

## UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY

## 2025 CONTEST RULES

Supported in part by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, with funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts, and affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Sincere gratitude to our generous sponsors.

### 1. ANY POEM SUBMITTED MUST:

- a. be the original work of the contestant. By submitting to the UTSPS Poetry Contest, you confirm that all submissions are your work alone, and that no part of your submission has been generated by ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence content generator. We reserve the right to reject your work at any time in our review, acceptance, and publication process if we discover that content has been AI-generated or otherwise plagiarized.
- b. be unpublished in any form, including electronically, on the submission deadline date, Feb. 1, 2024.
- c. not have won a cash prize of more than \$10.00 in a UTSPS contest.
- d. have a 40-line limit (printed lines) for all categories not stating line limit. Line limit does NOT include title, epigraph, or blank lines. But does include stanza headings in words or numbers.
- e. be titled, except haiku or tanka.
- f. be typed or computer generated. No illustrations.
- g. each category must receive a minimum of 10 entries to be a valid contest.  
No poems will be returned. Poet should retain copies.

2. EXCEPT AS INDICATED in \$shoot for the Loot and Wild Card categories, entrants may submit only one entry per category, and may not submit the same poem in any other category.

Exception:

Each unpublished and/or non-cash Utah winner poem included in the Book Publication contest may be entered in one category.

3. CHECK OR MONEY ORDER must be enclosed and made payable to either the Utah State Poetry Society or UTSPS rather than to any individual.

4. Each poet entering pays a \$5 entry fee, THEN

- a. Non-members may enter categories at \$3 per poem (except Wild Card category, \$5 per poem). Non-members may not enter contests which are designated \*members only.\*
- b. Members may enter up to 15 categories for \$1 per poem, or \$15 total for entry in more than 15 categories (except the \$shoot for the Loot, \$5 per poem, and the Wild Card, \$2 per poem categories).

5. UTSPS members can submit to the “MEMBERS ONLY” poetry categories if they have paid membership dues by January 5th of current contest year. Membership dues (refer to UTSPS membership application found on the UTSPS website [utahpoets.com](http://utahpoets.com) for amount) must be postmarked by January 5 of current contest year. Print a membership form from the website: [utahpoets.com](http://utahpoets.com), and then mail it to the address on the form with a check for membership dues made to UTSPS.

6. WHEN TO SUBMIT POEMS:

- a. Contest starting date: entries must not be postmarked before December 1st of year preceding contest year.
- b. Contest deadline: entries must be postmarked on or before February 1st of contest year.

7. HOW TO SUBMIT POEMS:

- a. Send two copies of the poem, typed, photocopied, or computer-generated, on 8.5" x 11" white paper, in black ink, single-spaced. Use standard font similar to Times New Roman or Courier New, 12 to 14 point. If a poem requires more than one page, staple pages together at the top left corner of each copy.
- b. On BOTH copies, place number and name of the category in upper left corner.
- c. On Second copy only, place name, address, phone number, and email address of poet in upper right corner.
- d. Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1-38) with originals on top.
- e. Cover page: ALL POEMS in your packet are DISQUALIFIED without the cover page.
  - (i) Type ONE 8½ x 11 cover page with your name, address, phone number, and email.
  - (ii) List the number of each category entered and the title of poem(s) entered in each. Also list entry fee data.

**An Example for Nonmembers:** Entry Fee \$5.00  
3 poems Any Category except Wild Card or Shoot for the Loot (\$3.00 each) \$9.00  
2 poems Wild Card (\$5.00 each) \$10.00  
Not eligible for Shoot for the Loot  
Total \$24.00

**An Example for Members Only:** Entry fee: \$5.00  
3 poems Any Category Members Only except Wild Card or Shoot for the Loot (\$1.00 each) \$3.00  
2 poems Wild Card (\$2.00 each) \$4.00  
2 poems Shoot for Loot (\$5.00 each) \$10.00 Total \$22.00

Mail all entries at one time, unfolded, in a large envelope, including the cover sheet and entry fee. Mail to the Contest Clerk by First Class, Priority Mail, or any form of delivery that does NOT require a signature upon receipt.

