



2018 WaterFest Poetry & Art Competition "Living the Stream"



Dear K-5 Teachers, Parents, and Youth Leaders:

We would like to invite your class/children to participate in the *2018 WaterFest Poetry and Art (P&A) Competition* which is annually coordinated by the Water Quality Forum (<http://waterqualityforum.org>). The competition is conducted in conjunction with *WaterFest*, an event held at Ijams that involves elementary students in a field trip full of interactive, fun, and educational water-related activities. The P&A competition is open to all K-5 students from public and private schools along with home school groups and youth clubs.

This year's P&A theme is "**Living the Stream.**" The competition provides an excellent opportunity for students to use the arts to communicate ideas and to integrate disciplines, using artistic expression as a tool for learning science. Both the poem and artwork entries will be judged on how well each reflects the essence of the theme. The artwork and poem that best reflect the theme will be honored at *WaterFest* and placed on the event t-shirt.

Attached are the P&A guidelines and the student entry form. Also, we would like to offer you the following two ways to help prepare your students for this competition:

- A primer lesson plan and activity guide that includes a brief PowerPoint that can be used to prepare students to submit entries that align with the competition theme and/or
- A water quality professional who can come to your classroom to do the 30 minute primer lesson, availability limited.

If you are interested in receiving the lesson and/or scheduling a water quality professional to come in and do the fun and brief lesson, please email me at forrest.burks@waterqualityforum.org.

The P&A competition entries must be submitted by **Thursday, April 5th** to Ijams Nature Center or you must contact me at forrest.burks@waterqualityforum.org, before the due date to pick up entries from your school. Entries must follow the competition rules to be accepted. If there is not in-class time for students to create a poem or drawing, consider sharing the competition with those students who might be interested in participating in the P&A competition on their own.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! If you would like for me to send the lesson and/or to schedule a water quality professional to come to your class, please let me know.

Cheers,

Forrest Burks, Water Quality Forum – 2018 WaterFest Committee
forrest.burks@waterqualityforum.org