



### **National Student Poets Program (NSPP) - FAQ**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has partnered with the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers to create the National Student Poets Program (NSPP), the country's highest honor for youth poets whose original work exhibits exceptional creativity, dedication to craft, and promise. Five outstanding high school poets are selected annually for a Year of Service as poetry ambassadors, encouraging a wide range of youth to explore and develop new creative capabilities.

A panel of literary luminaries and leaders in education and the arts choose the National Student Poets from among the National Medalists in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Student Poets receive academic awards and opportunities to present their work at writing and poetry events and may be featured at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., which takes place each August/September, in cooperation with the Library of Congress.

#### **Who are the National Student Poets Program partners?**

The National Student Poets Program partners are the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the nonprofit organization that presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

#### **What are the eligibility requirements for students to participate?**

In order for students to be considered for NSPP, they must be in grades 10 or 11 and enrolled in public, private, parochial, home school, or out-of-school programs. Students must also earn a Gold or Silver National Medal in poetry in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Works submitted to the Awards are judged through a time-honored blind adjudication process and work is evaluated based the three core criteria of originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice.

#### **What are the deadlines?**

Students must first submit their work to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Deadlines for the Awards vary by region and may be found at [artandwriting.org/Registration](http://artandwriting.org/Registration).

#### **When will students be notified about the National Scholastic Awards?**

All students who earn Gold and Silver National Medals in the Scholastic Awards will be notified in March.

#### **What does the NSPP submission process involve?**

From the pool of National Medalists in poetry, thirty-five semi-finalists for the National Student Poets Program are selected in March each year. The semi-finalists are notified and asked to submit additional poetry (2–5 works total), a short video about themselves, and a short bio for consideration by the national jury panel.

**When will NSPP finalists be notified?**

In late summer, five National Student Poets will be notified of their appointment. The students will be announced publicly at Appointment Events in Washington, D.C.

**Who are the jurors?**

A national jury of literary luminaries and leaders in education and the arts will select the five National Student Poets. Submissions are evaluated based on quality of work as determined by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, presentation skills in video submissions, and other factors that will be mutually agreed upon by the jury.

**What do National Student Poets receive and when/where does the award ceremony take place?**

The five National Student Poets will each receive an academic award and opportunities to present their work at writing and poetry events throughout their Year of Service. National Student Poets are appointed each year in Washington, D.C.

**What does it mean to be a National Student Poet and what is the time commitment?**

Each National Student Poet represents one of five regions of the United States. During their term, National Student Poets will be required to attend their Appointment Events in Washington, D.C., as well one other major event in their region during National Poetry Month in April. They will also have opportunities to present their work at writing and poetry events throughout the year. National Student Poets will be expected to share their experiences through blog posts, videos, and social media.

**How does the National Student Poets Program relate to the Library of Congress's Poet Laureateship?**

The National Student Poets Program is separate from the Library of Congress's Poet Laureateship. However, the Library of Congress is involved with the National Book Festival and Appointment Ceremony events and opportunities for collaboration may expand.

**I am a student living abroad. Am I eligible?**

No, unfortunately American students living abroad are not eligible for the National Student Poets Program.

**Why are there five regions?**

Having each National Student Poet represent one of five regions ensures that students from every portion of the country can participate in and be represented by the Program. We also recognize that students are busy with other commitments and want to ensure that National Student Poets can commit the time to travel within their region during their term.

**Program History**

The National Student Poets Program began as an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

*The National Student Poets are appointed in coordination with the Library of Congress and the National Book Festival. Academic awards are provided by a private donor.*