



# Over the Board Poetry Contest

*Write a poem celebrating the game of chess!*

**No Entry Fee, Cash Prizes in three categories:  
Ages 8-12, Ages 13-17 and Ages 18 and over**

**1<sup>st</sup> = \$100   2<sup>nd</sup> = \$75   3<sup>rd</sup> = \$50**

**Evaluation Guidelines:** Judges will be looking for these things in the entries:

1<sup>st</sup>: Poetic description of the subject that includes sensory imagery (touch, taste, smell, sight, sound), concrete language, and poetic techniques (alliteration, personification, metaphor, etc.)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Creative and original development of the subject. Add a unique view or insight about chess. Consider the metaphoric quality of the pieces and game. **IMPORTANT:** The title should also be original, not just the name of the subject. Consider picking as your title a phrase from the actual poem itself. Sometimes it's best to choose a title after you have finished the poem.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Accuracy in development of the subject. While we want you to have originality in your development, make sure the description of the subject is accurate in some way—either visually or in spirit.

**SUBMITTING YOUR POEM:** You can submit your poem by email or through the postal mail. As always, in-person delivery to the museum is acceptable and encouraged.

**ENTRY FORM:** All entries must include either the entry form or all information from the entry form. If you submit through email, you can scan and send the entry form and your poem as attachments. Or you can type the poem into the body of an email, along with **all of the information** required from the entry form, including the statement of originality.

Make sure that your name or identifying information is nowhere on the poem itself.

The contest is open to anyone living in the United States.

**DEADLINE: Poems can be submitted at any time but must be postmarked or hand-delivered by Dec. 12, 2026.**

The winners will be announced through email in late December. Winners will be awarded their prizes at the opening event for the exhibit, tentatively scheduled for Feb. 20, 2027. You do not have to be present to win. Prize money will be mailed after the event if you do not attend.

**NOTE:** We do not have the resources to acknowledge receipt of poems. Keep a copy of your poem.



**Over the Board Poetry Contest Entry Form**

**Attach this page to a copy of your poem. Your name should not appear on the poem itself.**

Name:

Title of Poem:

Circle Category:      Ages 8-12              Ages 13-17              Ages 18 and over

Full Mailing Address:

Phone:

**Email Address--IMPORTANT—This is how winners will be notified. Print clearly:**

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**ORIGINALITY CONFIRMATION**

**This must be signed in order to enter the contest.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Your Name),

confirm that the attached poem was written by me and is original to me.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

\_\_\_\_ Check if you give permission for poem to be included in a possible anthology. The rights will always remain with you, the author.

Mail to:  
ROMP Chess Poem Contest  
PO Box 1243  
Locust Grove OK 74352

Email to:  
ROMPoetry@gmail.com  
Subject Line: Chess Poem Contest