Mail Entries to:

UTSPS CONTEST, c/o Barbara Funke, 474 Rolling Hills Drive, St. George, UT 84770

Additions sent separately will not be considered.

The UTSPS will not assume mailing costs nor be responsible for any entries lost or delayed by mail.

**VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE RULES LEADS TO DISQUALIFICATION.**

## CATEGORIES

(CATEGORIES 1 THROUGH 18 ARE OPEN TO ALL ENTRANTS)

### 1. WILD CARD AWARD

Requires each poet to pay an additional entry fee of \$2 per poem. Any number of unpublished or published (if author retains rights) poems may be entered, except poems having previously won cash prizes in this Wild Card category. All fees become “the pot.” First place winner receives 30%, second place 25%, third place 20%. Remaining 25% goes to UTSPS.

Subject: Any

Form: Any

Prizes: See above

### 2. POET’S WORK

Sponsor: Paul Ford & Marie Andrews

Subject: Friendship

Form: Any

Line Limit: 50 lines maximum

Prizes: \$75, \$50, \$25

### 3. VERNA HARTSOE CHIONG MEMORIAL AWARD

Sponsor: Raven Chiong Memorial Fund

Subject: Unsung Heroine

Form: Any

Line limit: 49 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### 4. MATTHEW J. LIMBURG CHRIST-CENTERED POETRY AWARD

Sponsor: Michael Shoemaker

Subject: A poem that shares veneration, praise or honor to Jesus Christ or Christian lives that follow His example. Please, no violence, profanity or bigotry.

Form: Any

Line Limit: 80 Lines maximum

Prizes: \$125, \$75, \$50

### 5. PAT BADER’S CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sponsor: Bob Bader

Subject: Poems About Children

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### 6. NAD RICHARD BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

Sponsor: Markay Brown

Subject: Any

Form: Free Verse requiring “Figurative Writing”

Prizes: \$40, \$30, \$30

### 7. HELEN BEAMAN MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Anonymous

Subject: A Special Place or Time

Form: Any

Line Limit: 42 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **8. ORVILLE WEBB MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Anonymous

Subject: Traditional Cowboy Poetry

Form: Rhymed & Metered

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **9. DAVID F. AND ROBERT H. BALPH MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Martha H. Balph

Subject: A poem about a wild creature or creatures, broadly defined to include subjects from whales to hummingbirds or insects. If the poem is about a domestic animal, it should focus on the wild creature in that animal.

Form: Any

Prizes: \$30, \$20, \$10

### **10. AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE AWARD**

Sponsor: Martha H. Balph

Subject: A poem relating to American Indians: history, contemporary issues, arts, or spirituality.

Form: Any

Prizes: \$30, \$20, \$10

### **11. THE CINQUAIN AWARD - HONORING NAD BROWN**

Sponsor: Grace Diane Jessen

Subject: Any

Form: A Cinquain or Cinquain chain

Line Limit: min 5 — max 40

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **12. FUNNY BUSINESS**

Sponsor: Kim Barney

Subject : Humorous

Form: Rhymed and Metered

Line limit: 32 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **13. SERIOUS SHAKESPEARE**

Sponsor: Kim Barney

Subject: Any Serious Theme

Form: Shakespearean Sonnet

Line Limit: 14 printed lines

Prizes: \$50. \$30, \$20

### **14. RED ROCK WRITERS FOUNDERS AWARD**

Sponsor: Red Rock Writers

Subject: Any

Form: Free Verse requiring figurative writing

Prizes: \$35, \$25, \$15

### **15. HINTERLANDS AWARD**

Sponsor: Hinterlands Chapter

Subject: Love For the Land

Form: Any

Line Limit: 70 Lines maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**16. MARILYN MARSHALL AWARD**

Sponsor: Marilyn Marshall

Subject: Hope

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**17. ODE TO THE PAST- HONORING U.F. and AGNES WOOD**

