



Announcing the Search for the First Youth Poet Laureate of Florida's Culture Coast

The Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County will follow the lead of the nation in acknowledging a student who has achieved excellence in poetry, allowing them to be a leader for the county in raising the profile of poetry and developing its audience.

Specifics

- This student should be between the ages of 13 and 19.
- They must be a county resident of Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto or Charlotte County, who expects to remain in the county between September of 2022 and August of 2023.
- They should also have demonstrated their commitment to literary arts and community engagement through participation in volunteer and community service, clubs, after school activities, and extra academic activities.
- The Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County will administer this program as a regional partner of Urban Word.
- The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a one year term and is expected to participate in at least four public functions.
- The Youth Poet Laureate will receive a \$500 stipend, embark on a year of opportunities as an ambassador for literary arts and youth expression and an anthology that includes their work and that of other finalists.

Procedure

- Application (available at <https://www.sarasotaarts.org/youth-poet-laureate-program>) must be submitted by September 30, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST to education@sarasotaarts.org.
- Applications can be sent by mail to: Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County - Youth Poet Laureate Submission, 1226 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236
- We can mail an application to individuals upon request. Please email education@sarasotaarts.org to request.
- With the application, three of the student's poems must be submitted, totaling no more than six pages.
- For finalists, an adult sponsor will be required to provide a letter of support.
- A committee of respected local poets will review applications and choose finalists.
- Finalists will be asked to attend a judging session so that their ability to present their poems effectively (as well as writing good poems) can be assessed.
- The winner will be announced in October/November 2022.

For more information, please contact education@sarasotaarts.org