



POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

2026 Pat Laster Collegiate Poetry Contest

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is a statewide, non-profit organization established in 1931. It is the oldest poetry organization in the state dedicated to the study of poetry and the encouragement of poets. PRA participates in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS).

PRA is again sponsoring a college student poetry contest. We are promoting this contest to students across the state. THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE. This contest will award the top three winners a total of one thousand dollars (1st--\$500, 2nd--\$300, and 3rd--\$200). Materials are attached and posted on PRA's website.

Information about PRA and this contest can be found at poetsroundtableofarkansas.org.

Or you may contact PRA President Christine Henderson, at my1stdraft@yahoo.com or Collegiate Poetry Contest Chair, Karen Moulton at jkmoultons@yahoo.com.

2026 Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Collegiate Contest

CONTEST GUIDELINES

WHO: Arkansas college students, ages 18-25, are invited to participate in PRA's statewide poetry contest for college poets. Applicants must currently be enrolled in Arkansas colleges or universities. **The March 15, 2026 postmark/email deadline will be used as the qualifying date for the age requirement.**

WHAT: Students may choose any subject for the poem. Please submit one entry per poet in **Free Verse** form, within 40 lines. Vulgar language will be disqualified.

WHERE: Winners will be invited to read their winning poems at the PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in April 2026. If able to attend, winners will receive their awards at the event. If unable to attend, awards will be mailed to the winners. The exact date and location of Spring Celebration will be determined in early 2026.

HOW: Prizes will be awarded for: 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$300, and 3rd Place \$200. Judges' decisions will be final. Winners' qualifications will be verified before prizes are awarded.

RULES: No entry fee required. Students, ages 18-25, currently enrolled in Arkansas colleges or universities may enter one poem between January 1, 2026 and March 15, 2026 (postmark/email deadline).

Entries must include a completed contest entry form and proof of age (driver's license or other official document showing birthdate).

Poem Subject-Any; Form-Free Verse; Line Limit-40; Font-Times New Roman or similar font (size 12).

Send two copies of the poem: one with no identifying information; one with name/address/email in the top right corner.

Poems will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will be disqualified. By submitting a poem, you are declaring that it is your own original work. Plagiarism will be disqualified.

Email complete submissions to: jkmoultons@yahoo.com

Subject line of email should be: Pat Laster CPC Entry

Send the two poetry documents as attachments. Entry Form and Proof of Identification may be scanned and attached.

Or mail complete submissions to:

Karen Moulton, Collegiate Contest Chair

2234 Marion County 7055

Flippin, AR 72634

For questions, contact Karen at 360-527-5831 or jkmoultons@yahoo.com

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CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____

College: _____ Birthdate: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address where you receive your mail:

Your Home Town: _____

Title of Poem: _____

Read the Contest Guidelines for complete contest rules.

Email complete entries to jkmoultons@yahoo.com

Subject line of email should be: Pat Laster CPC Entry

Send the two poetry documents as attachments.

Entry Form and **ONE** document to show Proof of Age may be scanned and attached.

Or mail complete entries to:

Karen Moulton, Collegiate Contest Chair

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Entries accepted from January 1, 2026 to postmark/email deadline: March 15, 2026.

For questions, contact Karen at 360-527-5831 or jkmoultons@yahoo.com