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

Sonoma County California Poets in the Schools aims to celebrate and acknowledge 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 April 2024 and April 2025.
- 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 (YPL) 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 February 1st, 2024.
- We can mail an application to individuals upon request. Please email 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 April 2024.

For more information, please contact meg@cpits.org