



2026-27 Youth Poetry Contest

- a. Theme: Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White, and Blue! (Do NOT use this as the title)
- b. No more than 24 lines including the title
- c. Maximum of 42 letters/spaces per line
- d. Does not have to rhyme
- e. May be of any poetry style (traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick or haiku)
- f. Open to all K – 12 grade students
- g. More info on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. website: <https://gardenclub.org/poetry-contest>
- h. Guidelines: Include name, address, age, grade, school, sponsoring local garden club and state garden club of the poet on the back of entry. *(Child privacy is important to NGC, and thus, published winning national poems will only identify the poet's first name, last name initial, and sponsoring garden club name.)*
- i. When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme: "Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White, and Blue!". However, the theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.
- j. Poets should be strongly encouraged to proofread their work for grammatical errors and spelling errors.
- k. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc
- l. Scale of Points:
 - Title 10%,
 - Content 40%,
 - Creativity 30%,
 - Style 20%.
 - Total 100%
- m. **DEC 1, 2026 is the state deadline** to send to Pam Schumm – 10322 N 800 E, Syracuse, IN 46567 Send both a physical copy and email a copy at pamschumm@gmail.com.