

Dear NH Poetry Out Loud 2014 state finalists and alternates,

Congratulations on having advanced so far in this year's Poetry Out Loud competition! Your hard work, dedication and enthusiasm are very much admired and appreciated.

I'm writing with some information about the event, scheduled for this Thursday, March 13th, at the State House in Concord.

- Right now the forecast says snow Wednesday night/Thursday morning, so HOPEFULLY we will be in good shape for Thursday night. Our snow date, should we need it, is next Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> (same time). If we need to cancel on Thursday and reschedule for Monday, we will make that determination **by 11 am on Thursday**. Of course, we will post any weather-related cancellations on the Arts Council website (<http://www.nh.gov/nharts/programservices/POL/2014/index.html>), email you all, and then start calling, should the weather not cooperate. You can also call our Poetry Out Loud Hot Line at 603-271-0795 for updated messages. But, fingers crossed.... Feel free to call any of us if you have questions.

- Please plan to be at the State House (107 North Main St., Concord) by **6 pm at the latest**. Parking can be found on the streets around the building, or in nearby parking garage. Directions are at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/misc/directions.htm>

- When you arrive, you'll check in at the Registration Table on the Second Floor, outside Representatives Hall, and be shown to the Green Room (Senate 100, first floor). Volunteers will be in the lobby to guide you. Please review your three poems at the Registration Table with Jenn. These will be the three poems you recited at the semifinal competition, in the same order. **Please take a moment to review the poem listing, attached, to ensure in advance that all is correct.**

- There will be twelve of you competing. For this level of competition, the first round will be in alphabetical order by school; the second round will be reverse alphabetical order. Based on the scores from the first two rounds, the TOP FOUR competitors will advance to the third round. After all three rounds, there will be a brief award ceremony, and photo opportunities, for everyone.

- We expect to be wrapped up by 9:30 pm, maybe a bit earlier.

Please encourage your school community, family and friends to attend. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the event is free of charge. Most of all, THANK YOU!! We look forward to seeing you all next Thursday, for what promises to be a really fabulous evening of poetry.

All the best,

Jenn Andrews, NH POL Assistant Coordinator, [603-475-3587](tel:603-475-3587)

Andrew Periale, NH POL Coordinator, [603-664-2991](tel:603-664-2991), or cell, [413-519-0559](tel:413-519-0559)

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