



scifest 2026
RANDOLPH COLLEGE
PRESENTED BY BWXT

POETRY JAM! 2026

POETRY CONTEST: Theme – Any topic related to science or mathematics

We invite all K-12 students in Lynchburg and surrounding counties to submit science- or math-based poems.

Requirements: The theme of the poem must focus on science or math topic. Any poetry genre may be used, e.g. Haiku, limerick, free form, etc. Poems may be illustrated, but only the text will be judged. Poems may be handwritten or typed. All poems must be the original work of the student. Only one poem per student. Poems may be submitted by mail or electronically, and as an individual or as a class. Instructions below.

QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS:

All K-12 students are invited to submit a poem individually or through their teacher. We encourage teachers to have their entire class write and submit poems. Poems will be judged in four categories: primary, elementary, middle, and high school.

SUBMISSIONS: may be made any time between now and midnight, **February 6, 2026.**

We prefer you to submit online at <http://bit.ly/scifestjam> alternately you can submit them via email, shared Google drive, on paper, etc.

For all submissions, be sure to include:

- First and last name, grade, and school of the student, e-mail address for a contact for the entry (student, teacher, or guardian – preferably all three)
- Student t-shirt size if possible.
- Poem title
- **If completed in class**, be sure to include the teacher and school principal names and emails.

If we do not have a valid e-mail, logistics may be such that we will not be able to notify you of receipt or of finalists.

Submissions by mail must be postmarked by **February 1, 2026.**

Typed, scanned and e-mailed submissions are due by **February 6, 2026.**

Send submissions to scifest@randolphcollege.edu, or **Randolph College Science Festival, Randolph College, 2500 Rivermont Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503.**

JUDGING:

A panel of college judges will select finalists (52 poems: 13 from each grade category).

Certificates and t-shirts are awarded to poetry finalists. From the 52 poetry finalists, three top prizes are awarded in four grade level categories: primary, elementary, middle, and high school (\$100, \$50, \$25 for each grade level).

Teachers receive the same prize if the poem was done in their class which has more than 9 submissions.

AWARD CEREMONY:

Finalists will be invited to read their poems at the Scifest Poetry Jam!, and the poems will be published in a book available free to all finalists.

Parents and teachers receive an invitation to this event, and the event is free and open to the public. If the winning poem is completed in class and submitted by the classroom teacher, the teacher will receive the same prize as the student.

Top prize is a \$100 gift card to Little Dickens! Finalists will be announced March 5, 2026.

The Poetry Reading will occur at the awards ceremony held
Friday, March 27, 6-7:30 p.m.

For location and more information about additional Science Festival Events visit
www.randolphscience.org or scifest@randolphcollege.edu or scan code

