailing address, preferred email, and preferred phone number
  - Whether or not you are currently a Poets & Patrons member
  - A list of the categories you are submitting poems to and the titles of the poems you are submitting for each category. For example:
    - 1-Free Verse: Mountain Cabin

- 3-Nature: Blackbird, Lake Breeze, and Ant Hill
  - The total fee amount you are paying via the Poets & Patrons website.
3. Attach each of your poems to your submission email. Double check that you have followed all instructions before sending. If you are concerned that you are attaching too many documents to one email, feel free to break them down into two or three emails, following the same instructions for each email outlined above.
  4. If you have any questions, feel free to email Maggie Kennedy, Contest Chair, at [maggiev@ameritech.net](mailto:maggiev@ameritech.net).

### **How to Pay**

See top of page 1 for submission fees. Please pay online at [www.poetsandpatrons.net/chicagoland-poetry-contest](http://www.poetsandpatrons.net/chicagoland-poetry-contest). Payment online is via credit card using our secure website.

Your submission will not be accepted until you have paid the fee.

### **NOTES ABOUT WINNERS:**

A list of winners' names and their poem titles will be posted at the Poets & Patrons website after all winners have been notified. All winning poets will be invited to participate in an online reading in the fall.

Winning poets retain all rights. **Winning poems will not be published, with one exception.** The Nature Conservancy-Illinois ([nature.org/Illinois](http://nature.org/Illinois)) has offered to feature the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winning poems in the "Endangered Animals and Plants" (11<sup>th</sup>) category on its Instagram and Facebook channels. It will be up to the winning poets if they want to have their poems pushed out on social media by The Nature Conservancy. The social media posts are intended to help draw attention to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. Because space is limited on social media platforms, the winning poems may be excerpted versus published in full, depending on the length of the poem.

### **NOTES ABOUT JUDGING:**

All judging is done anonymously; no judges are affiliated with Poets & Patrons. The decisions of judges are final.