



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
POETRY FOUNDATION
present



NH Poetry Out Loud 2011 Semifinals Information For Students, Parents, Chaperones and Teachers

Welcome to the New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud Semifinals! The NH Poetry Out Loud Team respects and honors the work that it has taken for each one of you to become a competitor in the Semifinal events. The willingness of each individual to put their best effort forward raises the overall level of the competition and helps everyone to achieve more than he or she could have achieved alone. You are honoring your school and your community with your performance. We are proud of each one of you and grateful for your participation. Thank you!

New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud 2011 Process and Vocabulary:

- 35 high schools in New Hampshire held school championships where a **School Champion** and a **School Alternate Champion** were selected. Each *School Champion* and *Alternate Champion* is asked to complete a **Student Information Form**, which provides contact information and the student's three poem selections in the order that they will be recited.
- **School Alternate Champions** are the runner-ups. They are expected to be available to compete at either the Semifinal or State Championship, in the event that the *School Champion* is not able to represent their school. *Alternate Champions* are given the opportunity to perform as **Calibrating Reciters**, who have the important job of reciting in a "warm up round" for the judges and set the bar of excellence for the competition rounds. There are two *Calibrating Reciter* spots available for each Semifinal event and they are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please let your teacher know if you are interested and he or she will contact the NH POL Team.
- There are **four NH Poetry Out Loud Semifinal events**. Schools have been assigned a Semifinal at which to compete. Each school must send a teacher or adult representative from the school to the Semifinal in which his or her school participates. Poetry Out Loud events are free and open to the public; friends and families are encouraged to attend!
- Each Semifinal event consists of three rounds: In **Round One**, the order of reciting is organized alphabetically by school. In **Round Two**, the order of reciting is organized by reverse alphabetical order. In **Round Three**, each competitor draws a number to establish the order.
- Semifinal competitors with the top three cumulative scores in each Semifinal event will move on to the State Championship competition. The Semifinals competitor in the fourth position at each semifinal event will act as that **Semifinal's Alternate**.
- All Semifinal Alternates are eligible to become a *Calibrating Reciter* for the State Championship. There are two spots available and they are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please let your teacher know if you are interested and he or she will contact the NH POL Team.
- The NH Poetry Out Loud State Finals Competition will be held in Concord at the State House, Representatives Hall, at 7:00 pm, Thursday, March 17, 2011 (snow date, March 18, 2011, 7pm).

New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud 2011 Semifinals Dates and Locations:

Semifinal 1: March 7, 2011

Southern NH University

Walker Auditorium, Robert Frost Hall
2500 N. River Road, Manchester, NH
7pm (Competitors arrival time: 6:30 pm)
[snow date 3/15/11, 7pm]

Semifinal 2: March 8, 2011

Keene State College

Centennial Hall
Keene, NH
7pm (Competitors arrival time: 6:30 pm)
[snow date 3/9/11, 7pm]

Semifinal 3: March 10, 2011

Currier Museum of Art

150 Ash Street
Manchester, NH
6:30pm (Competitors arrival time: 6:00 pm)
[snow date 3/13/11, 11am]

Semifinal 4: March 11, 2011

New England College

Great Room, Simon Center
Henniker, NH
7pm (Competitors arrival time: 6:30 pm)
[snow date 3/12/11, 1pm]

What competitors need to do and know before the Semifinal event:

- **Prepare your three poems:** Remember that you must present your poems in the order you have already indicated on your student information form. No changes to poems or their order are permitted.
- **Sign the Media Release Form:** There will be media present at the event; therefore, we have attached a Media Release Form. If you are over 18, you sign the form. If you are under 18, your parents/guardian must sign it. All forms need to be handed to POL Team member Cynthia Robinson at the Semifinal. If for any reason, you do not wish to be photographed or filmed please notify a POL Team member.
- **Physical access to the Semifinal event:** Please let Cynthia Robinson know by March 1, 2011, if you need any information or assistance related to special needs for accessing event buildings.
- **Travel Subsidies:** The NH Poetry Out Loud 2011 project has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to assist with travel expenses for chaperones transporting competitors to the Semifinal events and the State Championship over significant distances. More information on qualifications and amounts will be available after the high school competitions are completed and before the Semifinals begin.
- **What to wear to the Semifinal event:** Your dress should be appropriate for the occasion. Costumes and any other props are prohibited.
- **Directions:** Directions to your Semifinal event are attached.
- **RSVP:** Semifinals 1, 2, and 4 will offer a complementary dinner for the competitor and 2 guests at 5:30 pm. Email/call Cynthia Robinson to RSVP, by **March 1**.
- **Snow Cancellation or Emergency Contact:** If bad weather necessitates postponing a Semifinal event, we will make that decision by 12pm on the day of the event. We will leave messages on the home phone, cell phone, and teacher's phone numbers noted on your Student Information Form. If you have an alternate phone number to add to that list, please contact Cynthia Robinson with that information via email: cynthiarobinson@roadrunner.com or Cynthia's cell phone: 603-455-7967. Use Cynthia's cell phone as the contact point for any emergencies or trouble in transit on the day of the event.

Important notes to competitors:

- **All competitors MUST arrive 30 minutes before the start time of the Semifinal.** Semifinals begin promptly, so please allow time to park. There is ample free parking at each site, but sometimes it is a short walk so plan ahead.
- **Fifteen minutes** prior to the competition start time, prompting judges will provide a brief orientation on prompting and each competitor may test the sound system in the respective theaters by reciting a line or two (at maximum).
- There will be a **Green Room** where competitors can wait, get a drink of water, and relax before and during the performance as needed.
- A **Master of Ceremonies** will introduce each competitor.
- **Prompter judges** will be seated directly in front of performers during the performance.
- There will be a **microphone**, which will be adjusted for you. **Please do not touch/adjust the microphones.**
- **No photographs during the performance!** Friends and family can take photographs prior to the program or wait until the conclusion of the Semifinal event. We will have a photographer documenting the performance and will try to make these available at a later date.
- We use the **National Poetry Out Loud standards** as our guides. Here is the website: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/judges/>
- There will be **five performance judges and an accuracy judge.**
- Judges' scorings are **final and confidential.**
- **Awards ceremony** immediately follows each event, with prizes and certificates for all *School Champions and Alternate Champions!*

Thank you for your careful attention to this information and for your cooperation.

Questions or need assistance? Please feel free to contact the New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud Team:

Cynthia Robinson

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