Statewide submissions for Youth Poet Laureate applicants are open each year in the month of February (Feb. 1-28) to young writers ages 13-19 (at the time of submission). We encourage submissions from young writers and poets, as well as local, city and county YPL’s. All are eligible.

Local, city and county Youth Poet Laureate programs and submissions run on different timelines throughout the year. Please visit our website to see if there is a local program in your region. Please note, you do not have to be a local, city or county YPL to submit to your state contest.

In order to participate, all entries must be submitted online at: youthlaureate.org

All applicants will select the “State” that they are submitting in and must be a resident of that state for at least 5 years.
SUBMISSION MATERIALS - Our judging rubric identifies teen writers who have exhibited artistic excellence and a commitment to civic engagement, youth leadership and social impact.

All entries are adjudicated by a diverse panel of judges – most of whom are writers, poets and community leaders. Our judging rubric considers both the strength of the poetry portfolio and the CV/resume items noted in the application. State YPL winners will be announced in late April.

Accessiblity

The National Youth Poet Laureate Program and Urban Word are committed to the inclusivity of all programming, submissions, and performances. Accessibility is considered at all levels, from the development of program materials to the planning of competitions.

The National Youth Poet Laureate Program must not exclude, or limit participation based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability in compliance with federal law and regulations, in terms of both facilities and programs.

About the Program

Founded in 2008, the National Youth Poet Laureate Program is an initiative of Urban Word – the largest and most comprehensive youth literary arts organization in the country – in collaboration with local arts and literary organizations, Arts Councils and library systems; and is supported by the leading organizations in our field, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Academy of American Poets, the Poetry Coalition, the Library of Congress, the National Parks Service, and the Kennedy Center.

For more information visit youthlaureate.org
urbanwordnyc.org