



Nebraska 2014-2015 Fact Sheet & Registration Form (rev. May 2014)

Nebraska State Program

All Nebraska secondary schools are invited to participate in Poetry Out Loud during the 2014-2015 school-year. This program is open only to students in grades 9-12. Schools that sign up by the **November 1 Priority Registration Deadline** are entitled to free artist visits. The NAC will continue to accept registrations until November 28, though artist visits cannot be guaranteed for later registrations.

Poetry Out Loud is **free of charge**, and the NAC will be available to answer questions and offer technical support to teachers throughout the program. Free in-school poetry recitation workshops will be available to first-time participating schools as well as many returning schools that request them. These will be led by Nebraska Arts Council roster teaching artists who have expertise in poetry and performance. Artist visits will be arranged together with the schools' designated contact teachers. Depending on individual school needs and requests, visiting artists may provide program introduction and overviews, lead workshops on performance technique, or conduct student coaching sessions. Artists conduct four hours of classes or workshops during the course of a one-day visit. Large schools may be eligible for two-day visits by guest artists. **Subsidies for travel to regionals and state finals will be available for schools that are more than 100 miles from the nearest event.**

Contact

Anne Alston, NAC Education and Communities Manager: anne.alston@nebraska.gov

Contest Structure

Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure. Beginning at the classroom level, winners from each class will advance to the school-wide competition. Each school will send a student to Nebraska regional semi-finals, and regional winners will go on to the state competition in Lincoln. Ultimately, one student per state will advance to the National Finals in Washington, DC.

NCTE Standards and Classroom Time

Poetry Out Loud satisfies more than half of the NCTE English Language Arts Standards. The Teachers' Guide includes all elements the teacher needs to implement the program, from tools to help students memorize and perform great poems, to optional lesson plans to give students the opportunity to discuss poems and to write poetry of their own.

The schedule and curriculum for *Poetry Out Loud* have been intentionally designed to fit into a teacher's busy schedule without much disruption. The program takes place in the classroom over about two to three weeks, according to each teacher's interest and schedule, and will not require full class periods during that time.

Pictured above left: Nebraska 2014 state finalists (Star City Photography); pictured above right: National Competition, Washington, D.C. (James Kegley)

Fact Sheet continued next page



Nebraska Poetry Out Loud 2014-2015 Fact Sheet (continued)

Free Program Materials

- A comprehensive website, poetryoutloud.org, includes program materials, writing activities and lesson plans. The website includes an extensive online anthology of approximately 600 poems.
- Teacher toolkits – each teacher receives a printed POL Teacher Guide, a ‘*Learning Recitation*’ DVD featuring students at national finals, as well as large printed color posters for the classroom.

Prizes

Each winner at the state level will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip (with an adult chaperone) to travel to Washington, DC, for the National Finals. 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, with \$200 for his or her school library. Scholarships and school stipends totaling \$50,000 will be awarded at the National Finals, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the *Poetry Out Loud* National Champion.

Contest Timeframe and Deadlines

Sign up for *Poetry Out Loud* and free sets of curriculum materials will be mailed after registering. Teachers may run the program in their schools between August and early February.

Nebraska 2014-2015 Poetry Out Loud Timeline

May – Nov 2014:	Schools register for Poetry Out Loud Teacher packets mailed to schools <i>*priority deadline is Nov 1; final deadline Nov 28.</i>
Aug 2014 – Feb 2015:	Schools conduct in-school POL program; Teaching artists visit schools & conduct workshops
February 4, 2015:	Deadline for schools to report competition winners
Mid-February 2015:	Regional competitions in Kearney, Norfolk and Omaha Sunday, February 8, 2:00pm-3:30pm <i>Museum of Nebraska Arts, Kearney</i> Wednesday, February 11, 4:00pm- 5:30pm <i>Norfolk Arts Center</i> Saturday, February 14, 2:00pm-3:30pm <i>Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha</i>
March 2015:	State Finals Competition in Lincoln Saturday, March 14, 1:00pm – 3:30pm <i>Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln</i>
April 28-30, 2015:	National Finals, Washington, DC

Registration Form: next page

POL IS 10 YEARS OLD - CELEBRATE WITH US.



Nebraska 2014-2015 School Registration Form

US Congressional District (circle one): **1** **2** **3**

School Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

School District: _____

Total Student Enrollment (grades 9-12 only): _____

Anticipated # participating classes: _____ Anticipated total # participating students: _____

Number free teacher toolkits requested (1 set for each participating teacher): _____

Estimated time period (month) during which POL activities will be conducted in your school: _____

Do you wish to have an NAC sponsored teaching artist visit your school (free of charge)? **Y / N**

Sign up by **November 1 to ensure an artist visit!*

***Schools new to POL:** Did a teacher from another participating school refer you to Poetry Out Loud? If so, and if your school did not participate last year, please provide their name and school name, so we can thank them:*

The following teacher has agreed to be the contact/coordinator at our school:

Name & Department: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return this form by mail, email, or fax to the Nebraska Arts Council by **NOVEMBER 28, 2014** (postmark).
Fax: 402/595-2334 (if sending by fax, call 402/595-2122 to confirm receipt by NAC)

Anne Alston
Nebraska Arts Council
1004 Farnam Street, Plaza Level
Omaha, NE 68102

