



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Fresno County Public Library Launches 27th Annual Poetry Contest**

**Fresno County, CA** – The Fresno County Public Library is now accepting submissions for its 27th Annual Poetry Contest, inviting residents of all ages to share their writing and be recognized as part of a long-standing community tradition.

The contest was created with several goals in mind, including aligning with National Poetry Month in April to encourage community participation. It also reflects the role poetry has long played as one of the oldest forms of written expression and a powerful way for people to share their perspectives and experiences.

Fresno County is widely recognized as a strong poetry community, with a rich literary history that includes authors like William Saroyan and Pulitzer Prize winning poet and former U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine. The Library's annual contest builds on that legacy by creating space for local voices to be shared and celebrated.

Each year, the Library receives hundreds of submissions, which are reviewed by a panel of experienced and respected judges with strong ties to the local literary community.

Poems will be judged between May and July. Winning entries will be shared publicly on the Library's website. During the submission period, residents can also view submitted poems online.

An awards ceremony is planned for August. While the event is typically held in June, this year's timeline has been adjusted as Library meeting rooms are being used to support the June election. The ceremony will follow the Library's Summer at Your Library programming.

While final details are still being confirmed, the ceremony traditionally includes announcing first, second, and third place winners across age categories. Winners receive gift cards donated by the Friends of the Fresno County Public Library to local and national booksellers, and poetry award winners and judges will be invited to read their poems out loud.

The Poetry Contest provides an opportunity for residents to participate in something creative and have their work recognized. It also highlights the level of local talent and reflects the Library's role in providing opportunities to connect, grow, and be inspired.

For more information, including submission guidelines and deadlines, visit [fresnolibrary.org](https://www.fresnolibrary.org).

### **About Fresno County Public Library**

For over 100 years, the Fresno County Public Library has been a place to connect, grow, and be inspired. With 33 branches countywide, the Library offers free access to books, technology, educational programs, and community resources for all ages. To learn more, visit [fresnolibrary.org](https://www.fresnolibrary.org).

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