

OFFICIAL RULES

The 2024 Southwest Michigan Poetry Contest seeks creative writers to submit a short poem that represents and celebrates Southwest Michigan. Topics can include, but are not limited to, geographical features, industry, community, historical landmarks and events, favorite vacation locations, and seasonal change. For the purpose of this Contest, "Southwest Michigan" is defined as the counties of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren. One entry per contest-ant. Entries must be original and have been created in 2024.

Upon submission, the author grants all collaborating organizations the right to publish the submitted work for the purposes of promoting the contest and/or Southwest Michigan.



POEM PARAMETERS:

- Poem must be original
- Entry can be written in any poetic style
- Must represent & celebrate Southwest Michigan
- One poem per person
- Contest entry must be at least 3 lines but cannot exceed 12 lines

WHO CAN ENTER:

This contest is open to anyone who is a full-time or part-time resident of Southwest Michigan.

HOW TO ENTER:

Complete and email the Official Entry Form along with your poem to **Info@northberrienhistory.org**

DEADLINE:

Friday, April 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

JUDGING:

Eligible poems will be judged by popular vote on the Museum's Facebook page starting on Monday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m. and ending on Sunday, April 28, 2024. A panel of judges will meet that same week to determine additional winners.

AWARDS:

Winning entries for both Student & Adult categories will be announced on **Monday**, April 29 on Facebook.

Judges' & People's Choice

1st place for both the Student & Adult categories will receive a gift package courtesy of the Southwest Michigan Poetry Contest collaborators.

1st place entries and Honorable Mentions will be recognized online, in local newspapers, and in collaborating organizations' newsletters. They will also receive a one-year membership to the North Berrien Historical Museum.

The Southwest Michigan Poetry Contest holds the right to disqualify any entry.





OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

The Southwest Michigan Poetry Contest invites submissions of original poems that capture the distinctive character of Southwest Michigan for future generations.



GUIDELINES:

Poems must represent and celebrate **Southwest Michigan** — this includes the counties of Berrien, Van Buren, and Cass. Poetry submissions that do not meet this requirement will not be eligible. *Please see Official Rules for full details.*

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

Age group:	□ Student (Age 17 and under)	□ Adults (Age 18 +)	
Poet's Name:	First	Last	
Address:			
City, State, Z	IP:		
Phone:	E-mail	Address:	
Title of Poem	Submitted:		

By signing below, I (or parent/guardian if under 18) agree to the terms and conditions described in the Official Rules.

Poet's Signature

Parent/Guardian if under 18

HOW TO ENTER (Submit this completed Entry Form and your poem entry according to the following instructions):

F Entry is in the parameters of the Southwest Michigan Poetry Contest Official Rules.

Poem entries must be submitted as a word.doc file only

Submit by email to Info@northberrienhistory.org by Friday, April 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

POETRY READING

All participants are invited to attend a poetry reading in the Community Room at the Coloma Public Library on Tuesday, April 30th from 5:30–6:45 p.m. Read an original poem or share a favorite poem.







For additional information:

North Berrien Historical Museum 300 Coloma Ave. Coloma, MI 49038 info@northberrienhistory.org (269) 468-3330