

## 2021 Cherry Blossom Festival Haiku Contest Complete Rules & Regulations

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

The Cherry Blossom Festival Haiku Contest (“Haiku Contest”) is open to the public. To enter in the Youth Division, registrant must be between 5 and 12 years old at time of submission. To enter Teen Division, registrant must be between ages 13 and 17 years old at time of submission. To enter Adult Division, registrant must be 18 years old or above at time of submission. Theme of all haiku must relate to one or more of the following: celebration of spring/nature, cherry blossoms or Japanese culture.

### **SPONSOR:**

The Haiku Contest is sponsored by the City of Virginia Beach, through its Department of Parks and Recreation; 2154 Landstown Road Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456 (“Sponsor”).

### **ENTRY PERIOD:**

The Haiku Contest entry period begins at 8am on Monday, March 29, 2021 and ends at 5pm on Monday, April 12, 2021 (“Entry Period”). Entries submitted before or after the Entry Period will be ineligible.

### **WHAT TO ENTER:**

The Divisions for submission include the following:

- **Youth** – 5-12 years old
- **Teen** – 13-17 years old
- **Adult** – 18 years old and above

All submissions must adhere to the following rules to be considered:

- Only one entry per person.
- Entries must be written in English.
- The haiku must be original work submitted by the entrant and not previously published.
- Entire poem must consist of three lines; seventeen (17) syllables in total.
- The first line must be 5 syllables.
- The second line must be 7 syllables.
- The third line must be 5 syllables.
- Theme of haiku should relate to one or more of the following: celebration of spring/nature, cherry blossoms or Japanese culture.
- Haiku **must not** violate another person’s rights, including but not limited to copyright.
- Haiku **must not** contain sexually explicit, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content.

**HOW TO ENTER:** All participants must fill out a Haiku Contest Entry Form and enter the required fields including name, email, division entered and haiku submission information. The terms of the Release must be read and accepted in order to participate in the Haiku Contest. Link to form can be found on Sponsor’s Festival webpage: [www.vbgov.com/cherryblossom](http://www.vbgov.com/cherryblossom)

### **JUDGING:**

Haiku submissions in the following categories: **Youth**, **Teen** and **Adult** will be judged on the following criteria: technical quality, relevance to contest theme, readability, creativity/originality and overall impact.

Winners will be notified via the contact information provided at time of entry.

### **POTENTIAL WINNER REQUIREMENTS:**

All entries must be accompanied by completed forms, which include the Liability Release Form. Entries submitted by individuals under the age of 18, must have a parent or legal guardian complete and accept the terms of Liability Release Form. Winners consent to their haiku being used/displayed along with their name.

### **PRIZES:**

The following prizes will be awarded:

#### ***Youth Division***

- One (1) Overall Division Winner
- Three (3) Honorable Mention

#### ***Teen Division***

- One (1) Overall Division Winner
- Three (3) Honorable Mention

#### ***Adult Division***

- One (1) Overall Division Winner
- Three (3) Honorable Mention

### **Ownership Interest in Haikus Entered in Haiku Contest:**

If you submit a haiku to enter in the Haiku Contest, you grant the Sponsor, a royalty-free, nonexclusive right, in perpetuity, to:

- Display the haiku on the Internet, on Sponsor's website ([www.vbgov.com/cherryblossom](http://www.vbgov.com/cherryblossom)), and on Sponsor's Facebook page in support of the Cherry Blossom Festival; and
- Allow haiku to be printed in local publications as a haiku contest category winner, if selected, along with your name and photo location; and
- Use the haiku on future promotions for the Cherry Blossom Festival including, but not limited to, posters, registration booklets, advertisements (print and digital) and electronic newsletters; and
- Allow haiku to be printed on signage to be displayed in Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Parks and/or Facilities; and
- Use, in connection with the Haiku Contest, your name, city and state of residence in promotions and publications. Only first name and last initial will be used for those in the **Youth** and **Teen** divisions; and
- Allow Sponsor's partner organizations to use the haiku for future Cherry Blossom Festival promotion; and

- Allow third parties to share the haiku on the following social media platforms: Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Haiku Contest is impaired in any way, Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, either: (a) suspend the Haiku Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Haiku Contest; or (b) award the prize(s) from among the eligible entries received up to the time of the impairment. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and seek damages from any individual who tampers with the operation of the Haiku Contest, violates these Official Rules, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. Proof of sending any communication to Sponsor by mail shall not be deemed proof of receipt of that communication by Sponsor. In the event of a dispute as to the owner of an online entry, the authorized account holder of the e-mail address used to enter will be deemed to be the owner. The Haiku Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.

**RELEASE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY:**

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless the Sponsor and its agents, volunteers, servants, employees and officials (the "Released Parties") from and against any and all claims or causes of action arising out of participation in the Haiku Contest or receipt or use of any prize, including, but not limited to: (a) unauthorized human intervention in the Haiku Contest; (b) technical errors; (c) late or undelivered email; (d) errors in the administration of the Haiku Contest; or (e) injury or damage to persons or property. You waive the right to claim any attorney fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct or indirect damages.

**PRIVACY AND PUBLICITY:**

Any information you submit as part of the Haiku Contest will be used in accordance with Sponsor's Privacy Policy, if applicable. Except where prohibited, you consent to the Sponsor's use of your name in any list of winners (if applicable) and for promotional purposes in any media with further payment or consideration.

**DISPUTES:**

You agree that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of, or connected with, the Haiku Contest or any prize awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction in the City of Virginia Beach or the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, your rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of Sponsor in connection with the Haiku Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of Virginia, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of Virginia or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Virginia.

**RESULTS:** Results will be posted on the festival website, [www.vbgov.com/cherryblossom](http://www.vbgov.com/cherryblossom) by Monday, April 19, 2021.

**QUESTIONS:** Questions and inquiries about contest rules can be emailed to [outdoors@vbgov.com](mailto:outdoors@vbgov.com)