



PRESS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 27, 2026
Contact: Clair Dunlap, Librarian
360-417-8500 ext. 7734 or cdunlap@nols.org
Re: Celebrate Poetry Month with trail walks, events, contest
Attached: *PoetryWalks-SpruceRailroad.jpg, NellieBridge_Credit_MorningStarPhotography*

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) is excited to bring poetry programs to Clallam County during Poetry Month this April in partnership with area organizations. Olympic National Park, North Olympic Land Trust and the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge will display poetry along trails as part of the annual Poetry Walks experience. Teens can enter the NOLS Haiku Contest. Poetry-centered events with Clallam County Poet Laureate Nellie Bridge will be held at Port Angeles and Forks libraries, the Pine and Eight, and Five Acre School.

Poetry Walks with NOLS, Olympic National Park, North Olympic Land Trust and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge

Throughout April and May, community members can enjoy [Poetry Walks](#), featuring nature-themed poems placed in inspiring locations along six trails. The self-guided experience invites you to explore and contemplate the poems at your own pace, and encourages different perspectives and a deeper connection with the natural surroundings.

Organized by NOLS, the Poetry Walks program returns for its 12th season in Olympic National Park, this year featuring poetry along the Madison Creek Falls, Spruce Railroad and

Hall of Mosses trails. Poems will be displayed for the second year at the Elk Creek and Lyre Conservation Areas, which are stewarded by the North Olympic Land Trust. New this year, the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge will place poems along the main trail.

More information can be found at NOLS.org/poetry. Support for this program is also provided by the Port Angeles Friends of the Library.

Haiku Contest for Teens

NOLS is hosting a Haiku Contest for Clallam County students in grades 7-12. Original three-line poems (five, seven, and five syllables long) must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24.

Each library branch will select one grand prize winner to receive a \$25 gift card to a local business, and two runners-up who will receive a notebook and pen.

One submission per teen will be accepted at any NOLS branch, the Bookmobile, or by online form. For more information, visit NOLS.org/contest or stop by your library. Email youth@NOLS.org with any questions.

Poetry Fest, Readings and Workshops with Clallam County Poet Laureate

A free [Poetry Fest](#) will be held on **Friday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Port Angeles Main Library**, 2210 S. Peabody St. Clallam County Poet Laureate Nellie Bridge will read her work alongside guest poet Rodrigo Rojas. Attendees can explore beginner-friendly poetry activities and browse a variety of poetry books.

Bridge and Rojas will also present in English and Spanish at a [Poetry Reading on Saturday, April 4, at 3:30 p.m. at the Forks Branch Library](#), 171 S. Forks Ave. Guests will be able to connect with the poets and explore their creative processes at a question-and-answer session after the reading.

Celebrate [Poem in Your Pocket Day](#) on **Friday, April 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pine and Eight**, 511 W. 8th St., Port Angeles. Bridge will host Seattle-based poet J. Baugher for a reading. Attendees are encouraged to bring a favorite poem to share with others. Browse treats for sale and meet other poetry-lovers at this unstructured time to mingle, converse and share.

On **Monday, April 13, adults and teens are invited to a [“Where I’m From” Poetry Workshop](#) with Bridge at 5:30 p.m. in her classroom at Five Acre School, 515 Lotzgesell Rd., Sequim. This event is open to the public and attendees can write or revise poems for possible inclusion in an upcoming anthology. Attendance is not required to submit poems, which will be accepted through April 30. Learn more at [NOLS.org/MyPoem](#).**

Visit [NOLS.org](#) for more information about the events, which are supported by local Friends of the Library groups. Support for the [Clallam County Poet Laureate](#) position comes from the North Olympic Library Foundation and Clallam County.



Explore Poetry Walks along Olympic National Park, North Olympic Land Trust and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge trails, April 1-May 31.



Clallam County Poet Laureate Nellie Bridge will host events throughout April to celebrate National Poetry Month. Photo by Morning Star Photography.

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