



VINE CENTRE FOR ADVOCACY INTERNATIONAL (VICA)

Call For Applications

East African School Poetry Championship (EASPC) 2027

"Voices for a Greener Tomorrow"

Secondary schools across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda are invited to apply to be part of East Africa's biggest youth poetry and leadership movement.

ABOUT VICA

The Vine Centre for Advocacy International (VICA) is a duly registered not-for-profit organisation working across East and Central Africa to advance social transformation through Advocacy, Policy, Leadership and Governance. VICA convenes the East African School Poetry Championship (EASPC) as its flagship youth leadership initiative, alongside its work on transitional justice and human rights.

ABOUT THE EAST AFRICA SCHOOL POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP (EASPC)

The EASPC is a regional leadership programme delivered through poetry and spoken word. It exists to raise the next generation of leaders and build their capacity in environmental advocacy, using the art of poetry as a tool for voice, civic action and regional unity. Under the inaugural theme "Voices for a Greener Tomorrow," participating schools will engage issues of climate change, conservation and sustainability, progressing through a structured, multi-stage pathway culminating in a fully funded leadership residency for the region's finest young poet-leaders.

The EASPC is more than just a competition, it is a leadership program that empowers students with knowledge on environmental advocacy through the art of spoken word.

OBJECTIVES

- To empower and build the leadership capacity of students through skills such as creativity, innovation, team work research, and public speaking.
- To raise awareness and guide public discourse on key policy issues of environmental advocacy across East Africa.
- To create a structured, regional platform that identifies and nurtures young literary and civic talent.
- To strengthen regional cultural exchange and integration among East African secondary schools.

PROGRAMME PATHWAY & TIMELINES

STAGE	TIMELINE
Call for Applications	September to October 2026
School Preparation	November and December 2026

I. Regionals	January – April 2027
II. Nationals	May – June 2027
III. Grand Finals	July 2027
IV. Leadership Residency	August 2027

PRIZES

Beyond the honour of participating in this regional leadership program, the participating schools will compete for substantial prizes at every stage of the program as shown below.

TITLE	AWARD
Regional Champion	USD 265
National Champion	USD 795
Grand Slam Champion (East African School Poetry Champion)	USD 1,326
Poet of the Year (Best Overall Individual Performer)	USD 270
Leadership Residency Fellowship	Fully Funded

NOTE

More detailed information concerning the program will be provided to the schools that have submitted their applications/Expression of Interest.

REGISTRATION

Participation in the EASPC 2027 cycle is open to all secondary schools in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. A registration fee of USD 54 applies per competing school, payable once, as part of the registration process below.

- 1** Send an Expression of Interest by email to info@vicaiglobal.org indicating the name of school, country, region, and the details of a contact person for the school.
- 2** Receive feedback from VICAI, including registration payment details.
- 3** Proceed to pay the USD 54 registration fee.
- 4** Receive confirmation of registration, together with preparatory and logistical information for the programme.

Give your students a voice, a platform, and a stage on the East African region. Send your school's Expression of Interest today to info@vicaiglobal.org and begin your school's journey towards the East African Grand Finals.