

Mount Vernon Youth Poet Laureate Program 2024

Application Guidelines

The City of Mount Vernon's Youth Poet Laureate Program celebrates poetry by recognizing a Mount Vernon youth poet who honors and serves community and elevates the importance of the creative writing art form through sharing their work with Mount Vernon residents and beyond. This young person who demonstrates skill in the arts, particularly poetry and/or spoken word, is a strong leader, is committed to social justice, and is active in civic discourse and advocacy. The Youth Poet Laureate acts as a spokesperson for poetry, language, and the arts. They create a unique artistic legacy through outreach activities, events in conjunction with the Mount Vernon Public Library, and presentations of original works.

The Youth Poet Laureate is chosen by a selection jury, through a thorough review of the competitive applications received and a unanimous decision-making process. The Youth Poet Laureate serves a one-year term.

Application Timeline

- All Youth Poet Laureate Competition materials must be submitted by 11:59pm on May 15, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Finalists will be contacted on May 22.
- Finalists will then be asked to submit a photo and a 2–3-minute self-tape video reciting one of their original works by May 24 (so please have one prepared in advance just in case.)
- All Youth Poet Laureate applicants will be invited to attend the June 6, Youth Poet Laureate Induction Ceremony where the winner will be announced. All applicants will also receive their certificate of participation at this event.

FORMATTING NOTES: All entries must be submitted in a conventional font (such as Times New Roman) at 12-point size.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You are eligible if:

- You will be age 13-18 as of January 1, 2024;
- You live in Mount Vernon, NY or attend school in Mount Vernon, NY
- You will live locally for the calendar year of 2024-2025 and won't be enrolled in college full-time during the whole year.

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Send your resume/ CV and three poems as one file to ahall1@mtvernoncsd.org. Be sure to name your file with your first and last name (underscore)School (Example: John Doe_BusyBeeSchool)

Resume/CV

The resume/CV is a chance for you to share your experience with civic engagement, social justice, work experience, education, awards, and additional skills/experiences. Please try to fill out every section. Your resume/CV is an important part of the application process so simply fill it out to the best of your ability.

For the resume/CV, please use the template provided:

Youth Poet Laureate resume/CV Template:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:08c41a37-99fc-4e2a-802e-5ba4aa4ce278?viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover>

Three Original Poems

The three original poems will be submitted in any format, such as pdf or Word doc. The poems must be original work and should not be over 10 pages total.

Step 2: Fill out the application:

Here is the QR code and the link for the Youth Poet Laureate application.



<https://forms.office.com/r/ra7tLCTqqq?origin=lprLink>

Mount Vernon Youth Poet Laureate Winner Prizes:

- \$350 Prize
- Qualify to compete on a YPL regional/ national level
- Mentored by the Westchester Youth Poet Laureate
- Cultivate at least 2 community poetry events at the Mount

- Vernon Public Library during their 1-year reign
- Receives a plaque
- Receives a MVPL T-shirt
- Appointed Teen blogger of MVPL
- Paid job to work as an aide at the Mount Vernon Public Library (if the winner is 14 years or older)
- Receives support to self-publish a book of poetry
- Has the opportunity to receive paid speaking engagements for civic events

Prizes for 5 Ambassadors (5 runner ups):

Mount Vernon Public Library T-shirt

Goody bag

Certificate of Recognition

QUESTIONS? Contact us at ahall1@mtvernoncsd.org if you have any questions.