

# Neihardt Young Poet's Contest



This is an annual contest held to honor the memory of John G. Neihardt, Poet Laureate of Nebraska in Perpetuity, and to encourage and highlight young poets.

The sponsor is the Neihardt Foundation, which operates the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft, Nebraska, where Neihardt wrote many of his most important works.

Winners in all categories will receive a cash prize and publication in the June issue of the Neihardt Foundation newsletter *Word Sender*. First place winners will be invited to read their winning entry at the Neihardt Spring Conference, April 30, 2011, in Bancroft.

## 2011 Contest Details

**Categories:** High School (grades 10-12); Junior High (grades 7-9)

**Open to:** Students in all Nebraska Schools

### Prizes:

High School - First: \$50; Second: \$25; Third: \$15

Junior High - First: \$50; Second: \$25; Third: \$15

**Criteria:** All judging is blind and the decision of the judges is final. Entries are judged on originality and the sense of the craft of poetry shown in the work.

**Deadline:** Entries must be submitted via mail or e-mail no later than January 28, 2011.

### Entry Guidelines:

1. Poems must utilize any of the themes emphasized by Neihardt—cultures and heroes of the West, including but not limited to Native Americans, explorers, trappers, and pioneers; the western landscape and natural environment. Entries must be original, unpublished, not submitted elsewhere for publication or broadcast; not accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast, and not entered simultaneously in any other competition. This includes different “versions” of the same poem.
2. Length of each entry must not exceed 30 written lines. No more than one entry per poet.
3. There is no entry fee.
4. Winners will be notified by March 18, 2011. Only winners will be contacted. First prize winners will be invited to read their poetry at the Neihardt Spring Conference on April 30, 2011, in Bancroft, Nebraska. Conference registration and lunch will be provided for first place winners and one adult; parent, teacher, or other guest. All three place winners' work will appear in the next issue of the *Word Sender*, the Neihardt Foundation newsletter with a mailing circulation of 1400. Other publication opportunities may be offered.
5. Each entry must include the following information: Student name, age, grade, address and contact phone number, school name, address and phone number, teacher name.
6. Mail entries to John G Neihardt Foundation, PO Box 344, Bancroft, NE 68004, or e-mail entries to [neihardt@gpcom.net](mailto:neihardt@gpcom.net) no later than January 28, 2011

(Complete form and include with entry)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POEM TITLE \_\_\_\_\_