

2026 Inspired by Nature Scholarship

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Poet Wendell Berry offers a definition of nature poetry as writing that “considers nature as subject matter and inspiration” (poets.org).

“The poetry of nature inspires curiosity, fosters a quest for understanding, and gives meaning where none was before.” —FSJ

Share your creativity inspired by nature, using one of the poetry genres listed below. Entries should focus on the natural world. They might illustrate a human connection with nature or describe the beautiful, inspiring, or powerful aspect of nature.

Entries will be evaluated on creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality, and mastery of poetic expression. **Sponsor may award one full \$500 scholarship or partial scholarships among applicants: Sponsor might award one \$200 scholarship and three \$100 scholarships.**

Scholarship Entry Rules:

- Entrant must be a graduating senior
- One entry per student
- Entry limited to one poem (from genres listed below)
- Entry must be typed, 12-point font, on 8½ x11 paper
- Entry must be a minimum of 16 lines long
- Entry must have a title

Choose from the following genres:

(See LAD Category Descriptions at www.ladfair.com for genre descriptions.)

- Ballad
- Geopoem
- Long Free Verse
- Long Narrative (may be rhymed or unrhymed)
- Long Rhymed

Submission Process:

- Complete an Inspired by Nature Scholarship Application.
- Staple the application form to the front of the entry.

Deadline: Postmarked by March 20, 2026, or delivered in person by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2026, to Republic High School.

If mailing entries, send to:

Casey Daugherty
Inspired by Nature Scholarship
Republic High School
4370 Repmo Drive
Republic, MO 65738

Questions?

Contact Frank S. Johnson
fboonie@gmail.com

2026 Inspired by Nature Scholarship Application

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Name: _____

Entry title: _____

Genre (name format): _____

Where you are enrolling for higher education/training: _____

Your field of interest: _____

Student's phone: _____ Student's email: _____

School: _____

School address: _____

Sponsor's name: _____

Sponsor's phone: _____ Sponsor's email: _____

(Sponsor does NOT have to be a LAD member.)

Parent's/Guardian's names: _____

Parent's/Guardian's address: _____

Signatures:

I affirm that the attached writing is the original work of the student applicant:

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Sponsor: _____

Check LAD's website (www.ladfair.com) for scholarship updates.