



2026 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest Into the Woods with Chemistry

The Trenton Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Contest Deadline: April 3, 2026

Prizes: \$25 gift card, one for elementary (K-5), one for middle (6-8) and one for HS (9-12)

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Winners of the Trenton Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes!

Write and illustrate a poem using the CCEW theme, **“Into the Woods with Chemistry”**
Your poem must be **no more** than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM - FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE

Topics related to the tree theme include:

- Photosynthesis
- Cellulose
- Glucose
- Preservation
- Chlorophyll
- Resin
- Polymer
- Carbon Dioxide

Entries will be judged based upon:

- Artistic Merit - use of color, quality of drawing, design, and layout
- Poem Message - fun, motivational, and inspiring about the yearly theme
- Originality Creativity - unique, clever, and/or creative design
- Neatness - free of spelling and grammatical errors

Contest rules:

- All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, and Blank verse.
- A signed entry form [Sample Illustrated Poem Contest Entry Form \(PDF\)](#) is required.
- Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the CCEW theme, word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others. Poems may be submitted by hand on an unlined sheet of paper not larger than 11" by 14" or scanned and sent via email. Illustrations may be created using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers. The illustration may also be electronically created by using a digital painting and
- The text of the poem should be easy-to-read and may be typed before the hand-drawn or digital illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper, which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- No clipart or unoriginal images can be used.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted; all entries must include an entry form.
- If the illustration is created using a digital painting or drawing app, the name of the program must be included on the entry form (No AI).
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' first name and last initial, along with the name of the ACS Local Section, on the ACS web pages and, in the magazine, Chemical & Engineering News

