

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: (YOUR NAME), (YOUR PHONE, E-MAIL, AND WEBSITE)

Oregon Poet Laureate Visits (community name)

(YOUR CITY, Ore.)—(month, day, year of press release)—Oregon's Poet Laureate, Kim Stafford, will [present a poetry readings and discussion *or* lead a poetry workshop *or* other specific activity] at (venue – name and address) on (date) at (time). [*Please add any other relevant information about the program itself.*]

Kim Stafford was named to a two-year appointment as Oregon's ninth poet laureate by Governor Kate Brown on May 15, 2018. Born and raised in Oregon, he is the author of a dozen books of poetry and prose, and editor of half a dozen others. His book *Having Everything Right: Essays of Place* won a citation for excellence from the Western States Book Awards in 1986. Stafford has received creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Governor's Arts Award, and the Stewart Holbrook Award from Literary Arts for his contributions to Oregon's literary culture. His work has been featured on National Public Radio.

Stafford's most recent book, *100 Tricks Every Boy Can Do*, is an account of his brother's suicide, and the struggle of his family to live beyond. It is a book where "the story reaches back through the difficult end to grasp the beautiful beginning, like pulling a venomous serpent inside out."

Stafford holds a Ph.D. in medieval literature from the University of Oregon, and he has worked as a printer, photographer, oral historian, editor and visiting writer at a host of colleges and schools, and also offered writing workshops in Italy, Scotland and Bhutan. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife and children. He is the second Stafford to serve as Oregon's Poet Laureate; his father, William Stafford, held the appointment from 1974 to 1989.

For more information about this free event, please contact (name) at (phone) or (e-mail).

[The following language is required on press materials]

The Poet Laureate program is a collaborative project of the state's five statewide cultural partners, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon Humanities, and the State Historic Preservation Office. The program is funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust and managed by [Oregon Humanities](http://www.oregonhumanities.org). More information and program history can be found at <http://www.oregonpoetlaureate.org/>.

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