



Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project – Types of Poetry Activities

Below is a sample list of the types of project that will be facilitated by the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate. This is not a complete list and feedback from persons interested in participating in these projects or with other activity ideas is welcome. Please send e-mails to info@pikespeakpoetlaureate.org or mail comments to Poet Laureate, c/o COPPeR P.O. Box 190, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Poetry While You Wait: This project would present the surprises and delights of poetry in the places they are least expected: doctor's and dentist's offices, hospital waiting rooms, laundromats, banks, restaurants, the DMV, and so on, through poetry placards and pamphlets featuring local, national, and international poets. Poems by local poets would be solicited through a number of means, from calls in the local media to the Jean Ciavonne Poetry Contest for 4th and 5th graders.

Poetry in the Press: This activity would promote poetry in various media outlets, including publication of poetry and poetry reviews in *The Colorado Springs Gazette* and poetry programming on local radio and even cable television stations, much like Colorado Springs CultureCast.

Poetry for Prisoners: Richard Shelton's *Crossing the Yard*, is a moving account of his experience teaching poetry in prisons. Local writers are already doing this and the Project could expand their work, particularly to present writing workshops to incarcerated youth.

Teaching Poetry: Helping educators find ways to engage their students more fully in the study of poetry could be a major activity. There are many area poets who have led poetry workshops in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. This activity would involve working with local schools, ranging from university-level teacher training to elementary schools, to promote the teaching of poetry through workshops, train-the-trainer sessions, online discussion forums, readings, celebrations, and other opportunities.

Poetry for Rejuvenation: Returning military personnel are already turning to poetry as a means of self-expression, understanding, and healing, the Projects could help strengthen and enrich this enterprise. In addition, poetry workshops specifically for at-risk youth, working with various youth organizations the project could focus efforts of area poets to bring the benefits of poetry to many underserved communities including the developmentally disabled and Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic.