



Photos of finalists, student workshop, and competition by Dave Trumpie.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



## About Poetry Out Loud

Now in its twentieth year, Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation competition for high school students. By encouraging youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The program and all materials are provided to each partner at no cost. Each year, participating partners host their own competitions and select a student to represent their school at the state finals. The state champion advances to the national finals in Washington, D.C. and competes for a \$20,000 college scholarship. In our state, Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of Michigan Humanities, the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Michigan Poetry Out Loud State Finals

Local competitions at schools and other organizations across the state begin in fall 2024 and will be completed by February 2025. Champions from each local competition will travel to Lansing to compete in the state finals at the **Crowne Plaza Lansing** (925 S Creyts Road, Lansing, MI 48917) **on March 14-15, 2025**. Each student will recite two poems in rounds one and two of competition. The top four highest-scoring students will recite a third poem in round three, with an announcement of the 2025 state champion and an awards ceremony to follow. Students and representatives from the partner schools and organizations will take part in a welcome dinner and poetry workshops.

## Prizes and Poetry Out Loud National Finals

Michigan's state champion receives a \$1,000 cash award and an opportunity to represent Michigan at the national competition. The national competition will take place in Washington, D.C., from May 5-7, 2025. At the state level, the first runner-up will receive \$750, the second runner-up will receive \$500, and the third runner-up will receive \$250. All four state finalists will receive trophies commemorating their achievement, and all participants will receive a certificate to commemorate their participation.

## More information

- Visit [michiganhumanities.org/poetry-out-loud/](https://michiganhumanities.org/poetry-out-loud/)
- Contact Katie Wittenauer at Michigan Humanities: [kwittenauer@mihumanities.org](mailto:kwittenauer@mihumanities.org) or (517) 372-7770, extension 294.

