New Mexico Poetry Out Loud school workshops and state final will be all virtual in SY2020 – 2021

Information Sheet

What does it take to become involved in Poetry Out Loud?

 An individual teacher, a group of teachers, the English or Theatre department or club, or an entire school decides to offer this opportunity to students. Register your school by Friday, October 4, 2019 here.

Matt: Do not make this link live yet.

 The way that teachers unfold the program is totally up to them. Possibilities include:
  • A unit on poetry based on the [eligible] poems in the program in English or Theatre classes, culminating in [recorded performances] by each student in front of the class, possibly using lesson plans from the Poetry Out Loud website
  • The offering of extra credit to students who participate
  • An after-school opportunity for students who volunteer to participate [A Poetry or Theater Club]
  • A school-wide celebration of poetry

 What must result from whatever plan you follow, however, is one winner from your school who then participates in the district run-off (if required) or [virtual] state finals contest to be held Sunday, March 14, 2021.

Exactly what must the students who enter this program do?

School contest:

• Students will choose a poem to memorize and perform. They will have [an anthology of] approximately 900 poems to choose from. [You can find these eligible poems] on the Poetry Out Loud website.

• Each student [will record themselves (or be recorded by someone else) reciting] the poem without the use of props, costumes, or music. [The background must be plain. No logos.] Gestures and some amount of movement may be appropriate and encouraged, depending on the poem.

• Each school must come up with one winner to represent it at the district run-off or statewide final. One possibility is that classrooms select winners who then compete in a school-wide competition; that process must be organized and carried out by the school [with assistance, if needed, by one of our POL teaching artists].

District competitions:

• If several high schools from one school district participate, a district run-off contest may be required. Schools will be informed in the fall if this is necessary.

State and National competitions:

• Students must have three poems prepared, [recorded, and submitted to New Mexico Arts by February 12, 2021.]

• Each student must recite at least one poem written before the 20th century.

• At least one of the three poems must also be 25 lines or shorter.

• There will be a standing microphone for students to use at the state finals. Judging of the recorded entries will take place between February 15th and 28th by a panel of four professional POL judges.

• New Mexico Arts must have a [videos and a] complete list of the winning competitor’s three selections and contact information by Friday, February 12, 2021.

What happens with the district/school winner?

 Each school winner will come to the state finals contest on [The state final will be a combined live and recorded event on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 1:00pm, hosted by New Mexico Arts. before Noon for Registration, Orientation. Sound-check begins at Noon. The finals will be held at the St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe. Those coming from outside of Santa Fe will receive a mileage reimbursement. Those students from a greater distance will receive a per diem for themselves and one chaperone for an overnight stay.]

• The New Mexico state winner will receive $200 and an all-expenses-paid trip for him/herself and one chaperone to Washington DC to compete for the national championship. [Travel to the National Finals TBD]

• The state winner’s school will receive a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive $100 and the school library will receive $200.

• A total of $50,000 in scholarships and school stipends will be awarded at [by] the National Finals [Poetry Out Loud for the national] winners.

What are the benefits for participating teachers?

 Standards based curriculum that fits easily into your schedule or as a one to three-week extra-curricular activity

• NEA Teacher’s Program Guide to help teach recitation and performance.

• Online poetry anthology and a comprehensive website with resource materials at www.poetryoutloud.org.

For more information contact Phyllis Kennedy, New Mexico Arts Program Coordinator at (505) [228-8209] phyllis.kennedy@state.nm.us. Or visit www.nmarts.org or www.poetryoutloud.org.