



## The 2014-2015 New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud Competition

Poetry Out Loud is an exciting and **free** program that allows New Hampshire's students to experience the thrill of public speaking and to be part of a growing interest in performing poetry. This national competition and its accompanying curriculum, aim to encourage the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. Poetry Out Loud is a dynamic and flexible program that helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. It builds on the current resurgence of the spoken word as an art form, inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theater into the classroom.

### ***How does it work?***

New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud consists of a three-week curriculum, provided by the National Endowment for the Arts that can be varied to fit a school's needs. Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure. Beginning at the classroom level, winners advance to a school-wide level, then on to our New Hampshire Semi Finals level, then to our New Hampshire State Finals level, and ultimately to the National Competition held in Washington, DC.

The winner of the New Hampshire State Final competition receives \$200 and all-expenses paid trip for the student and one chaperone to participate in the national competition in Washington, D.C. Additionally his/her school receives \$500 for the purchase of poetry books. The individual state runner-up receives \$100, with an additional \$200 award to his/her school for poetry books. New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud provides support and materials for teachers as well as the required Teacher Orientation Session.

**This 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud is sponsored by**

The NH State Council on the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation

### **With additional support from**

The Putnam Foundation, a donor advised fund of the NH Charitable Foundation

The New Hampshire Writers Project, The Poetry Society of New Hampshire, Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, The Frost Place in Franconia, Opus Advisors, Gibson's Bookstore, Toadstool Book Stores, CavanKerry Publishing

## New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud 2014-2015 Guidelines to remember:

- New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud 2014-15 is a free program, open to all public, private and home-schooled high school students in New Hampshire.
- NH Poetry Out Loud is limited to the first 40 schools to register. Schools are invited to register online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NHPOLSchoolRegistration2014-15>. After the first 40 schools are registered and confirmed, we will keep a waiting list until December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- All high schools can make use of the excellent Poetry Out Loud on-line teaching & curriculum materials, visit [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)
- The National Endowment for the Arts' guidelines require multi-classroom participation in individual school competitions. A minimum of 2 classes in grades 9-12 is required.
- Students must choose poems from the National Endowment for the Arts' Poetry Out Loud website. [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org).
- Each school must have at least one authorized teacher to coordinate that school's competition. The contact person must be a school employee. We strongly recommend that schools designate 2 teachers to supervise the program. Each school is required to send a representative to a two hour Poetry Out Loud orientation. See dates, times and sites below on our calendar.
- In addition to the competing student (and alternate) at least one adult representative of the school must attend the regional semi-finals competition and, if applicable, the state-wide final competition.
- **Home school applicants:** please contact the POL Coordinator (see below) for specific information.
- **Access Needs:** If a student has a disability and requires accommodation to fully participate in semi-final events, please indicate accommodations required prior to February 12, 2015.
- **Teacher Support:** Questions, comments, tips, resources for teachers will be posted on NH POL teachers Blog: <http://nhpoetryoutloudteachers.blogspot.com/> Additional information and resources are available at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org).

### NH Poetry Out Loud 2014-2015 Important Dates:

- **November 1, 2014:** Registration deadline for school participation
- **November 20, 4-6 pm and Nov. 24, 5-7 pm:** Teacher orientations at PSU Graduate Center, Concord NH
- **November, 2014 - February, 2015:** New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud curriculum and competitions.
- **February 8, 2015:** Poetry Clinic open to all high school student champions and alternates
- **February 5, 2015:** Deadline for completing School Championships.
- **February 12, 2015:** Deadline for submitting school champion/alternate champions' semi finals information forms.
- **March 1-10, 2015:** Regional Semi Finals Competitions (specific dates/sites TBD).
- **March 13, 2015:** NH State Finals Championship in Concord NH
- **March 16, 2015:** Snow date NH State Finals Championship
- **March 19, 2015:** Deadline for submitting names of NH POL State Champion & Alternate
- **April 27-29, 2015:** National Championship in Washington, DC

### Contact Info for Questions:

- ☐ Alexandra Urbanowski, NH Poetry Out Loud Co Coordinator: [Alexandra@opusadvisorsllc.com](mailto:Alexandra@opusadvisorsllc.com)
- ☐ Caitlin Delaney, Poetry Out Loud Co-Coordinator: [nhpol.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nhpol.coordinator@gmail.com), 603-512-9710
- ☐ Catherine O'Brian, Arts Education Coordinator, NH State Council on the Arts: [Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov), 603-271-0795

More details about the program, plus many valuable resources may be found at the national Poetry Out Loud website at: [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org).