



46TH ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Longleaf Event Center

920 Museum Drive, Anniston, AL

ORATION COMPETITION RULES & REMINDERS

- The festival theme is: Poetry, a Voice for Hope
- Participants check-in no later than 9:00 am, February 21.
- Competition begins at 10:00 am.
- Orations should be works by Black authors or an original work. Creative writing is encouraged!
- Participants may compete as an individual or as a member of a group.
- Orations are limited to five (5) minutes.
- Each participant should begin their oration with: Name, School/Church/Organization Name, and Grade Level, followed by the poem title and author.
- Chat GPT (AI tools) is not permitted.
- No profanity.
- Props are not required. However, if used, participants are responsible for their own props.
- In order to qualify for the competition, orations must be recited from memory. All children recite on a stage in front of judges and community members.
- Orations are judged for organization, content, language, and audience appeal.
- All participants receive \$10.00, a participation ribbon, and a FREE one-year AM&G family membership. Adult contact information required on membership form.
- Each category has 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners (monetary prizes and ribbons).
- Every participant must have an adult contact (phone number and email). This contact will receive emails leading up to the festival with additional information.
- Entries due by February 14 to Anniston Museum of Natural History or via email swoolmaker@anniston.al.gov. Children registered after February 14 are not guaranteed participation.
- Questions? Call 256-237-6766 or email swoolmaker@anniston.al.gov.