New Mexico Poetry Out Loud: School Workshops and State Final will be all Virtual
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 9, 2020 here.**
- 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
  - The offering of extra credit to students who 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](http://www.poetryoutloud.org) web site.
- 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 state 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.
- 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 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?**

- The state final will be a combined live and recorded event on **Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., hosted by New Mexico Arts.**
- The New Mexico state winner will receive $200 and a chance to compete for the national championship.
- 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 by 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](http://www.nmarts.org) or [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org).