



To: Teachers of grades K – 12
From: Mark A. Schmidt, Executive Director of Falmouth Historical Society
Re: 2017 Katharine Lee Bates Poetry Contest

The logo above was designed by Falmouth High School student Bryant Smith to commemorate the 150th birthday of Katharine Lee Bates, author of the patriotic poem “America the Beautiful”. On **Thursday, August 10, 2017**, the Falmouth Historical Society will hold its 18th annual Katharine Lee Bates Poetry Fest featuring winners of the student and adult poetry contests. I invite you and your students to help us celebrate her birthday by entering the contest.

Entrants may submit up to three original poems about a topic of their choice. There is no specific theme. The poems (unsigned) must be accompanied by a completed entry form and mailed or delivered to Falmouth Historical Society, 65 Palmer Avenue, P.O. Box 174, Falmouth MA 02541. Deadline for submissions is **Thursday, May 25**. Contest winners will be notified by mail and will receive gift certificates to local bookstores and an invitation to read their prize winning poem at the poetry fest.

Each school library and the English and Social Studies/History departments will get a finished and printed copy of the poems after the poetry contest. The Falmouth Public Library will also get a copy.

If a student needs some pointers on poetry writing, a useful resource is Guiding Readers and Writers, Grades 3 – 6 by Fountas and Pinnell which has an excellent unit on poetry (see chapter 24). If you have any questions, please contact the historical society office 508-548-4857.

We hope you will encourage your students to celebrate National Poetry Month and we hope to have a lot of submissions from your students!

The Falmouth Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, national origin or sexual orientation.