

Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition

2026 Poetry Competition

Colorado is home to musicians, artists, and storytellers. It is a rural escape for some and an immersive urban adventure for others. The diversity of people, culture, and wildlife has captured the hearts of so many as they've passed through or settled in.

The Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition Poetry Competition provides another point of connection and a way to share our experiences, from our hearts and through our words. We invite writers of all ages to enter the tenth annual Competition.

The competition will conclude with a reading during the State Fair Night to Recite to allow winning poets and finalists to share their work.

Entry Fee

- \$5 per entry

Age Groups

- Adult: 18 years of age and older
- Youth: 17 years of age and younger

Prizes in each age group

- 1st place ribbon, \$15
- 2nd place ribbon, \$10
- 3rd place ribbon, \$5

Placing poets and finalists will be asked to read their work at the State Fair Night to Recite.

Schedule

Event	Date and Time
Entry Deadline	Wednesday, July 22, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.
Online Entry	• Online Only Extension entry deadline - Monday, August 10, 2026, by Midnight. • Deadline: All poems must be received digitally - Monday, August 10, 2026, by Midnight
Judging	Closed to the public. Winners will be announced on the CSF website and notified before the live reading.
Reading	Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m., in the Fine Arts Building

Entry Requirements

These requirements are in addition to the 2026 Colorado State Fair General Competition Requirements, the General Entry and Fine Arts 2026 Competition & Entry Requirements, and the Colorado State Fair Exhibitor Code of Conduct.

- A. The poem (s) must be your original and unpublished writing.
- B. One poem may be up to 40 lines per entry fee, excluding title and epigraphs. A maximum of three poems per writer is allowed.
- C. All poems must be typed and submitted in a digital .pdf format. Poem(s) must be emailed to cda_csf.gefa@state.co.us with the Subject Line: "Poetry Entry," the title of your poem, and your name. No exceptions.
- D. Writers retain all rights to their work.
- E. Do not include your name or other identifying information in the poem.
- F. Materials containing strong language or graphic depictions will be read after the Youth category.