



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION
401 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0780
<http://tnartseducation.org>

November 27, 2018

Dear English, Theatre, and Speech Teachers,

The TN Arts Commission is seeking the participation of TN high schools for the **Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest 2018-2019**. Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry contest for public, private and homeschooled students in grades 9-12. Created by the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the program gives students the opportunity to build self-confidence, public speaking skills, and strengthen relationships with peers through memorization and recitation of classic and contemporary poems.

While it only takes one participating class to register, the event is created with the option of school-wide participation. The content is aligned with the NCTE English Language Arts Standards, making it easy to implement within your curricula, in conjunction with another project, or as part of an afterschool club. Because of this, **all classrooms** are encouraged to participate! Each school will identify one winner, who then qualifies to participate in the **Poetry Out Loud 2019 TN State Finals**, taking place on **March 1-2, 2019** at the **Tennessee State Museum Museum in Nashville, TN**. The student winner of the TN State Finals will receive **\$1,000 and a trip to Washington, DC** to participate in the **Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest!** The teacher of the winning State Finals student will also win a trip to the National Contest. The runner up of the State Finals and their teacher will receive \$500 each. The prize-winner of the National Contest will receive \$20,000. Tennessee was home to the national winner in 2014.

Once you review the materials, the **next step is to register your school officially as a POL participant by January 12, 2019**. All you need to do is to complete the Registration Form available on the Tennessee Arts Education website listed below. Then, simply get started on the content! Please contact **Meredith Callis**, Arts Education Special Projects Coordinator, by email or phone to learn more or visit our website to request free materials and register at:
<http://tnartseducation.org/events/poetry-out-loud/>.

Please reach me with any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you!

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