

2025 POETRY CONTEST

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
IN MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND D.C.

High school students from across the Washington Metropolitan Area are invited to submit poems to the Gaithersburg Book Festival Poetry Contest.

Poems should be on the topic: **Civic Duty**

SUBMISSIONS

- Deadline: February 21, 2025, by MIDNIGHT EST
- Poems must be submitted electronically as a Word document as directed below.
 - Use your poem title as the filename.
 - Do not include your name in the filename
 - Your entry must be no longer than one page, single-spaced 12-point Times New Roman in .doc or .docx format.
- Author's name, address, phone number, email, school, grade, and English/writing teacher's name are required on the application form (not the Word document)
- Submit your poem to:
<https://gburg.md/4bxBiQB>

QUALIFICATIONS

- Author must be a high school student (public, private or home-schooled, grades 9-12 in the 2024-2025 school year) at the time of entry.
- Author must live in Maryland, Virginia, or Washington D.C.
- Only one submission per author
- Not be generated by artificial intelligence



PRIZES

- Up to 12 poems will be selected as finalists. The finalists will have their poems posted on the Gaithersburg Book Festival website prior to the Book Festival and will appear in a video.
- The top three poems and a fan favorite will be announced at the Gaithersburg Book Festival on May 17, 2025.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and the fan favorite will receive \$250, \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift cards, respectively.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

