

# POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POETRY FESTIVAL CONTEST

## DEADLINE AND ENTRY FEES

PST Board Contest entry fees are as noted. Pay one fee to enter one or more of all remaining contests (PST Regional and Sponsored contests): **\$10** for members, **\$15** for non-members. Please note: some contests have eligibility restrictions. Review contests carefully.

A poet may submit one packet of entries. Contest opens for submission October 1, 2024, and entries must be emailed or postmarked by **Sunday, December 15, 2024**. Please do not call or email to verify receipt. Follow instructions carefully. **No simultaneous submissions.**

Questions? Contact Festival Contest Chair Deborah-Zenha Adams at [pstfestsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:pstfestsubmissions@gmail.com).

## PRIZES AND PUBLICATION

1. PST publishes first-place poems in Tennessee Voices Anthology. Second and third place winners may be published at the discretion of the Editorial Board. For the Tennessee Voices Award contest, PST publishes all finalists. PST reserves the right to publish Tennessee Voices contest semifinalists at the discretion of the Anthology Editorial Board.
2. In addition to prizes, honorable mentions are given as merited by the number of entries in each individual contest and the quality of the material submitted. Published poets, sponsors, and non-sponsor judges will receive a complimentary anthology copy.
3. By submitting an entry, you agree to give PST first publishing rights should your poem be selected for publication. Following publication, all rights revert to the author. You also grant PST non-exclusive electronic permission to post this work in archives and share it through social media and/or live presentations. We ask that you credit Tennessee Voices Anthology if the work is published elsewhere in the future.
4. The Tennessee Voices Anthology Editorial Board reserves the right to alter line breaks in poems having more than 50 characters per line, including punctuation marks and spaces. We reserve the right to make minor revisions to works (e.g., spacing conventions for em-dashes, correction of typographical errors, and the like).
5. Pseudonyms of winning poets will be honored in Tennessee Voices Anthology and on winner's lists; however, legal names are required for issuing checks.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Unless otherwise indicated, contests are open to all poets. Please review each contest carefully to ensure you are eligible to participate in a particular contest.
2. Unless otherwise specified, all poems must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including electronically and placed on exhibition, and not under consideration or accepted for publication elsewhere. Your work must be created without use of Artificial Intelligence assisted technologies. Your entries must not have won first prize in any poetry contest prior to PST's 68th Annual Festival (April 26, 2025). NOTE: Prize requirements are exempted for contests seeking previously published poems.
3. The same poem may not be entered in more than one contest.

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4. Unless otherwise specified, a poet may not enter more than one poem in a single contest.
5. No simultaneous submissions.
6. While PST welcomes a variety of themes and topics, we do not accept explicitly violent or sexual content for our contests.
7. Entries which do not conform to these rules will be disqualified:
  - a. Poets who violate publication and/or simultaneous submission rules will be disqualified. If awarded prize money, poet will be asked to refund any prize money that has been issued for poem(s) in violation of guidelines.
  - b. Poems which do not meet membership or other criteria specified in specific contest instructions will be disqualified from that contest.
  - c. Poets will not be notified if poems are disqualified.

**FORMAT AND SUBMISSION**

1. Entries must be single spaced, typed or computer generated in 12-point Times New Roman or similar font. (11 pt is also acceptable.)
2. No graphics unless specifically required by contest instructions or integrated into the poetry form. If submitting a poem style with integrated art (e.g., tanka art, erasure poetry) please specify form for judge. Do not submit original art as entries will not be returned (color copies are acceptable).
3. Unless otherwise specified, line count does not include the title or one space below the title. All other lines, including blank lines, epigraphs and supplemental information are included.
4. We do not accept hand-written poems or poems on onion skin paper.
5. We accept these formats for digital entries: .doc, .docx, .pdf and .txt.
6. Prepare your submission packet with each of the following:
  - a. Summary Sheet: on a separate piece of paper (you may use the body of your email if submitting via email) include an entry summary with your name, address, phone number, and email address and a list of contests you are entering. In the contest entry list, note contest number, contest name, and the title of the poem you are submitting.
  - b. ID Copy of Poem: In the upper right, show the poet's name, mailing address, email address (if available) and note if PST Member or Non-Member. Include information on all pages of the ID copy. In the upper left list contest title, contest number and form of poem (e.g., Free Verse, Blank Verse, Villanelle).
  - c. Blind Copy of Poem: In the upper left of each entry list contest title, contest number and form of poem (e.g., Free Verse, Blank Verse, Villanelle). Do not place any identifying information on this copy or (if submitting by email) in the file name.

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**ENTRIES BY EMAIL** (Also see “Format and Submission”)

Email your submission packet to [pstsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:pstsubmissions@gmail.com)

1. Include your Summary Sheet in a separate document or in the body of your email.
2. Attach two documents (ID Copy and Blind Copy) for each contest you enter. Do not consolidate your entries into a single file.
3. For poems 2 pages or longer, place the title on all pages.
4. For the ID Copy we recommend a file name of contest number\_Last Name\_Title (e.g., 10\_Manning\_Tree to Sawdust).
5. For the Blind Copy we recommend a file name of contest number\_Title (e.g., 10\_Tree to Sawdust).
6. Ensure no identifying information appears in the document or file of your Blind Copy.

**ENTRIES BY MAIL** (Also see “Format and Submission”)

Mail your submission packet to:

Contest Coordinator / Deborah-Zenha Adams  
232 Morning Glory Way Waverly TN 37185

1. Poems 2 pages or longer must be stapled. Note the title on all pages.
2. No paperclips with submissions.
3. Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1-20) with originals on top.
4. Submit in 8 1/2 x 11 or 9 x 12 envelope; folded submissions will not be accepted.

