



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**WASHINGTON**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Junior League of Washington Encourages Literacy with Annual Youth Poetry Contest**

*DC Public and Charter School Students in Grades 4 through 8 Invited to Participate in This Contest; Submissions Due March 31, 2017*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – For the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Junior League of Washington (JLW) will host the “Find Your Words” Youth Poetry Contest to encourage and support literacy among Washington, DC, public and charter school students in grades 4 through 8.

“The Junior League of Washington’s annual youth poetry contest provides an outlet for young Washingtonians to express their hopes, dreams, and challenges through the written word,” said JLW President Elizabeth Keys. “We are proud to host this content each year to reinforce our commitment to literacy and community engagement, and encourage DC students to embrace the power of poetry.”

Teachers and educational instructors can submit up to two original poems per student. Submission deadline is March 31, 2017. One first place and two honorable mention winners will be selected from each grade. Entries are judged based on content, originality, creativity, and clarity. Prize winners will be notified in early April.

Each prize winner will be awarded a literacy-focused prize (value of \$50 for first place and \$25 each for honorable mention), be published in a JLW booklet, and be invited to read their poems aloud to a JLW audience at the League’s annual reception on May 11, 2017.

Learn more about this year’s “Find Your Words” Youth Poetry Contest [here](#). Read last year’s winning poems [here](#).

**ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WASHINGTON**

The Junior League of Washington ([www.jlw.org](http://www.jlw.org)) is a nonprofit organization of more than 2,300 women who annually donate thousands of dollars and volunteer hours to the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. JLW is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. JLW focuses its financial and volunteer resources on the issues of literacy – adult, child, and cultural – and works with a diverse group of community partners. Since 1912, JLW has donated more than five million hours of direct volunteer service and more than \$5.8 million to the Washington, DC, community.

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