



RIVER of WORDS



Each year Colorado Center for the Book, in affiliation with The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, implements River of Words in Colorado. River of Words is a free international poetry and art contest for youth on the theme of watersheds and the environment. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover. Poems written in Spanish or signed in American Sign Language are highly encouraged!

The eight national grand-prize winners win a trip to Washington, D.C. with a parent or guardian. They are honored at an Award Ceremony and luncheon at the Library of Congress, have a VIP tour of the White House, go on a canoe trip and visit many historical sites. Colorado winners will be acknowledged in a separate ceremony in the spring.

Colorado Center for the Book, a program department of Colorado Humanities, receives River of Words entries from the national office, administers the Colorado judging, and recognizes state and national winners at the annual award ceremony, The Student Literary Awards. Free online curriculum for teachers, *Teaching the Poetry of Rivers*, is available at www.coloradohumanities.org.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

River of Words welcomes entries from anyone 5-19 years of age who has not completed high school:

Category I – Grades K-2 Category II – Grades 3-6 Category III – Grades 7-9 Category IV – Grades 10-12

PREPARE YOUR SUBMISSION

WRITTEN POEMS may be up to 32 lines long, and should be either typed or neatly printed in ink (pencil does not photocopy). Please staple your poem to your Entry Form such that both pieces face out. Remember to submit a separate Entry Form for each poem.

ARTWORK may be up to 11" x17", photographs up to 8"x10". Please mail art entries flat or rolled in a tube. Please no matting, mounting, laminating, framing or folding. Please use paper other than notebook or typing. River of Words will no longer accept color copies of artwork.

ASL POEMS should be recorded on DVD and no longer than 3 minutes in length. Please sign your full name and the poem title (if it has one) at the beginning of your poem. Please include a brief, typed summary of your poem stapled to your Entry Form. Remember to submit a separate Entry Form for each poem.

Submissions become property of River of Words. A student may enter the contest more than once, but should complete a separate entry form for each submission. All entries from a class should be submitted together. Forms with incomplete or illegible writing will not be judged. Collaborative poems are accepted, but only one child (chosen as the group representative) will be eligible for any prizes awarded. **ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE ORIGINAL WORK.** Both the student and a parent or legal guardian must read and sign the Entry Form.

DEADLINE & ADDRESS

Entries may be sent in at any time throughout the year. Your poems and artwork must be postmarked by **December 12th** if you live in the United States. Please check the River of Words website for outside the U.S. deadlines at www.riverofwords.org.

Mail to:
River of Words Contest
PO Box 4000-J
Berkeley CA 94704 USA

Please contact Jennifer Long, Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book
303 894 7951 x 20 or long@coloradohumanities.org



RIVER of WORDS[®] Entry Form



PLEASE PRINT carefully with a pen so we can read your handwriting.
PLEASE SIGN and have your parent sign each entry form you submit.
PLEASE SUBMIT a separate entry form for each poem or artwork you

Student Name _____ Date _____

Grade (circle one grade only) **Category I:** K 1 2 **Category II:** 3 4 5 6 **Category III:** 7 8 9 **Category IV:** 10 11 12

Poem/Artwork Title _____

Poem Artwork If artwork, please tell us the medium _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Home Phone _____

GROUP ENTRIES: please complete the additional information below

School/Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School/Organization Contact Name _____

School/Organization Contact Email _____ Phone _____

LIBRARIANS & TEACHERS: When mailing class sets, please include a cover letter that lists the names of each student who has entered. Mail class sets in one envelope rather than individual envelopes. Please include your email address for easier communication.

I hereby grant and assign to River of Words (ROW) the non-exclusive right and permission, in respect of the original writing, artwork or photos that I have submitted to River of Words, to use, re-use, publish, and re-publish, and otherwise reproduce, and display the same, individually or in conjunction with other original artwork, writing, photos, and video, in any and all media now or hereafter known throughout the world, for illustration, promotion, art, advertising, and trade, or any other purpose whatsoever; and to use my child's name to identify the author of the work in connection with my participation in the River of Words Program. I understand that any use of this submitted work will include my child's name as its creator. I hereby release and discharge River of Words from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of the original artwork, writing, photos, and video, including without limitations any and all claims for libel or invasion of privacy. In any of the winning categories, River of Words maintains the exclusive right to declare no winner and withhold prizes if no poem or artwork of merit is found. ROW assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged poetry or artwork. River of Words may sell, assign, license, or otherwise transfer all rights granted to it hereunder. This authorization and release shall also inure to the benefit of the successors, legal representatives, licensees, and assigns of River of Words. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents thereof. This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns. I further release River of Words from any responsibility for injury incurred during the research or production of the original writing, artwork, photos and video. **I, being the parent or guardian of the above-named minor, hereby consent to and join in the foregoing release and consent on behalf of said minor.**

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

Pledge of Originality: I declare and avow that the poem or art I am submitting to the River of Words Contest is my own original work.

Student's signature _____