**PAYMENT**

Pay your entry fee by mail or online:

1. online: online payment option available at <https://bit.ly/pstpaynow>.
2. by mail: Make check payable to Poetry Society of Tennessee and mail to Contest Coordinator / Deborah-Zenha Adams, 232 Morning Glory Way Waverly TN 37185.

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**FESTIVAL CONTESTS**

Unless otherwise specified, contests have a 40-line limit. Line count does not include the title or blank line following but all other lines, including blanks, count.

**PST BOARD CONTESTS**

**BEST OF THE FEST AWARD**

PRIZE: \$250

An outside judge will select one poem from all festival contest 1<sup>st</sup> place poems (except contest 2) for this award. The judge's decision will be final.

**1. TENNESSEE VOICES**

Eligibility: Tennessee resident or PST members only.

Entry Fee: \$2 for a single poem. One entry only.

Form: Any / Topic: Any

Prizes: 1st \$150/ 2nd \$100 / 3rd \$50

**2. PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM**

Eligibility: PST members only.

Entry Fee: \$2 per entry. Up to 5 entries.

Form: Any / Topic: Any

Special Instructions: Any previously published poem. Note where poem was published on your entry. Do not combine multiple entries into a single file.

PRIZES: to be determined by number of entries

**PST REGIONAL CONTESTS**

Funded by donors. Final prize pool to be determined.

Minimum prize for each contest 1<sup>st</sup> \$15 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$10 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$5

**3. NORTHEAST REGION CONTEST**

Form: any / Topic: Places. A poem centered on place (as you define it) in a setting or as subject.

**4. EAST REGION CONTEST**

Form: any / Topic: An ekphrastic poem about art depicting Tennessee or by a Tennessee artist. Note artwork and artist on entry.

**5. MIDEAST REGION CONTEST**

Form: any / Topic: Blast from the Past

A poem incorporating an historical element as subject or poetic device.

**6. SOUTHEAST REGION CONTEST**

Form: Nonet / Topic: any

Lines: nine, per form

**7. MIDDLE REGION CONTEST**

Form: Sonnet / Topic: any

Lines: per form

**8. SOUTHWEST REGION CONTEST**

A Previously Rejected Poem

Special Instructions: sometimes good work gets rejected. Send us a previously rejected poem.

**9. KENTUCKY LAKE REGION CONTEST**

Form: any / Topic: Sci-Fi / Fantasy

**10. WEST REGION CONTEST**

Form: Dorsimbra / Topic: any

Lines: 12, per form

**11. AT-LARGE REGION CONTEST**

Form: Survey poem / Topic: any

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**SPONSORED CONTESTS**

(selected and funded by individuals and businesses)

**12. PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

"Favor the Villanelle"

Form: Villanelle / Topic: any

Lines: 19, per form

Sponsor: Lisa Kamolnick

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20

**13. NEW MEMBERS ONLY**

Eligibility: Open only to those who joined PST for the first time between 15 Dec 2023 and festival contest deadline.

Form: Any / Topic: Something New

Sponsor: Deborah Adams

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20

**14. SANDY PETERS MEMORIAL CONTEST**

Form: Any / Topic: For the Birds

Sponsor: Chrissie Anderson Peters

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15

**15. JOAN T. AND SHERON B. STRAUSS  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

Form: rhymed/ metered

Subject: Any humorous subject

Line: 5-16

Sponsor: Russell H. Strauss

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**16. OPEN SEASON**

Form: Any Subject: Any

Sponsor: KB Ballentine

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**17. TENNESSEE HEROES**

Form: Any / Topic: Tennessee Heroes

Sponsor: Emory D. Jones

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**18. TENNESSEE RIVERS**

Form: Any

Topic: Tennessee Rivers

Lines: 10-40

Sponsor PST Knoxville Group

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**19. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE**

Form: Any

Topic: Anything related to Native American culture, past or present

Sponsor: Howard Carman

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**20. DOUBLE JUDGE**

Form: Free Verse / Topic: Any

Note: Two judges will select two slates of winners. Two sets of prizes will be awarded.

Sponsor: Rose Klix & Lisa Kamolnick

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10 (for each prize slate)

**21. BOBBIE DROBECK MEMORIAL AWARD**

Form: Any

Subject: a "how to" poem instructing the reader on how to do anything the poet chooses

Line: 10-30

Sponsor: Russell H. Strauss

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**22. POET'S CHOICE**

Form: Any Subject: Any

Sponsor: KB Ballentine

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 / 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**THANK YOU**

Many thanks to our sponsors, judges, and much appreciation to PST Festival Contest Coordinator, Deborah-Zenha Adams.

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**RESOURCES**

**Exploring Forms Found in the 68<sup>th</sup> Poetry Festival Contests**

**Dorsimbra**

[https://www.writing.com/main/books/entry\\_id/692289-Dorsimbra](https://www.writing.com/main/books/entry_id/692289-Dorsimbra)

<http://poetryforms.blogspot.com/2013/07/dorsimbra-dorsimbra-was-invented-by.html>

**Free Verse**

<https://writers.com/how-to-write-a-free-verse-poem>

<https://poets.org/glossary/free-verse>

**Nonet**

<https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/nonet-poems-poetic-form>

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-nonet>

**Sonnet**

<http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/sonnet.html>

<https://poets.org/poem/american-sonnet-10>

<https://interestingliterature.com/2016/02/10-classic-sonnets-everyone-should-read/>

**Survey poems**

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50752/questionnaire>

<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/money-and-morals-after-crash/questionnaire>

<https://sacompassion.net/poem-questionnaire-to-oneself-by-audre-lorde/>

**Villanelle**

<https://poets.org/glossary/villanelle>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/education/glossary/villanelle>

**Tennessee Voices Anthology**

[2023-2024 Edition](#)

[Earlier editions](#)