



Call for Entries

2007 Africana Homestead Poetry Contest

The 2007 Africana Homestead Poetry Contest is sponsored by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLP). In 2004 we established this contest to support amateur poets in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and to honor the legacy of African Americans and recent black immigrants who live in those states. The contest is now open to residents of all 50 States and the territories of the United States of America.

In each category we will present: 1.) a cash prize (a check or debit card) and engraved award to first, second, and third place winners; 2) a certificate for honorable mention. We will publish the entries of the winners and those who earn honorable mention in our annual serial monograph, *Visions of Black Life: A collection of Outstanding Short Stories and Poetry, Volume 4*, in 2008. AHLP and contest entry fees will fund the prizes. Each winner may earn only one major prize. If a winner has more than one submission, they may earn honorable mention for another entry. AHLP solely funds the publication and will give the winners three royalty-free copies.

Contest Rules

Categories/prizes

Children (ages 5 to 11 on December 31, 2007)

First: \$75; Second: \$50; Third: \$25.

Youth (ages 12 to 18 on December 31, 2007)

First: \$150; Second: \$100; Third: \$75.

Adult (19 and older on December 31, 2007)

First \$300; Second: \$200; Third: \$100.

Open to:

Residents of the 50 States and all territories of the United States of America.

Entry guidelines:

1. For each entry, authors must submit one cover sheet with their name(s), mailing address, phone number, e-mail, and title of the poem (see p. 98). You may submit as many entries as you wish with the appropriate entry fee.
2. The subject must be any aspect of the historic or present-day black experience in the United States or its territories. Entries must be the author's

original work that is unpublished and not submitted elsewhere for publication or broadcast, not accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast, and not entered simultaneously in any other competition. This includes previous versions of the poem. Joint authorship is acceptable.

3. Poems may be short or long, any type or style. The length of each short poem entry must not exceed 30 written lines. This may be one poem or a collection of short poems whose cumulative total is 30 or fewer lines. The length of each long poem entry must not exceed 180 lines.

4. You must print all entries single-sided, on plain 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Because *Visions of Black Life* is 6 inches wide (not 8.5 inches wide), *you should set 2-inch left and right margins to gauge the optimal line-length for your verses*. See template on page 66. Please do not double space. If your entry is more than one page, number each page and put the title in the header.

5. Send two copies of each entry. We will not accept faxed or electronic copies. We will not return your entries.

6. We will ask the winners to submit electronic files of their work(s), a brief biography, and photograph and to sign a publication contract. If we pay an author prize money and royalty payments or only royalty payments of \$600 or more in any calendar year, we will request a tax identification number (via a W-9 form) to prepare and file a 1099-misc with the IRS.

7. The entry fee is \$15 per submission for adults and *free for children and youth*. You may pay by check or money order, drawn on a U.S. bank, payable to Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers.

8. AHLPL will announce the results the first week of May 2008. We may also post the information on the AHLPL website, www.ahllpub.com. AHLPL will notify winners of the contest results by mail.

Criteria:

All judging is blind and the decision of the judges is final. They will judge entries on originality, the sense of the craft of poetry shown in the work, technical presentation (spelling, grammar, typographical errors). Judges will be literary professionals from academia and the publishing industry.

Deadline:

Your entry must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2008.

Send to:

Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, 100 Springdale Rd., A3 # 206,
Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 08003.

***Important:** We will not consider entries that do not meet all terms and conditions of the contest. Please read and follow the rules carefully. Please specify your age-group category. The decisions of the judges on acceptability of submissions will be final. For additional information please e-mail editors@ahllpub.com or call 856-382-0629.