

Irie Wagar, Mendocino County Youth Poet Laureate 2026-28

Irie Wagar is so honored to accept this incredible position as one of Mendocino Counties Youth Poet Laureates. Irie has a strong passion for the arts, writing her heart away while participating in too many plays to count and always striving to do her absolute best work. She loves the creative process, and even when it gets to be too much, she has preserved and made beautiful art. As a 17-year-old senior, at Ukiah High School Irie has found a plethora of older voices to look up to, two of which being her drama teacher, Chris Douthit and her creative writing teacher, Michael Riedell. Irie chooses to surround herself by nature, finding beauty in every insect, hungry for the unique. She believes poetry can be found anywhere, from a dirty subway to the top of Mount Fuji, in the depths of the soil and in the hearts of others. She doesn't turn away from artistic possibilities. Irie's work is honest and emotional because she prioritizes making sure her art comes from the deepest place in her heart. Its the kind of art that makes her a better person. Irie cannot express how ecstatic and proud of herself she is. It is such an honor to be chosen as the Youth Poet Laureate of Mendocino County.