

Carl Sandburg Home

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home
National Historic Site



2019 Poetry Contest "Joy"

JOY

*Let a joy keep you.
Reach out your hands
And take it
when it runs by,
Joy always,
Joy everywhere--
Let joy kill you!
Keep away from
the little deaths.*

*Carl Sandburg
Chicago Poems, 1916*

Your students are invited to submit a poem to Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site's annual Student Poetry Contest. The contest encourages youth to explore writing their own poetry, and is open to students nationwide!

Submissions are accepted from grades 3-12 and must be postmarked by February 25, 2019.

See reverse for submission rules

Official 2019 Contest Rules

Theme

The legacy of Carl Sandburg is preserved and protected by the National Park Service, because he left a lasting impact on the nation with his writing. This year the poetry contest theme of “Joy” reflects Sandburg’s observation of joy in humanity. From celebrations to daily life, joy can be found everywhere.

We invite your students to think about what “joy” means to them. Have they experienced joy in a grand celebration or simple moment, or found joy amidst a difficult circumstance?

Submission Rules

Poetry accepted from 3-12th grades only.

Poems must be submitted by a teacher; homeschool teachers included.

No more than three poems per classroom (each from a different student).

Poem will be judged on its ability to communicate the theme.

Poem can be written in any style, but must not exceed one-page in length. No illustrations.

Poems must be typed, no handwritten entries.

Do not place any identifying information (name, school, grade, etc...) on poem.

Submission form:

- Paperclipped to poem, no staples
- Must be signed by parent, student and teacher
- Include title of poem so we can identify the author

Submissions must be postmarked, faxed, or hand-delivered by Monday, February 25, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding the Student Poetry Contest, please contact Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox, Education Program Coordinator at (828) 693-4178 or by e-mail at ginger_hollingsworth-cox@nps.gov.

Judging

Judges from the literary community will make the decision for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place within each grade category (3-5th, 6-8th, 9-12th)

Visitors to Carl Sandburg Home NHS during March 6- 24, 2019 can cast a vote for the their favorite poem within each grade category; poems with the most votes at the end of the voting period will win a People’s Choice award.

Winners will be notified by Monday, March 25, and will be invited to present their winning poem at a special reception on April 5, 2018.

Poetry Partners

The 2019 Poetry Contest is a result of tremendous community support including the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara and the North Carolina Poetry Society members who serve as judges. Thank you.

Poetry Resources

You may also find curriculum resources to use in the classroom at the park’s website: www.nps.gov/carl/forteachers



Send Submissions to:

Carl Sandburg Home NHS
Attn: Poetry Contest
81 Carl Sandburg Lane
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731

Fax 828-693-4179