

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION for NH Poetry Out Loud Semi Finals

Eastern Regionals:

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:00pm **Snow Date:** March 9: *In the highly unlikely event of a snowstorm, we will leave a message on Catherine's phone at NHSCA, 271-0795, we will decide on snow cancellations by noon on the day of the regional*

Location: Robert Frost Hall, Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 North River Road, Manchester <http://www.snhu.edu/209.asp>

Belmont High School
Cocheco Arts & Technology Academy
Exeter High School
Good Shepherd School
Newmarket high School
Oyster River High School

Pittsfield Middle/High School
Portsmouth High School
Salem High School
Timberlane Regional High School
Winnacunnet High School

Western Regionals:

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 7:00pm **Snow Date:** March 10 *In the highly unlikely event of a snowstorm, we will leave a message on Catherine's phone at NHSCA, 271-0795, we will decide on snow cancellations by noon on the day of the regional*

Location: Great Room, Simon Center, New England College, Bridge Street, Henniker <http://www.nec.edu/about-nec/directions-to-nec>

Bow High School
Concord High School
Derryfield School
Goffstown High School
Holderness School
Hopkinton High School
John Stark Regional High School

Lebanon High School
Milford High School
Newfound Regional High School
Parker Academy
Pembroke Academy
Plymouth Regional High School

How it works:

- All competitors and one guest are invited to dinner before starting at 5:30pm -**RSVP REQUIRED- email back to Cynthia.**
- All competitors arrive by 6:30pm- **PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY, GIVING YOURSELF TIME TO PARK**
- **PROBLEMS in TRANSIT: Catherine's cell is 603-370-0034 OR Cynthia's cell: 603-455-7967**
- At 6:45-6:55p.m., prompting judges will provide a brief orientation on prompting and each competitor may test the sound in the respective theaters by reciting a line or two at maximum.
- Semi Finals begin promptly at 7 p.m.
- Each contestant will be introduced by a Master of Ceremonies.
- There will be three rounds: Round One, alphabetically by school, Round Two reverse alphabetical order. Round Three: **The eight top competitors** will draw for order. Each student will recite three poems

- There will be a “green room” where competitors can wait before and during the performance as needed.
- **The top five cumulative scorers** in each semi-final will move on to compete at the State Finals on March 21 at Keene State College, 1pm.
- Awards ceremony immediately follows, with prizes and certificates for all competitors!
- **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:** Both SNHU and NEC are offering scholarships to every high school champion and alternate!! Each student will receive the same offer: Up to \$15,000 from NEC, up to \$11,000 from SNHU, with the final amounts awarded based on GPA. Each student will receive details in their award packets at the regional semi finals.

IMPORTANT! What your Students Need to do Before

- Students need to have **three** poems from the POL website/anthology prepared for competition.
- **MANDATORY: Complete the competition form, and send it in by February 24.**
This must be done on time in order to compete!!!

This form has a place for students to list poem choices in the order that they will recite them. Once the order of the poems is indicated on this form, it may not be changed.

The competition form includes space for a brief biography.

We will need a brief biography (one paragraph of about 50 words).

- **Students must have parents Sign the Media Release Form:** There will be media present; therefore, we have attached a release form, which students (if over 18) and parents/guardian (if under 18) should sign and bring to the semi final.

Additional Notes for students:

- Please feel free to invite your family and friends. The event is free and open to the public.
- ***No photographs during the performance!*** Friends and family can take photographs prior to the program or wait until the conclusion of the performance. We will have a videographer and a photographer documenting the performance and will try to make these available at a later date.
- ***Parking:*** There is ample free parking
- ***What to wear:*** Your dress should be appropriate for the occasion. Costumes and any other props are prohibited.
- There will be light miking. Please do not touch/adjust the microphones.
- Prompter judges will be seated directly in front of performers during the performance.
- We will use the National Poetry Out Loud standards as our guides. There will be seven performance judges and an accuracy judge. The high and low score will be discarded. Your total will be the total of the remaining five scores. The champion will be the performer with the highest point total after three rounds. Judges’ decisions are final.

We recognize this is a competitive process, but we also respect and honor the work of each one of you in this process because even if your scores do not qualify as the highest total, your willingness to compete will help our final representative to achieve more than he or she could have achieved without your effort and support.

You have honored your school, your community and your culture with your performance. We thank you.