Colorado is home to musicians, artists, and storytellers. It is a rural escape for some, and an immersive urban adventure for others. The diversity of people, culture, and wildlife is what has captured the hearts of so many as they’ve passed through or settled in. The Colorado State Fair Poetry Competition provides another point of connection and a way to share our experiences- from our hearts and through our words. We invite writers of all ages to enter the third annual Colorado State Fair Poetry Competition. The competition will conclude with a reading during the Colorado State Fair to give winning poets and finalists the opportunity to share their work.

Additionally, as summer draws to a close, we are reminded that all of life has an expiration date. Humans celebrate life and mourn death through countless traditions, rituals, and practices. These practices are informed by culture; We learn how to view death from those that we hold closest to ourselves, and we pass those views on to our children, friends, and families. The Colorado State Fair welcomes you to share, in all cultures surrounding death, in our new . Participation in this special award is optional. Exhibitors may submit one Death themed poem (as well as your non-themed poems) in the required format detailed below.

Prizes in each age group
   Placing poets and finalists will be asked to read their work at the Colorado State Fair Night to Recite
   1st place ribbon, $15
   2nd place ribbon, $10
   3rd place ribbon, $5
   Special Award- $20,

Schedule
Entry deadline — Friday, July 19, 2019, by 4:00 p.m.
Online Only Extension entry deadline — Monday, August 5, 2019 by 4:00 p.m.
Deadline all actual poems must be received by — Monday, August 5, 2019 by Midnight.
Judging — (closed to the public) Winners will be announced on the CSF website and notified prior to the live reading.
Reading — Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 7:00PM, in the Fine Arts Building.

Competition and Entry Information (All competition rules and guidelines are in addition to 2019 General Competition Requirements as well as GE/FA 2019 Competition & Entry Requirements)
   1. Poem(s) must be your original and unpublished writing.
   2. One poem up to 40 lines, excluding title and epigraphs, per entry fee. Maximum of three poems per writer.
   3. All poems must be typed and submitted in a digital format. May be emailed to ge@coloradostatefair.com or follow prompts after online entry to submit digital file of poem(s).
   NO EXCEPTIONS
   4. Writers retain all rights to their work.
   5. Do not include your name or other identifying information on front of poem.
   6. Materials containing strong language, or graphic depictions, will be read after the Youth category.

Questions? ge@coloradostatefair.com ◊ coloradostatefair.com ◊ 719.404.2080