



# 2024 ISPS STUDENT CONTEST

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY December 1, 2023 — February 29, 2024

## AWARDS in EACH CONTEST

### Top Three Winners & Two Honorable-Mention Winners

have poems published in *Illinois Student Voices*, Vol. 2, receive a copy of the book (also available on amazon.com), a certificate; and 1-year ISPS membership.

**Top Three Winners** also receive cash prizes, and their poems advance to the National Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest [See [www.nfspd.com/manningham.html](http://www.nfspd.com/manningham.html)]

## SENIOR DIVISION, Grades 9-12

### 1. Fantasy & Science Fiction Award

In memory of Ray Bradbury by James Lowell Hall

- SUBJECT: Speculative Poetry
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$40/30/\$20

### 2. Noel Lederer Award

In memory of Noel Lederer by Willam Lederer

- SUBJECT: Music
- FORM: Rhyme; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$40/\$20/\$30

### 3. The Ocean(s) Award

In memory of Richard Bretzlauf by Mary Beth Bretzlauf

- SUBJECT: Ocean(s); FORM: Any
- LINE LIMIT: 20
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

### 4. Time Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Time
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

### 5. Wonders of Nature Award

In memory of Rachel Carson by James Lowell Hall

- SUBJECT: Wonders of Nature
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

## JUNIOR DIVISION, Grades 6-8

### 6. Fantasy & Science Fiction Award

In memory of Ray Bradbury by James Lowell Hall

- SUBJECT: Speculative Poetry
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

### 7. Love of Nature Award

Sponsored by William Marr

- SUBJECT: Love of Nature
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 20
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

### 8. Pets in My World Award

In memory of Red, Rusty, Phil, Jackson, Kiki, Sunspot, Comet, Ursula and Zora by Jerry and Mary Hope

- SUBJECT: Pets in My World
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

### 9. Shadow(s) Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Shadows
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

### 10. The Ocean(s) Award

In memory of Richard Bretzlauf by Mary Beth Bretzlauf

- SUBJECT: Ocean(s) FORM: Any
- LINE LIMIT: 20
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

### 11. Wonders of Nature Award

In memory of Rachel Carson by James Lowell Hall

- SUBJECT: Wonders of Nature
- FORM: Any; LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Any submission that does not follow ALL guidelines will be disqualified.**

**1. Eligibility.** Original work of a single student in a public or private Illinois school or home-schooled in Illinois.

**2. Entries.** Only one poem per category. No poem can be submitted to multiple categories.

**3. Unpublished.** Poems published in print or online or accepted for publication (except in school publications) are ineligible.

**4. Simultaneous Submissions.** Poems currently entered in other contests are ineligible.

## POEM & PAGE FORMATS

- **English only.**
- **Line Count.** All text and blank lines count except the title and one blank line after title.

- **Line width.** Maximum: 50 characters, including punctuation marks and spaces.
- **Single-spaced lines.**
- **One poem** per 8.5" x 11" page.
- **Typed** or computer-generated, 12 point, plain font (Times New Roman preferred) on white paper. No artwork.
- **Title** all poems except haiku.

## PREPARING SUBMISSIONS

**1. Submit two typed copies of each poem** (one anonymous for the judge; one with ID). Include contest number and title on the upper left of both.

**2. ID Copy Only:** On the upper right add:

- Student's name, age, grade level
  - School's name and address (city/state/zip required).
  - Teacher/Sponsor's name (first and last name and Mr./Ms./Mrs.).
  - Teacher/Sponsor's email address.
  - Add statement signed by the student: "I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poem in print or posted on the Internet."
- Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Copies.** Do not separate the copies. Do not staple the copies together.

**4. Batched Mailings:** Teachers/sponsors may send all students' poems in one envelope.

- Sort poems by contest number.
- Keep anonymous and ID copies together (no staples or paper clips).
- Include your email address.

**5. Self-entered.** An individual student may submit entries in a single mailing.

**6. Fees.** There are no entry fees.

**DEADLINE:** Postmark must be between: **December 1, 2023–February 29, 2024**

### SEND TO:

ISPS c/o Mary Beth Bretzlauf  
426 Park Avenue  
Highland Park, IL 60035

### QUESTIONS?

Contact **Mary Beth Bretzlauf**  
[ISPS.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:ISPS.manningham@gmail.com)

Guidelines are also at: [www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org).