



News for Immediate Release

Jan. 15, 2015

Poetry Out Loud Regional Championships To Be Held Across State

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts today announced the regional championship dates and locations for the 2015 *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest*. High school-aged finalists will compete for a chance to represent their region at Pennsylvania's state championship to be held at the Forum Building at the State Capitol on Monday, March 9th.

Regional finalists are selected through classroom, school and regional contests. Last year, regional finalists were chosen from over 10,000 participating Pennsylvania high school students from more than 100 high schools statewide. The state champion will represent the Commonwealth in the national competition in Washington, D.C. in April. This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the prestigious national competition.

Each student memorizes and performs three poems selected from print and online poetry anthologies. Students are judged on voice and articulation, physical presence, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, level of difficulty, overall performance, and accuracy.

Upcoming dates and locations for the regional competitions include:

- Jan. 20 Mishler Theatre, Altoona, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 24 Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 31 Allen Hall Auditorium, Mansfield Univ., Mansfield, 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3 Majestic Theatre, Gettysburg, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 3 WITF Public Media Center, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 4 Landis House, Newport, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 5 Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 7 Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Pittsburgh, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 7 Ford Chapel, Allegheny College, Meadville, 11 a.m.
- Feb. 7 Leavitt Auditorium, Univ. of the Arts, Philadelphia, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 9 IUP Performing Arts Center, Indiana, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 12 Ware Center, Millersville Univ., Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 13 Webster's Book Store & Café, State College, 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 17 WVIA Studios, Pittston, 5:30 p.m.

Judges for the state and regional finals include performers, poets and cultural and business leaders from across the state. As part of the 10th anniversary celebration, past Pennsylvania state champions will serve as judges for the state event. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) sponsors the statewide competition along with its regional partners and arts organizations.

Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation, the *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest* encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. The state champion will receive \$200 from The Poetry Foundation and an expense-paid trip to compete in the national championship, which will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with at least one \$20,000 college scholarship.

For more information, go to www.poetryoutloud.org

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is a state agency under the Governor's Office that works to foster the excellence, diversity and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the state.

The council's Poetry Out Loud partners are: Allentown Art Museum; ArtsPath; Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Blair County Arts Foundation; Cultural Alliance of York County; Erie Arts & Culture; Galaxy, the Arts in Education Program of Central IU10; Jump Street; Arts in Education Northeastern PA (aienepa) at Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19; Northern Tier Partnership for Arts/Bradford County Regional Arts Council; Perry County Council of the Arts; Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership; Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; South Central PaARTners: Millersville University; and Westmoreland Museum of American Art.

Media contact: Heather Doughty, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; 717-787-1517

Editor's Note: Locations and contacts for Regional Poetry Out Loud competitions are listed below:

Adams County

Gettysburg: Wed., Feb. 3 – 7 p.m.

Location: Majestic Theatre, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg

Contact: Dana Sauers, 717-515-2236

Host: Cultural Alliance of York County (Snow date: 2/10 at 10:00 a.m.)

Allegheny County**Pittsburgh:** Sat., Feb. 7 – 10 a.m.

Location: Pittsburgh Filmmakers, 477 Melwood Ave., Pittsburgh

Contact: Mary Brenholts, 412-606-4723

Host: Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (Snow date: 2/14)

Blair County**Altoona:** Tues., Jan. 20 – 7 p.m.

Location: Mishler Theatre, 1212 Twelfth Ave., Altoona

Contact: Kate Shaffer, 814-949-2787

Host: Blair County Arts Foundation (Snow date: 1/21 or 1/27)

Bradford County**Mansfield:** Sat., Jan. 31 – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Allen Hall Auditorium, Mansfield University, Rm. 104, 135 Stadium Dr., Mansfield

Contact: Anya Hudyncia, 215-205-9475

Host: Bradford County Regional Arts Council (Snow date: 2/7)

Centre County**State College:** Fri., Feb. 13 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Webster's Book Store & Café, 133 E. Beaver St., State College

Contact: Cynthia Mazzant, 814-404-6027

Host: Galaxy, the Arts in Education Partnership of Central IU10 (Snow date: TBD)

Crawford County**Meadville:** Sat., Feb. 7 – 11 a.m.

Location: Ford Chapel, Allegheny College, Meadville

Contact: Holly Nowak, 814-860-4001

Host: Erie Arts and Culture (Snow date: 2/14)

Dauphin County**Harrisburg:** Tues., Feb. 3 – 6 p.m.

Location: WITF Public Media Center, 4801 Lindle Road, Harrisburg

Contact: Christine Glover, 717-269-0424

Host: Jump Street (Snow date: 2/4)

Indiana County**Indiana:** Mon., Feb. 9 – 6 p.m.

Location: IUP Performing Arts Center, Upper Grand Lobby, 403 S. Eleventh St., Indiana

Contact: Jeff Wacker, 724-357-4565

Host: ArtsPath: Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Snow date: 2/16)

Lackawanna County**Pittston:** Wed., Feb. 17 – 5:30 p.m.

Location: WVIA Studios, 100 WVIA Way, Pittston
Contact: Stefanie Colarusso, 570-881-6231
Host: Arts in Education in Northeastern Pennsylvania (AIE/nepa) (Snow date: none)

Lancaster County

Lancaster: Thurs., Feb. 12 – 7 p.m.
Location: Ware Center, Millersville University, 42 N. Prince St., Lancaster
Contact: Ty Clever, 717-468-8368
Host: South Central PaARTners: Millersville University (Snow date: 2/14 at 10:00 a.m.)

Lehigh County

Allentown: Thurs., Feb. 5 – 6 p.m.
Location: Community Gallery, Allentown Art Museum, 31 N. Fifth St., Allentown. Contact: Julie Marsh, 610-432-4333 x136
Host: Allentown Art Museum (Snow date: 2/19)

Perry County

Newport: Wed., Feb. 4 – 2 p.m.
Location: Landis House, 67 N. Fourth St., Newport
Contact: Amy Reed, 717-567-7023
Host: Perry County Council of the Arts (Snow date: 2/11)

Philadelphia County

Philadelphia: Sat., Feb. 7 – 10 a.m.
Location: Leavitt Auditorium, University of the Arts, 4th Floor, Gershman Hall, 401 South Broad St., Philadelphia
Contact: Megan Lafferty, 856-207-8868
Host: Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership (Snow date: none)

Westmoreland County

Greensburg: Sat., Jan. 24 – 10 a.m.
Location: Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Art@Rt30, 4764 State Route 30, Greensburg
Contact: Joan McGarry, 412-334-7336
Host: Westmoreland Museum of American Art (Snow date: 1/31)