

Position Description – Youth Poet Laureate of Westwood

Poetry is not an expression of the party line. It's that time of night, lying in bed, thinking what you really think, making the private world public, that's what the poet does. — Allen Ginsberg

WHAT DOES THIS POSITION ENTAIL?

The Select Board of the Town of Westwood, Massachusetts established the position of Youth Poet Laureate in February 2023, to work in harmony with the town's Poet Laureate to promote and celebrate poetry in the Westwood community.

Like the position of Poet Laureate, that of Youth Poet Laureate is largely ceremonial. The individual appointed to be Youth Poet Laureate will have the opportunity to bring poetry to citizens of Westwood at all levels, from the very young to elders. The Youth Poet Laureate must have had some experience writing poetry and a desire to write and share even more poetry, during the year-long term.

Mentored by the town's Poet Laureate, the Youth Poet Laureate will celebrate the community through the reading of original poems at community occasions such as Westwood Day, government holidays and at library and school poetry programs, including the town-wide poetry reading for National Poetry Month, and the Westwood High School poetry slam. Poems by the Youth Poet Laureate will be posted on the town library's website, and in posters in the main library and the Islington Branch Library. The Youth Poet Laureate may also represent the town of Westwood at literary events outside the town and at Youth Poet Laureate competitions in New England and nationally.

At the completion of their year-long term, the Youth Poet Laureate will be given a gift card to a local independent bookstore.

The term for the first Youth Poet Laureate will begin in May 2023 and run through May of 2024.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO BE WESTWOOD'S YOUTH POET LAUREATE?

To be eligible, you must meet these requirements:

You need to have lived in the town of Westwood for at least one year.

You must be in ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade as of 2023-2024 school year

You must display a strong commitment to the community.

You must meet with the Poet Laureate at the library periodically to collaborate on poetry program planning and execution.

You must be willing and able to fulfill the duties of the position enthusiastically.

HOW DO I APPLY? WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS?

All applications must be sent via email, **by midnight, Friday, April 7, 2023**, to the Westwood Poet Laureate, Dr. Lynne Viti, lviti@wellesley.edu. Late applications will not be considered.