



2024 Delaware Ocean Month Haiku Poetry Contest OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES AND RELEASE FORM

Ocean Month reminds us all of the major role the ocean has in everyday life. To celebrate the natural wonders and countless benefits the ocean provides us, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Delaware Public Library system are excited to announce a Haiku Poetry Contest. Please join us in evoking the essence of the ocean in literary form by composing an original, ocean themed haiku poem. According to the [Academy of American Poets](#), a traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with 17 syllables, written in a 5/7/5 syllable count. Often focusing on images from nature, haiku emphasizes simplicity, intensity and directness of expression.

Selected poems will be displayed in the following libraries throughout the state during Ocean Month in June:

- Route 9 Library and Innovation Center
- Appoquinimink Library
- Dover Public Library
- Georgetown Public Library
- Lewes Public Library

Beginning today, DNREC invites Delawareans to submit a haiku poem that expresses:

What I Love About the Ocean

I. How to Enter

1. Complete this Official Rules and Release form and submit a haiku poem that express the essence of something you love about the ocean. This could include wildlife, recreational activities or anything else you admire about the ocean's natural beauty or its abundant resources.
2. Submit your poem(s) via email, Word document, or pdf to DNREC.DCP.ADMIN@delaware.gov. All submissions must include the following: artist's name, age, and home address. Based on age, participants will compete in a K-12 (ages 5 through 18) or adult (ages 19+) age group category.
3. If the participant is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must complete and submit this release form. If more than one child is included in a submission, a release form must be completed for each minor by the minor's parent or guardian.



II. Official Rules

1. **Deadline for Entry:** The poet's submission, and the completed Rules and Release Form(s), must be submitted to DNREC.DCP.ADMIN@delaware.gov by 4 p.m. on June 4, 2024.
 - DNREC shall not accept late or incomplete entries, or entries that have not followed these official rules.
 - DNREC reserves the right to adjust any deadline(s) as the result of causes beyond its immediate control. DNREC will take reasonable steps to notify of any adjustments made to deadlines.
 - Poems must have been composed between the date of the contest announcement and prior to the 4 p.m. June 4, 2024 deadline.

2. **Content:**
 - Poems should follow the traditional haiku, three line, 5-7-5 syllable structure.
 - Each participant may submit one haiku poem.
 - Poem submissions must not contain inappropriate, indecent or obscene content. DNREC has sole discretion in determining whether any entry contains inappropriate, indecent, or obscene content. Submissions determined by DNREC to contain inappropriate, indecent or obscene content shall be rejected by DNREC.
 - Poem submissions must be original and created solely by the submitting entrant(s), and not violate the intellectual property rights, copyright or right of property of any third party. DNREC will reject submissions that it determines, in its sole discretion, contain copyrighted materials. Poem submissions that have been entered into other contests, or have been displayed elsewhere are not eligible.
 - Poems may not include other discernable people, names, signatures, logos or other identifying marks.



III. Eligibility

1. This contest is open to all legal residents of the State of Delaware, ages 5+.
2. DNREC employees may submit poems in accordance with these official rules. DNREC employees; however, are not eligible to win prizes.
3. Children of DNREC employees may submit poems in accordance with these Official Rules. Children of DNREC employees; however, are not eligible to win prizes.

IV. Judging and Selection of Winning Entries

1. The judging panel will consist of the Director of the DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy, the Division Ocean Planner and a staff or non-staff member knowledgeable in literary art.
2. A 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place haiku poem will be selected as winning entries in each age group. Honorable mentions may also be selected. Poem submissions shall be judged and winning entries shall be selected based on how well the pieces represent the following criteria: creativity, content and linguistic style.
3. DNREC has sole discretion over the selection of winning entries. By entering this contest, entrants waive any right they have to dispute or otherwise challenge DNREC's selection of the winning entries.

V. Prizes for Winning Entries

The winning poem and poet in each age group category will be featured in an Outdoor Delaware online article. Additionally, each 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner will receive a DNREC prize pack. Winning pieces will be displayed at libraries throughout the state during the month of June and at the Delaware State Fair and/or University of Delaware's Coast Day.

1. DNREC will make reasonable efforts to notify winners publicly, via email, news release(s) and social media by World Ocean Day on June 8, 2024.
2. Entries may be used by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and/or Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy for websites and publications. We will provide credit to artists whenever their poem or photos of their poem are used.



VI. General Provisions:

1. Poetry Release: By entering this contest and submitting this completed release form, I, on behalf of myself and, if applicable, the minor identified on this release form, grant permission to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and its employees a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, nonexclusive license to display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the poem submission, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or subsequently developed, for any State of Delaware or DNREC purpose, including, but not limited to advertising and promotion of DNREC in print, its web site, and its publications. By entering this contest, I further agree that the poem submission complies with these official rules. I will make no monetary or other claim against DNREC or the State of Delaware for the use of any content provided to DNREC in connection with my or my minor child's participation in this contest.
2. DNREC is an agency of the State of Delaware subject to Delaware's Freedom of Information Act (29 Del. C. 10001 *et seq.*). Participants are advised that any information provided to DNREC in conjunction with this contest may be deemed a public record under FOIA.
3. No Third Party Rights: This release form affects the rights, obligations and duties of the parties only. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, nothing in this release form is intended to, nor shall it be interpreted or construed in a manner which shall: (a) grant any third party the right to enforce any of the terms, rights, or obligations set forth herein; (b) confer any substantive or procedural rights or privileges to any third party in relation to or arising out of any collateral civil or criminal legal proceeding; or (c) waive or otherwise affect the sovereignty of the State of Delaware or the application of 10 Del. C. § 4001, *et seq.* to any civil proceeding involving any officer, employee or agent of the State of Delaware.
4. These terms shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware. Any legal action brought by either party to enforce any provision of this agreement shall be brought in an appropriate Delaware State Court.



2024 Delaware Ocean Month Haiku Poetry Contest Release Form

Participant's Name (please print)

Participant's Age

Participant's Signature (if 18 or older)

Date

Participant's Mailing Address

Participant's Email Address

Participant's Phone Number (optional)

If participant is under the age of 18 at the time of entering this contest, the minor participant's parent or guardian must complete this portion of this release form. A separate release form is required for each minor appearing in a photo submission.

Parent or Guardian Name (please print)

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date