

**Lake County Library System's  
Poet Laureate Program  
Sponsored by East Lake County Library**

Eligibility -

To be considered, a nominee must be at least 18 years old and a published poet at any medium, a resident of Lake County with a valid Lake County Library card, and willing to be subject to a background check. Poet must have a properly filled out nomination packet entered by the selected due date.

a. Terms of Service

- i. The Poet Laureate would serve a two year term.
- ii. If Poet Laureate is unable to fulfill his/her term due to illness or relocation or other inabilities to perform, the Poet Selection Panel may, at its discretion, review previous applications and select a new Poet Laureate to complete the term. The Interim Poet Laureate is eligible to apply for the next complete term.
- iii. Poet Laureate may apply for a second term but shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms. An Interim Poet Laureate may serve out the previous Poet Laureate's term then serve up to two terms consecutively.
- iv. No financial compensation will be given for any volunteer work done while in service as Poet Laureate.
- v. Poet Laureate would be an Ambassador for poetry throughout Lake County; must be willing to help foster the love of poetry to children, teens, and adults throughout the Lake County Library System through the provision of programs.
- vi. Poet Laureate must therefore agree to 4 volunteer programs per year of service in their term at any Library through the Lake County Library System. Such Programs could include
  1. Poetry Readings
  2. Poetry Workshops on How to Write Poetry...
  3. Must at least do one program involving Children or Teens
  4. Must write one poem specifically for a Poet Laureate Journal for Lake County with distribution rights to Lake County Library System.
- vii. If Poet Laureate has engaged in criminal or other embarrassing behavior, the selection panel reserves the right to terminate the term of the Poet Laureate and select a new Poet Laureate under terms describe above. An appeal to this decision must be in writing and submitted 1 week after that decision and may be overturned by a two-thirds vote by the selection panel.

b. Application Process - Nomination Packet Requirements

- i. The poet should be self-nominated or nominated by a community member.
- ii. The packet should include

1. A cover letter consisting of poet's full name, address, email address and phone number.
2. A one page statement describing the poet's qualifications for the role, including publications, any teaching experience, and literary arts community involvement. It should also include an outline of any plans for the role and how the poet will make a difference in the community. Leave poet's name out of poet statement it will be a part of the blind consideration only refer to the poet as "the poet".
3. Three to Five poems by the poet. The poet should be prepared to provide English translations if the submissions are composed in another language.
4. Poet's full name, address, email address and phone number on a cover page. **Please DO NOT include any identifying information (NAME) or (GENDER) in your statement or in the poem pages submitted. All judging will be through a blind submission process.**

c. Selection Process

i. Description of the Selection Panel

1. Panel will consist of 3-5 members
  - a. One member will be the Person in charge of the Poetry Contest.
  - b. One member will be a Person that works at one of the member Libraries in Lake County.
  - c. One member will be a Person that works at one of the branch Libraries in Lake County.
  - d. Any other members will consist of community members in Lake County.
  - e. All Panel members will
    - i. Have interest and experience in literary arts.
    - ii. Be dedicated to advancing poetry in communities through Libraries

ii. Process

1. Poet Selection Panel will judge all work submitted through a blind consideration of the poetry and nomination letter. Points to be considered may include
  - a. Quality of Poetry
  - b. Engagement in past projects that involve poetry, prose and other experiences related to the tradition of poetry.
2. Panel will conduct face-to-face interviews with finalists and then determine who will be nominated as the Poet Laureate. Points to be considered may include
  - a. Language and oral facility
  - b. Suitability for public performance and interaction
  - c. Philosophy and ideas for engaging the community