Poetry Ourselves Indiana Guidelines

Poetry Ourselves Indiana is a statewide original poetry competition for students in grades 9-12.

Eligibility

- Any student currently enrolled in grades 9-12 in the state of Indiana can submit one poem to the competition.
- Poems must be original and written only by the student who is submitting it.
- There are no length requirements for the poems.
- There are no content or subject requirements for the poems, but the Indiana Arts Commission and the Poetry Out Loud Indiana program reserve the right to disqualify poems deemed inappropriate in subject matter or language.
- Winning poems will be shared publicly statewide and nationally, so students should be sure the content of the poem is something they want to share.
- Non-English poems are allowed but will need to be accompanied by a translation for judging purposes.

Submission Timeline

- All poems must be submitted online by 11:59pm on February 15, 2021.
- ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM HERE: https://forms.gle/tDt4L3aY7NHmTPGV7
- Award recipients will be notified by email during the week of March 1st and will be asked to recite their poem at the state finals award ceremony.

Review Process

Poems will be judged by a panel of qualified professional poets and writers. Poems will be judged on the criteria of:

- Creativity - the extent to which the poem is creative and provokes thinking in its reader.
- Poem structure - the extent to which the poem has an intentional, consistent structure that aids in the effectiveness of the poem.
- Poem Engagement- the extent to which the poem conveys an idea, thought, or story through clear imagery, specific, concrete details and fresh use of language.
Awards

Award recipients will:

- Receive a cash prize
  - 1st place receives a $100 cash prize
  - 2nd place receives a $50 cash prize
  - 3rd Place receives a $25 cash prize
- Receive Poetry Ourselves award certificates
- Be honored at the Poetry Ourselves award ceremony in March 2021
- Have an opportunity to attend a special online poetry writing workshop with the Indiana State Poet Laureate.
- Receive a signed book from the Indiana Poet Laureate.
- Have their poem:
  - published on the Indiana Arts Commissions website
  - entered into the INverse Indiana Poetry Archive

Honorable mention award recipients will also receive certificate of recognition and have their poems accepted into the INverse poetry archive.