Sponsor: Marilyn Richardson

Subject: Any subject related to the past

Form: Any

Prizes: \$30, \$20, \$10

**18. BEN LOMOND CHAPTER AWARD**

Sponsor: Ben Lomond Chapter

Subject: Weeds

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**\*\*CATEGORIES 19 THROUGH 36 ARE OPEN TO UTSPS MEMBERS ONLY\*\*  
(Membership dues for 2025 must be paid by January 5, 2025 post-mark)**

**19. EKPHRASTIC POEM**

Sponsor: Anonymous

Subject: Any

Form Ekphrastic poem based on a work of art (which must be identified)

Line Limit: 42 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**20. MICHAEL & JEANETTE PARKER AWARD**

Sponsor: Michael & Jeanette Parker

Subject: Anything to do with a Utah National Park

Form: Any

Line Limit: 50 lines maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**21. LEFT TO WRITE**

Sponsor: Pam Tucker

Subject: Any

Form: Any

Line Limit: Any

Prizes: \$45, \$30, \$25

**22. VERA ISADORE PEARCE SPEARS MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Children of Anna Louise Spears

Subject: Wanderlust

Form: Any

Line Limit: 60 lines maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**23. BETTY FOWLER MEMORIAL—YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT**

Sponsor: Candy Lish Fowler and Bill Fowler

Subject: About the USA. Could be a hometown: a community event, noteworthy character, town tradition, but nothing to do with politics.

Form: Any, except no rhyming poetry

Line limit: 42 Lines or Less

Prizes: \$75, \$30, \$20

**24. ANN C. LARSON MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Candy Lish Fowler and Bill Fowler

Subject: Any (nothing to do with politics, no explicit erotica, no vulgarities)

Form: Any, except no prose, no rhyming poetry

Line limit: 50 Lines or Less

Prizes: \$100, \$30, \$20

**25. KOLETTE MONTAGUE MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Rhyme & Reason Chapter and friends

Subject: Any

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$25, \$25

**26. ROSE OSTLER MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: A Friend of Rosalyn Ostler

Subject: The American Soldier

Form: Free Verse

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**27. NORMA ASPLUND REMEMBRANCE**

Sponsor: The Asplund Family

Subject: My Favorite Holiday

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**28. STEVEN LEITCH MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Steven Leitch Memorial Fund

Subject: Inspiration

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

**29. HAIKU**

Sponsor: UTSPS

Subject: Any

Form: Haiku (style or form of three-lines is allowed. No sequences.) Prizes: \$25, \$15, \$10

**30. ZARA SABIN MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Zara Sabin Memorial Fund

Subject: The Personal Poem. An expression of a spontaneous, intense, personal emotion.

Imagery and metaphor should be used to develop and enrich expression and impact of the basic emotion.

Form: Any

Line limit: 24 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **31. MEAGHER MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Meagher Memorial Fund UTSPS

Subject: Any humorous — make us giggle, chuckle, or laugh.

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **32. DOROTHY & L. PAUL ROBERTS MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Roberts Memorial Fund

Subject: An upbeat expression showing awareness of the beauty in the world around us.

Form: Any

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **33. SHORT POEM—VESTA CRAWFORD MEMORIAL**

Sponsor: Crawford Memorial Fund

Subject: Any serious subject.

Form: Any

Line limit: 6 minimum, 12 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **34. LLOYD MURRAY LIGHT VERSE**

Sponsor: Lloyd Murray Memorial Fund

Subject: Any

Form: True light verse, rhymed, metered, humorous.

Line limit: 8 maximum

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **35. LEROY MEAGHER SONNET**

Sponsor: Meagher Memorial Fund

Subject: Any

Form: Use correct Shakespearean, Petrarchan, or Beymorlin forms only.

(Place sonnet form under category number and name)

Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20

### **36. SHOOT FOR THE LOOT**

Sponsor: UTSPS

Entry fee: \$5 per poem (no limit on number of entries). Entering this category gives permission for publication. Winning poem will be published in Panorama.

