



## **Announcing the Search for the Next Youth Poet Laureate of Sonoma County**

Sonoma County California Poets in the Schools plans to follow the lead of the nation, the state and sister counties (Alameda, Los Angeles and Ventura) in acknowledging a student who has achieved excellence in poetry, allowing them to be a leader for the county in raising the profile of poetry and developing its audience.

### **Specifics**

- This student should be between the ages of 13 and 19.
- They must be a county resident who expects to remain in the county between September of 2021 and August of 2022.
- They should also have demonstrated their commitment to literary arts and community engagement through participation in volunteer and community service, clubs, after school activities, and extra academic activities.
- California Poets in the Schools will administer this program as a regional partner of Urban Word.
- The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a one year term and is expected to participate in at least four public functions.
- YPL will receive a \$500 stipend and an optional publishing contract for a chapbook of their work, or an anthology that includes their work and that of other finalists.

### **Procedure**

- **YPL** nominations may come from any organization or individual.
- Application (available at <https://www.californiapoets.org/youth-poet-laureate-program>) must be submitted by September 15th to [californiapoets@gmail.com](mailto:californiapoets@gmail.com)
- Applications can be sent by mail to: California Poets in the Schools - Youth Poet Laureate Submission, PO Box 1328, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
- We can mail an application to individuals upon request. Please email [meg@cpits.org](mailto:meg@cpits.org) to request.
- With the application, three of the student's poems must be submitted, totaling no more than ten pages.
- For finalists, an adult sponsor will be required to provide a letter of support.
- A committee of respected local poets will review applications and choose finalists.
- Finalists will be asked to attend a judging session so that their ability to present their poems effectively (as well as writing good poems) can be assessed.
- The winner will be announced in September, 2021.

**For more information, please contact [meg@cpits.org](mailto:meg@cpits.org)**