



Blount County is Awesome by Nature

Haiku Contest - General information:

1. The Haiku Contest is open to adults and teens (13-19 years old).
2. **Six** entries per person will be accepted April 1 - June 30, 2024. The six entries can be a combination of Haikus, photos, artwork or short video-clips from any of the categories and about Blount County.
3. Syllable count need not be exact, but poem must be three lines that capture a fleeting moment and include a nature word/image.
4. There is no entry fee.
5. Email the Haikus to irene@irenelatham.com with "FLFR Haiku Contest" in the subject line.

Prizes	1st	2nd	3rd
Haiku (teen and adult poets)	\$100	\$50	\$25

There are 10 categories:

- **Animals in Nature**, for example: armadillos, beavers, chipmunks, deer, foxes, otters, possums, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, etc. [Locust Fork Family Dentistry](#)
- **Birds & Raptors**, for example: birds, eagles, hawks, owls, ospreys, etc. [Spring Valley Beach](#)
- **Bugs, Butterflies & Spiders**, ie: bees, centipedes, dragonflies, spiders, etc. [Locust Fork Pharmacy](#)
- **Farm Life & Animals** ie: chickens, cows, ducks, goats, horses, rabbits, sheep, people working, celebrating and enjoying life at a farm, grazing grasses, fields, etc. [Southern Vision Eye Care](#)
- **FLFR Activities**, ie: KDoR, landscaping at the Grand Staircase, planting seedlings at the nursery, cleaning up riverbanks, water testing at the river, painting murals, etc. [The Blount Countian](#)
- **Habitat & Seasons**: covered bridges, landscapes in spring, summer, fall or winter, cliffs, rocks, caves, clouds, sky, sunsets and sunrises, frozen fog, frost, snow, rain, etc. [Oneonta Dental Center](#)
- **Locust Fork River or Its Tributaries, Lakes & Waterfalls**, Blackburn Fork of Little Warrior, Calvert Prong of Little Warrior, Dry Creek, Graves Creek, Gurley Creek, Sand Valley Creek, Inland Lake, Highland Lake, McKay Lake, Mountain Lake and Sugarland Lake, natural and man-made ponds. [Blount Oneonta Chamber of Commerce](#)
- **"Paddle Splash"** - people paddling in the river or a pond or lake, can be in a kayak or canoe or even on a home-made raft. [Alabama Scenic River Trail](#)
- **PIN - People and/or Pets in Nature**: activities along the river, lakes, its tributaries, waterfalls, or woods: bicycling, swimming, jumping, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking or walking, camping, picnicking, etc [Black Warrior Riverkeeper](#)
- **Roots & Shoots**, ie: wildflowers, foliage, mushrooms, moss & trees in the wild. [Stifel Investments](#)
- **Sun-basking Creatures**, ie: frogs, lizards, snakes, toads, terrapins and turtles. [Huntsville Canoe Club](#)

What is a haiku? A *short poem that captures a fleeting moment*. It includes a nature word/image. While the Japanese tradition of haiku does not require a certain syllable count, American haiku poems generally have *three lines with just seventeen syllables. The first and last lines — each contain five syllables; middle line, seven.*

Examples written by Irene Latham:

*Called by light
and the scent of chives
bee crawls inside*

*little grasshopper
springs from stalk to stalk-
playing hide and seek with sun*

*pond shrinks to puddle,
mud cracks—still
five frogs sing*

To submit Haikus:

- a. Register your name and information: Go to FLFR.org and click on: 2023 Art, Photo, Video & Haiku Contest. Upon registration, you will be assigned a transaction ID#.
- b. Email the Haikus and your transaction # to irene@irenelatham.com
2. Entries will be accepted April 1 - June 30, 2024.
3. Entries are about Blount County.
4. Each person may submit up to 6 entries. Details at the top under General Information, #2.
5. If you win you agree to be recorded for a short video clip about yourself that will be uploaded to FLFR's Youtube channel, Facebook and Instagram.

Judging:

- Judges will make selections based on 1) originality, 2) execution of the haiku form , 3) use of vivid language, 4) use of vivid image(s) and 5) power of message.
- All submissions will be numbered & judged anonymously.
- Judges will select, FROM ALL CATEGORIES, ONE 1st, 2nd and 3rd Haiku for teen and adult entries.

Notification & Award Ceremony:

- Winners will be notified by email no later than August 31, 2023.
- Prizes will be awarded to each winning poet at the Awards Ceremony in the fall.

FLFR's Art, Photo & Video Contest Traveling Show

The winning haikus will be printed on banners and displayed at various locations in Blount County.

Haiku Contest participants agree and certify the following:

- It is my own original creation (not AI generated)
- Haiku represents one of the categories as seen in Blount County, Alabama.
- Haiku was written during 2022, 2023 or 2024.
- If your entry wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place, you agree that your Haiku and a selfie will be printed on banners and displayed at various locations in Blount County.

If you have any questions please email irene@irenelatham.com