

NEIHARDT YOUNG POETS CONTEST 2017

Honoring John G. Neihardt, Poet Laureate of Nebraska in Perpetuity



The Neihardt Young Poets contest, hosted by the John G. Neihardt Foundation, is free and open to all Nebraska students grades 5-12. Entries may be submitted via e-mail or mail; all entries must be postmarked/received by the **deadline of June 1, 2017** to qualify.

Winners in all categories will receive a prize and publication in *Word Sender*, the Neihardt Foundation newsletter. Winners will also be invited to attend the 52nd annual Neihardt Day celebration on **August 6, 2017** to present their poem (attendance is optional). Poems will also be on display at the Neihardt Center museum throughout the contest year.

Categories:

High School (Grades 9-12)

Middle School/Junior High (Grades 5-8)

Prizes:

First \$50; Second \$25; Third \$15

First \$50; Second \$25; Third \$15

Criteria: Entries are judged without the listing of the participant names and are scored on originality and the sense of the craft of poetry shown in the work. The decision of the judges is final.

Entry Guidelines:

1. Poems must utilize at least one of many themes emphasized by Neihardt in his writing, including but not limited to: the American West, Native American culture and people, explorers, trappers and pioneers; animals, landscape and natural environment. Poems may also utilize Nebraska's 150th statehood celebration as a theme.
2. Entries must be original, unpublished, not submitted or accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast, and not entered simultaneously in any other competition. This includes different versions of the same poem.
3. No more than one (1) entry per poet.
4. Winners will be notified by **June 30, 2017**. Only winners and teachers of first, second and third place awards will be contacted. Students will be invited to read their poetry at the Neihardt Day celebration at the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft on **August 6, 2017**. All three place winners' work from each category will appear in a quarterly issue of *Word Sender*, the Neihardt Foundation newsletter, and be on display throughout the year at the Neihardt Center museum, with additional publication opportunities possible.
5. Mail entries to: Neihardt Foundation, P.O. Box 344, Bancroft, NE 68004, or e-mail to: neihardt@gpcom.net by **June 1, 2017**.
6. Each entry *must* include the following information (see form below): Title of poem, student name, grade, address and contact phone number, school name and address, teacher name and contact phone number.

Please fill out the information below and submit to: *Neihardt Foundation, P.O. Box 344, Bancroft, NE 68038*
Or via e-mail: neihardt@gpcom.net with subject: *Poetry Contest 2017*

POEM TITLE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE _____

STUDENT ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____ TEACHER _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____ SCHOOL PHONE _____