Subject: Any

Form: Any

Prize: \$150

### **ALICE MORREY SWEEPSTAKES**

Sponsor: UTSPS

A Certificate and a check for \$35.00 will be awarded to the UTSPS member who accumulates the most points for winning entries (1st place 5 points, 2nd place 4 points, 3rd place 3 points), for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners.

## **UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY BOOK PUBLICATION AWARD 2025**

Sponsor: Johnson Family Foundation and friends of the Laureates

Administrator: UTSPS Laureates (Past Poets of the Year)

**NOTICE OF CHANGE IN PUBLICATION PROCESS:**

**BEGINNING WITH THE 2019 BOOK OF THE YEAR, THE BOOK PUBLICATION AWARD WILL BE OFFERED EVERY OTHER YEAR.** Future BOOK OF THE YEAR contests will be held in 2025, 2027, etc. Plan accordingly for your manuscript.

There must be at least 10 manuscripts submitted; otherwise, there will not be a Book Contest for that year. If the contest is not held, the submitted manuscripts, along with the \$20 dollar checks, will be returned to the poets who entered them.

Each Book of the Year is published in perfect bound paperback format. Entrants should understand that winning the contest will necessitate an arduous few months, as time and effort go into preparing the manuscript and completing publication.

Entrants are encouraged to seek feedback from Contest Chair, Michael Spears at [mspears16d@gmail.com](mailto:mspears16d@gmail.com) or UTSPS President Michael Parker at [note.to.mp@gmail.com](mailto:note.to.mp@gmail.com)

**POSTMARK DEADLINE:** February 1, 2025

**READING FEE:** \$20 check or money order, payable to UTSPS

**NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED**

**POEMS MUST:**

- A. be solely the work of the entrant, who has been a resident of Utah for three consecutive years prior to the contest, and a paid member of UTSPS for the entire years of 2023 and 2024 and renewed by Jan. 5, 2025.
- B. show originality in thought and expression of language.
- C. use imagery and show knowledge of poetic technique.

**MANUSCRIPT MUST:**

- A. contain 50 numbered pages of poems (no more, no less). Poems may be published and unpublished, but manuscript as a whole must be original and unpublished.
- B. be single-spaced in clear black type.
- C. have no more than one poem per page, on one side of paper.
- D. have no more than 32 lines per page, with longer poems continued on the following page.
- E. contain a title page and a table of contents, not to be counted with the 50 pages of poems.
- F. conform to the high standards of the UTSPS. Avoid slander, denigrations, negative discrimination, profanities or obscenities. Avoid plagiarism.
- G. have no illustrations, no bulky folders or binders, nor be bound or stapled. Please fasten the manuscript with a binder clip.
- H. contain no author identification. BUT a 3"x5" card with manuscript title and author contact information must be included.

**MANUSCRIPT MAY:**

- A. have section pages, not to be counted in the 50 pages of poems.
- B. contain previously published individual poems (permission for use not needed at this time).



C. include poems which have won cash prizes.

D. contain poems which vary from traditional to modern.

E. include poems with a light touch, but a complete collection of light verse or cowboy poetry will not be eligible.

The Book Publication Committee reserves the right to adjust the format of the winning book, if necessary. Winner must be available through the summer of 2025 while the book is being prepared and printed and must also attend certain special events. Winner must be present for the reading of the book at the October 2025 Book Concert. This may be waived or modified in extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the Book Publication Committee and the president of UTSPS.

#### PRIZES

First: Publication and 50 copies of book

Second: \$50 Laureates Award

Third: \$25 awarded by UTSPS

Poet may submit one entry only. Previous first-place Book Publication Award winners are not eligible.

Remember to include a \$20 check or money order, payable to UTSPS, for the reading fee.

Mail to: Joyce Kohler

2025 Book of the Year Chair

P. O. Box 84

Ephraim, UT 84627

“ANY VIOLATION OF THE RULES DISQUALIFIES THE ENTRY.”

