



Alameda County 2023-2024 POETRY OUT LOUD

All Alameda County High Schools are Invited to Participate!

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. This program helps students practice public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary creative expression. Poetry Out Loud provides free, online curriculum resources including a teacher's guide, lesson plans, poetry archive, and student performance videos. All Alameda County high schools and community organizations with youth in grades 9-12 are invited to participate in Alameda County's Poetry Out Loud.

Competition Format: Structured like a spelling bee, school/community organization winners advance to the County competition in February, then the State competition in March, and ultimately National Finals in April.

2023/2024 Competition Overview: The program focuses on students choosing, memorizing, and reciting at least one memorized poem for a school/organization contest. Highly flexible, the program can be conducted in the classroom during the school day, as extra credit, or during an after school program. The program length can be as short as 2 weeks. To select their representative to advance to the County Competition, schools or organizations may conduct their recitation contest in person, online, or by video submission. The County Competition will be judged through video submissions. Students are required to submit video recordings of themselves reciting two memorized poems. All poems for all competitions must be on www.poetryoutloud.org.

County Competition Prizes: 1st Place Prize \$200; 2nd Place Prize \$100; all other participants \$25. \$100 will be awarded to 1st Place County Winner's school/organization that facilitated the student winner's participation.

Timeline and Important School Deadlines:

- **Fri, Oct. 13, 2023 - School/Organization Deadline to Confirm Participation:** School/Organization must email the Alameda County Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Violet Harlo at violet.harlo@acgov.org with contact information for school/organization site, teacher/coordinator, and date of site Poetry Out Loud contest.
- **October 2023 - January 2024 – Schools/Organizations conduct their Poetry Out Loud program:** Using the online [Poetry Out Loud](http://www.poetryoutloud.org) resources and poems, sites conduct the program and a contest to select their representative for the County competition. All contest poems must be memorized and on www.poetryoutloud.org.
- **Wed, January 17, 2024 - School/Organization Deadline to Register Site Representative for County Competition:** Site coordinator/teacher must email the Alameda County Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Violet Harlo at violet.harlo@acgov.org with: 1) Contact information for the student representative and student's parent/guardian and 2) Student's two poems (poem title and poet) in the order they will be submitted to the County Competition. All competition poems must be memorized and on www.poetryoutloud.org
- **Tues, January 30, 2024: Deadline to Submit Two Student Recitation Videos to County Competition:** Details will be shared with participating schools and student representatives about submitting their two poem recitation videos to the County Competition. All poems must be memorized and on www.poetryoutloud.org.
- **March 16 - 17, 2024 – California State Competition:** Alameda County student representative participates in the California State Finals competition in Sacramento. The student will recite three memorized poems. One poem must be 25 lines or fewer, and one must be written before the 20th century. The same poem may meet both criteria, and may be the student's third poem. All poems must be on www.poetryoutloud.org.
- **April 30 – May 2, 2024 – National Finals Competition:** California State student representative participates in National Finals competition in Washington, DC.

Alameda County Poetry Out Loud Coordinator: Contact Violet Harlo at violet.harlo@acgov.org or 510-891-5716.

WHAT IS POETRY OUT LOUD?

Poetry Out Loud is an opportunity for high school students grades 9-12 to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation performance. Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has reached more than 4.1 million students and 68,000 teachers from 17,000 schools and organizations in every state. California's Poetry Out Loud is the largest in the country involving more than 45 counties, 200 schools, and 10,000 students.

WHO CAN ENTER THE POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION?

The national Poetry Out Loud competition is open to all high school students in 9-12 grades. Schools and community organizations can be Poetry Out Loud sites. Sites may include public, private, charter, parochial, independent, alternative, continuation, court, and home schools as well as community organizations. A Poetry Out Loud site coordinator may be a teacher, a librarian, or a school/organization staff member.

HOW DOES POETRY OUT LOUD WORK?

Poetry Out Loud uses a tiered competition structure like a spelling bee. High school teachers and staff or community organization staff use the Poetry Out Loud teacher's guide and resource materials to teach poetry recitation and run a contest to select the site's student representative to enter the County competition. The County winner is eligible to compete in the state competition, and the state winner competes in the national finals. The Alameda County winner receives \$200, and the California winner receives \$200.

HOW DOES POETRY OUT LOUD SUPPORT THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM?

Poetry Out Loud activities support [many Common Core Standards and NCTE Standards](#). Common Core examples include Anchor Standards for Reading (RL.9-10, RL.11-12) and Anchor Standards for Language (L.9-10, L.11-12).

POETRY RESOURCES

All resources are available online at the [National Poetry Out Loud website](#) at www.poetryoutloud.org including:

- [Find Poems section](#) with tools for student to browse for poems by title, poet, and popular collections.
- [Competing section](#) with resources including:
 - [What It's Like to Compete](#) videos on how to choose, memorize, and perform poems.
 - [Recitation Videos](#) with notes about the strengths of each performance.
 - [Listen to Poems](#) section with audio files that accompany the teacher lesson plans (see below).
 - [Tips on Reciting](#) with detailed information on each of the Evaluation Criteria.
- [Teachers & Organizers section](#) with detailed, helpful information including:
 - [Teacher's Guide](#) with sample schedule and information about judging evaluation, scoring, rules and more.
 - [Lesson plans](#) with accompanying [Lesson Plan Videos](#) and [Poem Recitation](#) audio files (found on the [Listen to Poems](#) page).
 - [Organizing a Contest](#) and [Judging a Contest](#) sections with information and resources.
 - [Poetry Out Loud Fact Sheet, Logos and Graphics](#) and [Standards Information](#).

DO WE NEED TO SIGN UP?

Yes, Alameda County High Schools must submit Poetry Out Loud participation information by Oct. 13, 2023 to Alameda County Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Violet Harlo at violet.harlo@acgov.org.

HOW IS POETRY OUT LOUD FUNDED?

Poetry Out Loud is funded by The National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the California Arts Council, and the Alameda County Arts Commission.

RESOURCES: All Poetry Out Loud poems and resources are available at www.poetryoutloud.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Violet Harlo at violet.harlo@acgov.org or 510-891-5716.



ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

1106 Madison Street, Suite 336 | Oakland, CA 94607 | artscommission@acgov.org | 510-208-9646