



20 October 2019

Subject: Cowboy Poetry Mentorship Program (Scholarship poem entries only) School Year (SY) 2019-2020

1. Purpose: The purpose of the Mentorship Program is to improve the quality of poems submitted for scholarship consideration. Selected professional Cowboy Poets have volunteered to mentor seniors writing scholarship poems with the goal of assisting the students in the final polishing stage of their poems.

2. General: Poems selected as scholarship winning poems are expected to be much more polished than other student poem entries. It is also expected that the submitting student has spent time and energy to write the best poem they can and a poem that has gone through several edits.

As stated by British Poet Samuel Coleridge, "Prose is defined as "words in the best order"; Poetry is defined as "the best words in the best order". For this opportunity to be effective students need to be familiar with cowboy poetry style and with common poetry terms such as verse, stanza, meter, rhythm, rhyme and repetition. Any assistance by a cowboy poet does not guarantee a student's poem will be selected as a scholarship runner up or winner.

3. Procedures:

a. Students:

- must have a well thought out, near final draft of their poem (something the student thinks is good enough) prior to sharing with a cowboy poet
- may use or not use any suggestions offered by the poets
- should not expect the cowboy poets to write or rewrite their poems
- must open any dialogue no later than 1 November so students and poets have sufficient time to exchange ideas.
- so emails about the program do not get lost among other spam emails, students and poets should use very clear subject lines on their email exchanges such as Cowboy Poetry Mentorship Program.
- must remember that the cowboy poets are volunteers and not required to help them.
- Scholarship poems must be in theme, "It's Cool to be a Cowboy"; be submitted by 12 Nov 2019, and be accompanied by an entry form (go to www.cowboypoets.com for contest rules and forms).
- will report any abuse of the program to cowboypoetryeil@gmail.com
- Understands that any assistance by a cowboy poet does not guarantee a student's poem will be selected as a scholarship runner up or winner.

b. Cowboy Poets:

- will not write or rewrite the student's poems
- will respond to email request for assistance within three days

- will refer to Judging Criteria published at <https://www.cowboypoets.com/Schools/schools-forms-etc.html>
- so emails about the program do not get lost among other spam emails, students and poets should use very clear subject lines on their email exchanges such as Cowboy Poetry Mentorship Program.

- are encouraged to "CC" copies of their emails with students to a WHSOP representative (cowboypoetryeil@gmail.com) so the WHSOP team may improve any presentations in the schools.

- will report any abuse of the program to cowboypoetryeil@gmail.com

c. Volunteer Cowboy Poet whom the students may contact include:

- *Mike Monteux* at mikemoutoux@gmail.com

d. Other Resources: While plagiarism is strictly forbidden, students are encouraged to read poems and stories by other cowboy poets. Besides accessing your school and local library, good online sources include: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowboy_poetry and <http://www.cowboypoetry.com/indx.htm> .

If any student or mentor has a question about the program they should contact Eileen at email address cowboypoetryeil@gmail.com. For documents related to the Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program and the cowboy poetry contest check out our official Gathering website at <http://www.cowboypoets.com/> under the Schools tab.

Sincerely,

Kim Mo

Kimberly Moschetti

Chair, Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program

Email: moschettikim@gmail.com; Phone: 520-249-0155