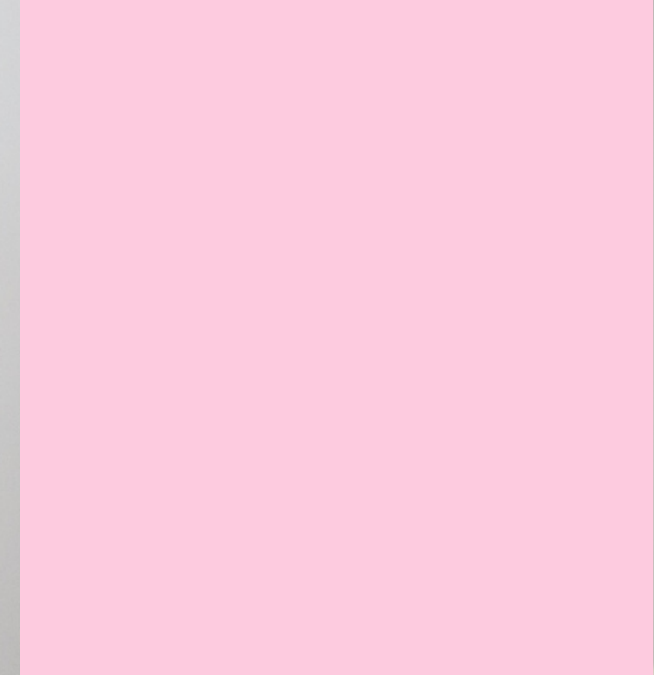


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Seventeenth Annual
A R I Z O N A
Poetry Out Loud
Arizona State Finals

March 15, 2022
Online Broadcast



Arizona Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment of the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the University of Arizona Poetry Center.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



COMMISSION
ON THE **ARTS**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
POETRY CENTER



For more information about Poetry Out Loud, visit
www.poetryoutloud.org or
<https://poetry.arizona.edu/education/k-12-youth/poetry-out-loud>.

Welcome

Welcome to the Seventeenth Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals. This event is the culmination of months of participation by high school students and teachers from communities throughout the state of Arizona. Over 10,000 high school students participate in this yearly program. Those of you here to witness today's recitations are in for a rare treat.

Many of you already know what we are about to experience. Witnessing students recite poems of their choosing is quite amazing. Through the commitment and dedication of their teachers and coaches, students who participate in Poetry Out Loud build public speaking skills and learn about their literary heritage.

To the students who competed: Congratulations on your accomplishment. What you have achieved, representing your schools and regions at the state finals, is no small feat.

To the parents, guardians, and teachers who supported students: Thank you for your commitment to instilling skills that will live with these students beyond today and beyond this program.

To our partners who make the program possible: Your dedication to serving Arizona residents and communities is remarkable. Thank you for the opportunities you have helped amplify for Arizona's young people.

To our audience: Poetry Out Loud is one of many arts programs in our state that deliver the benefits of arts education to young people. Through these programs, students can improve academic performance, demonstrate greater leadership and social skills, and develop advanced creative problem solving. Such programs are made possible thanks to funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Molly Blank Fund. If this program and others like it are important to you, your family, and your community, we encourage you to thank your state legislators and congressional representatives for their continued support.

Finally, it is with great gratitude that we thank you for tuning in to this year's State Finals.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

POETRY CENTER

The University of Arizona Poetry staff

Recitation Schedule

Welcome to the 17th Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Online

Broadcast

Host

Sophie Daws

Guest Welcome and Congratulations

Tyler Meier, M. McDonough, Andie
Lenhart, Wren Awry, Teré Fowler-
Chapman and Gema Ornelas

Welcome

Student Introductions

Guest Congratulations

First Round

Guest Congratulations

Second Round

Guest Congratulations

Announcement of Top Finalists

Final Round

Announcement of State Champion
and Runner-Up

Judges

Regional Coordinators

Central Region: M. McDonough, Coordinator of Outreach Programs at Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Arizona State University

Northern Region: Andie Lenhart, Faculty, English Department at Northern Arizona University, PhD Student, Curriculum and Instruction at Northern Arizona University

Southern Region: Teré Fowler-Chapman, Southern Region Poetry Out Loud Coordinator at University of Arizona

Judges

Cymelle Edwards

Adela C. Licona

Myra Kamal

Rachel Mindell

Kelsi Vanada

Student Finalists



Natalie Arizmendi (She/Her)
Sedona Red Rock High School
Northern Region

I am a first generation Mexican-American that is highly ambitious towards my aspired dreams and goals. I enjoy being outdoors, traveling and discovering new hobbies.

