



Florida 4-H Nature Poetry Contest

The 4-H Florida Nature Poetry Contest is an annual contest. This is a chance for participants to demonstrate their creative talents! We invite contestants to compose and share an original poem related to Florida's natural world.

Who may enter?

The contest is open to youth in Florida. There is a limit of one entry per person. Up to 20 poems may be submitted from each county. **Entries must be postmarked by March 1.**

What types of poetry may be submitted?

The poems do not need to follow any particular format. Participants are encouraged to write about whatever personally engages them in nature. Please see the website for more information: <http://go.ufl.edu/6p222v->

Judging criteria:

Entries will be evaluated on the following criteria by a panel of poets, creative writers, environmental educators, and 4-H educators.

1. Original thought and perspective
2. Relevance to Florida nature
3. Word choice that powerfully conveys imagery and effectively conveys the subject
4. Rhythm, pattern, rhyme, metaphor, and/or analogy as relevant to the type of poem

Winners:

Winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of three age groups – Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) will be announced at the Forest Ecology Contest held in Gainesville. Winners will receive ribbons and their poems will be published on the contest website.

How to enter:

- The following two pages contain the entry form for the contest. The form can be filled out in Acrobat Reader and then printed or it can be printed and then filled out by hand. Either way, please sign the printed paper copy and mail both pages to the address at the bottom of this page. Both pages of the form need to be completed for each entry.
- Do not put any identifying information on the second page.
- Entries must be postmarked by March 1.
- All entries become the property of the University of Florida and will not be returned.

Mail both pages of this form to:

4-H Nature Poetry Contest

Attn: Cindy Love

UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences

PO Box 110410

Gainesville, FL 32611-0410

**Florida 4-H Nature Poetry Contest
Poem Information Statement & Release Form**

office use only

This completed form must be signed and submitted with each entry or the poem will be disqualified.

Full Name of Youth: _____

Age on Sept 1: _____ Participating in the Forest Ecology Contest? Yes No
 Junior (8-10) Intermediate (11-13) Senior (14-18)

County: _____ County Agent: _____

Home Street Address / P.O. Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Youth Email Address: _____

Please read the following and confirm your acknowledgement by signing below.

Certification Statement: As a Florida 4-H Nature Poetry Contest participant, I certify that the poem is my own original work and was written entirely by me without using content from any other person or other source. I also certify that I have not previously published the poem or entered it in any other contest.

Participant Release: I do hereby consent and agree that UF/IFAS Extension, including the UF School of Forest Resources & Conservation and the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program staff have permission to take photographs and/or record video and/or audio of me and/or use my property (i.e., entered poem) in any educational, promotional, and/or marketing materials. I further give the right to exhibit any such works publicly or privately, including posting on the Florida 4-H Nature Poetry Contest website. I have read and understand the above statements and I am competent to execute this agreement.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Release: I grant permission to the University of Florida, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, and the UF School of Forest Resources & Conservation to use photographs taken of me and/or my minor child for use in university publications such as promotional brochures, newsletters, magazines, educational materials, and websites without notifying me. I agree to waive and release any and all claims against the University, IFAS, SFRC, and 4-H and its contractors and licensees relating to the Photo and their uses and/or distribution in any version or media.

Adult/Parent/Guardian name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Adult/Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Your poem:

Please enter your original poem in the box below. You may handwrite the poem, type it in using a typewriter, or type it in on a computer using Acrobat Reader.

Important: To ensure the anonymity of the entries, **please do not put your name on this page**. All contact information for the poet should be restricted to the previous page.

Age Group: Junior

Intermediate

Senior