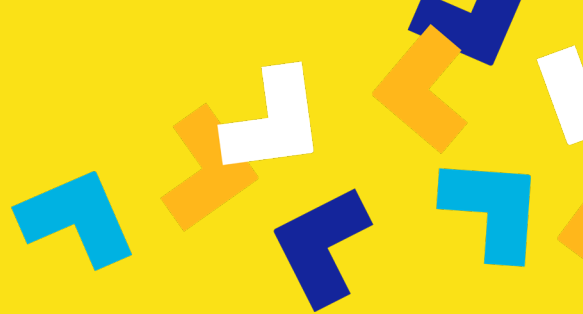


Call for Unity Trail Poems

Guidelines & Entry Form



Dakota County Library invites poets who live, work or attend school in Inver Grove Heights to submit original poems from April 1-25 for possible selection as sidewalk poems on the Unity Trail.

The Unity Trail is a paved path connecting different community spots to reach new and underrepresented residents of Inver Grove Heights. It honors the contributions of Indigenous, Black and communities of color at highlighted stops. Its emphasis is on the connection between racial equity, sustainability and environmental conservation. For more information about the Unity Trail, visit co.dakota.mn.us/parks, search Unity Trail.

Poems with the following themes will be considered:

- Unity between nature and community
- Celebration of diverse cultures and nationalities
- Resilience, joy and positive social change

Poems will be accepted from the following age groups:

- Children (ages 6-12)
- Teens (ages 13-17)
- Adults (ages 18 and older)

Guidelines

1. Poets must live, work, or attend school in Inver Grove Heights.
2. Poems must be the original work of a single person and must not be plagiarized, copied or written with assistance from other sources.
3. The poem length including title should not exceed 8 lines, with 35 characters per line including spaces and 200 characters overall including spaces.
4. Poems should be written with a general audience in mind.
5. Only two (2) entries allowed per person.
6. Please do not put your name on the page containing the poem or in the poem itself.
7. Minors must have their parent/legal guardian approve the entry form to be considered.
8. Dakota County Library staff and their immediate family members are not eligible.

How to Enter

In Person: Bring your poem and this entry form to the Inver Glen Library service desk during regular business hours. Submissions will be accepted starting **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026**. If you have questions or need assistance, please call Inver Glen Library at 651-554-6840.

Poems may be selected to be printed on a sidewalk or other location on the Unity Trail. Selections will be made during the month of May; winning poets will be notified by library staff.

Call for Unity Trail Poems

Entry Form



Full Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Poem Title: _____

Poet Age Group: Child (ages 6–12) Teen (ages 13–17) Adults (ages 18 and older)

Poet's connection to Inver Grove Heights: I live here I work here I attend school here

Which of the following themes does the poem include? (Check one box)

- Unity between nature and community
- Celebration of diverse cultures and nationalities
- Resilience, joy and positive social change

I certify that the poem is my original work, or the original work of my child(ren). I release this poem for publication in print, and video on Dakota County's website, social media channels and physical property. I understand that Dakota County does not control third-party use of the poem after it is published. I understand that allowing Dakota County to publish my poem is completely voluntary and that I am under no obligation to provide this consent. I understand I will not be paid for the publication. I understand that I am authorizing the release of information that may be classified as private data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. ch. 13, which could not be shared without my consent. By signing below, I release Dakota County and its officers, employees, and agents from any liability from the publication or distribution of the poem.

I agree to the above terms Poet's initials: _____

Parent/guardian initials (if poet is under 18): _____

Please submit this form and your poem to the Inver Glen Library service desk during regular business hours. Submissions will be accepted starting **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026**. If you have questions or need assistance, please call Inver Glen Library at 651-554-6840.

