

# “AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”

## Callaway County Youth Poetry Contest

**April is National Poetry Month.** The Callaway County Public Library and the Auxvasse Creative Arts Program invite Callaway County kids and teens to submit an original poem.

### Write a celebratory poem.

Write a poem that celebrates the natural beauty of the United States. It could be about summertime, travel to American destinations, weekend road trips in Missouri or something you see in your back yard.

### Tips for Writing Your Poem

- Write, write, write! Let your mind go loose and crazy for your first words on the paper. Have fun!
- Don't stop at your first draft. Good poetry is the result of continuing to working on your poem. Take those first words and see how you can improve them.
- As you read what you have written, think about what words you chose. Is each word the perfect one for your poem?
- Pay attention to the sound of each word, and how the words sound together. Is there another word that would sound better?
- When you read the poem out loud to yourself, do any words stick out as not quite right? How can you change it?
- Do you feel a rhythm to your poem? Does it roll when you read it?
- Be specific and descriptive. For instance, instead of saying just “bug,” you could say “a big, fat, black beetle.”
- Have you used any words that you really don't need? Cutting unnecessary words can tighten a poem and make it better.

### Age Groups

**5-8 years • 9-12 years • 13-18 years**

Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each age group. A brief awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 1 at the Callaway County Public Library in Fulton.

### Contest Rules

You must live or attend school in Callaway County and be age 5-18.

For the 5 to 8 age group, an adult may help you type or write your entry.

Entries should include all identifying details listed below.

### Deadline

**Entries must be recieved by April 30, 2017.**

Entries may be turned in at the Callaway library, sent by email to [jhahn@dbrl.org](mailto:jhahn@dbrl.org) or mailed to:

**Callaway County Public Library**  
**ATTN: Youth Poetry Contest**  
**710 Court St., Fulton, MO 65251**

Mailed entries must be postmarked by April 30.



**Callaway County Public Library**

710 Court Street, Fulton • (573) 642-7261 • TTY 642-0662

Daniel Boone Regional Library • [www.dbrl.org](http://www.dbrl.org)

**ACAP**  
Auxvasse Creative Arts Program

**Submit this form with your poem.** *Your signature indicates acceptance of all contest guidelines.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_