



What is Poetry Out Loud?

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest that helps high school students build confidence, public speaking skills, and a love for poetry. Students memorize and perform poems, progressing from school to state and national competitions.

Event	Date
Intent to Participate Opens	October 15, 2025
Intent to Participate Deadline	October 31, 2025
Local/School Competitions Window	November 1 - December 15, 2025
Registration Opens for All Regional Competitions (VIRTUAL)	November 3, 2025
Regional Competition Registration Closes	December 15, 2025
Student Names & Poem Selections Due (for January Regionals)	December 15, 2025
Student Names & Poem Selections Due (for February Regionals)	January 15, 2026
Regional Competitions (VIRTUAL)	January 14 - February 12, 2026
POL State Competition	Early March 2026

What's New This Year?

- All poems must be selected from the Poetry Out Loud America 250 Online Anthology.
- Schools/Organizations may advance up to 2 students to a regional competition.
- Students may choose to compete at any of the virtual regional competitions.
- Each student competing at a regional competition must prepare 2 poems.
- The top 2 students from each regional competition will advance to the state competition.

Regional Competition Dates (Virtual & Tentative)

- January 14, 2026
- January 21, 2026
- January 27, 2026
- January 29, 2026
- February 4, 2026
- February 5, 2026
- February 10, 2026
- February 12, 2026 - Virtual Snow Make-Up (Zoom) **This is for weather-related rescheduling only and is not open for initial registration.*

Questions? Contact Jackie Ford at
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