

2018 Children's Poetry Contest



28th Annual Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival

August, 2018

Dear Administrators, Teachers and Friends,

It's time again to make your students and the young people in your community to be aware of a great opportunity to win a college scholarship by competing in the Youth Poetry Contest during **THE RED STEAGALL COWBOY GATHERING**. This year's event in the Stockyards National Historic District in Fort Worth, will be held October 26-28, 2018. Along with this letter is an entry form and information about our annual Youth Poetry Contest. Please make the students that you are in contact with aware of this event by duplicating entry forms or posting the form where it can be seen. **ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2018. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU SEND THE ENTRIES TO US WITH A DELIVERY CONFIRMATION.**

Two categories, a junior division for poets 8-12 and a senior division for poets 13-18 years old are available.

These entries can be submitted individually or a contest can be held in your classroom or community and the best entries in each division submitted. Such an approach promotes school spirit, encourages language arts and social studies programs within the schools and communities, and provides students with an incentive for studying and writing about cowboy life, the history of Texas or the west.

The first and second place winners in each age division will receive a scholarship to be applied toward college tuition. **(Scholarship funds will be provided directly to the college or university of the winner's choice once he or she has been accepted for enrollment.)** Each finalist will receive a copy of one of Red Steagall's poetry books and a commemorative medal.

If you have any questions, please call us at 817-444-5502. Thank you in advance for responding so enthusiastically and we look forward to all entries.

Martha Baker, Director
Debbie Bowman, Event Coordinator

**28TH ANNUAL
RED STEAGALL COWBOY GATHERING, OCTOBER 26-28, 2018
WIN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
Enter the Red Steagall Youth Poetry Contest**

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Only one entry per contestant. Contestants must compose their own poems with no assistance from any outside source. **No poem previously submitted can be re-submitted for consideration.**
2. Entries will be judged in two divisions:
Junior Division - contestants ages 8-12 no more than 36 lines of poetry
Senior Division, contestants ages 13-18 no more than 36 lines of poetry
3. Poems must be submitted with all pertinent information. The poem, along with the requested information will serve as the entry form. Entries may be typewritten, produced on a word processor, or handwritten legibly in pen or pencil.
4. Poets should keep a copy of their poem. **No entries will be returned.**
5. All entries must be mailed to the address given below and **postmarked no later than September 30th** in order to be eligible for judging. Ten finalists in each division will be notified by October 17th regarding selection, prizes, scholarship information and rules of final competition. Finalists will be required to recite their poem by memory on Saturday, October 27th at **THE RED STEAGALL COWBOY GATHERING** held in the Stockyards National Historic District of Fort Worth.
6. In order to fulfill it's mission of recognizing and rewarding students from the North Texas area, the event will only accept entries from students who attend school in the following counties: **Tarrant, Dallas, Young, Jack, Stephens, Shackelford, Erath, Hood, Ellis, Kaufman, Collin, Cooke, Montague, Wise, Denton, Navarro, Fannin, Hunt, Grayson, Comanche, Clay, Archer, Baylor, Wilbarger, Wichita, Callahan, Parker, Palo Pinto, and Eastland, Somervelle, Rockwall and Johnson.**

The judging criteria is as follows:

1. Poems should reflect an understanding and creative use of cowboy language. Poem topics should relate to western life such as ranching, animals, land, environment, home, family, events, pets, friends, and characters.
 2. Poems should reflect an understanding and appreciation of the western heritage. They should be authentic and original. Poets are encouraged to research their topic if necessary to obtain a thorough understanding of our western heritage.
 3. Poems should be well crafted, flow smoothly, and be easy to read and listen to.
137845328. Poems should be entertaining and may be written from serious, inspirational or humorous points of view.
137845329. Poets should present the material in a convincing and enthusiastic manner.

ALL POEMS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE INFORMATION BELOW ATTACHED.

Name: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ TX, Zip _____ Check if home schooled _____

Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Home or cell number _____ Date of birth _____

School Name _____ Principal/Teacher _____

DIVISION: Junior Division (Birthdate as of September 30th)
CIRCLE ONE Senior Division (Birthdate as of September 30th)

Title of Poem: _____

Send entries to: The Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering,
Youth Poetry Contest
P.O. Box 4507
Fort Worth, Texas 76164