



## Voices of Hope Poetry Contest Guidelines

**Theme:** All submitted poems must relate to the theme of mental health awareness and advocacy. Poets are encouraged to explore topics such as personal experiences with mental health challenges, destigmatization, the importance of seeking help, coping mechanisms, empowerment, hope, resilience, self-care or any other aspect related to mental well-being.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to middle and high school students from North, South, and East Bernstadt Independent Schools.

**Originality:** All poems must be original works created by the participant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.

**Submission Format and Process:** Poems can be submitted in written form (typed or handwritten) to your schools Youth Service Center or submitted via email to [Laurelcountyhealthdepartment@gmail.com](mailto:Laurelcountyhealthdepartment@gmail.com)

Please include the participants name, grade, school name, and contact information along with the submission.

**Length:** No more than 25 lines long

**Submission Deadline:** The deadline for submitting poems is May 17th, 2024. Late admissions will not be accepted.

**Judging Criteria:** Submissions will be judged based on creativity, originality, relevance to the theme, emotional impact, and artistic expression.



**Prize:** Winners of the poetry contest will be awarded certificates, and their submissions will be locally published and displayed. The contest will feature first, second, and third place winners from both North and South Laurel High Schools, as well as from North, South, and East Bernstadt Independent Middle Schools.

**Notification of Winners:** Winners will be notified via email or phone by May 31st.

**Publication:** By submitting their poems, participants grant permission for their work to be published on our organization's website, social media channels, and any other promotional materials related to the contest.

**Rights:** Participants retain the copyright to their poems. However, by participating in the contest, they grant our organization the right to reproduce, distribute, and display their work for promotional purposes.

**Code of Conduct:** Participants are expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity and respect. Any form of hate speech, discrimination, or offensive language will result in immediate disqualification.

**Questions:** If participants have any questions or require clarification regarding the contest guidelines, they can contact [christin.beaver@ky.gov](mailto:christin.beaver@ky.gov)