"Nowhere Else to Go" by Linda Sue Park
"The Chimney Sweeper: a little black thing among the snow" by William Blake
"Across the Bay" by Donald Davie



Oscar Landa Samano (He/Him)
Coconino High School
Northern Region

I live in Flagstaff Arizona and I love hiking. I do robotics and I'm a Commissioner for Coconino County on the Governor's Youth Commission.

"Spanglish" by Tato Laviera
"The Contract Says: We'd Like the Conversation to be Bilingual" by Ada Limón
"God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins



Lani Elias (She/Her)
Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy (FALA)
Northern Region

Hello! I'm Lani Elias and I am representing Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy this year! FALA is a school that really appreciates the arts, and I myself love drawing, reading, writing, and photography.

"From Blossoms" by Li-Young Lee
"In the Desert" by Stephen Crane
"Thine Own" by Josephine Delphine Henderson Heard



Alysa Horton (She/Her)
Shadow Ridge High School
Central Region

I am the Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook, Best Buddies Co-President, and an avid activist in the community. I'm passionate about creating a better world.

"Happy Ideas" by Mary Syzbist
"When You Are Old" by William Butler Yeats
"Truth is I would like to escape myself" by Nour Al Ghraawi

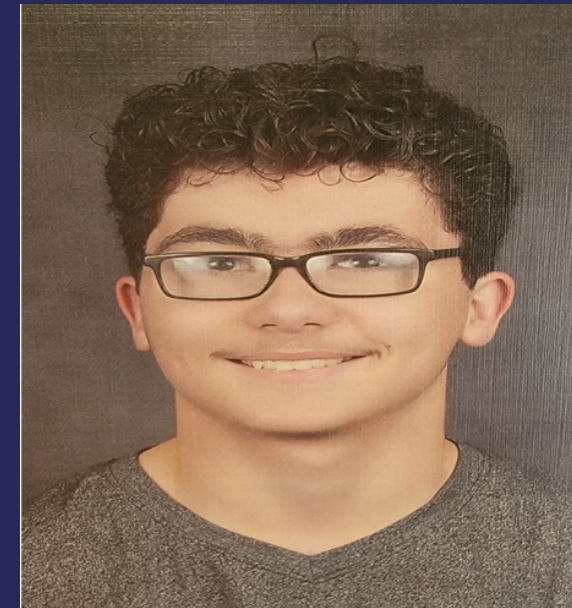
Student Finalists



Elijah Jenkins (He/Him)
Brophy College Preparatory
Central Region

I am a driven person who hopes to improve the communities around me. In my spare time, I enjoy to read and play my cello.

"Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou
"Frederick Douglass" by Robert Hayden
"George Moses Horton, Myself" by George Moses Horton



Jordan Brink (He/Him)
Villa Oasis High School
Southern Region

Jordan Brink enjoys performing poems. He enjoys hunting with his father and video games.

"All Hallows Eve" by Dorothea Tanning
"All This & More" by Mary Karr
"Dirge Without Music" by Edna St. Vincent Millay



Charlie Judd (He/Him)
Brophy College Preparatory
Central Region

Charlie Judd is a sophomore at Brophy College Preparatory. He enjoys writing songs, competing in speech and debate, and hanging out with his dogs.

"The Bookshelf of the God of Infinite Space" by Jeffrey Skinner
"Sonnet 29: When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes" by William Shakespeare
"The world is about to end and my grandparents are in love" by Kara Jackson



Milka Gahima (She/Her)
Southern Region
The Gregory School

My name is Milka Gahima. I am a freshman in high school who prioritizes having goals in life. And one I'm working towards at the moment is winning this competition.

"Respectability" by Tina Boyer Brown
"The Song of the Feet" by Nikki Giovanni
"In the Desert" by Stephen Crane

Student Finalists



Ashling Lee (She/They)
The Gregory School
Southern Region

Ashling Lee (she/they) is a senior at The Gregory School in Tucson, Arizona. She will be attending Columbia University in the fall.

"The Gift" by Li-Young Lee
"No, I wasn't meant to love and be loved" by Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib
"Meditation at Lagunitas" by Robert Hass



Irene Moreno-Cota
Villa Oasis High School
Southern Region

Irene Moreno-Cota enjoys writing and performing poems. When she graduates she has dreams of being an actress, a teacher, or a forensic pathologist.

"Be Music" by Night by Kenneth Patchen
"The Wish, By a Young Lady" by Laetitia Pilkington
"Idea 61: Since there's no help, come let us kiss and part" by Michael Drayton

About Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students that begins in the classroom and culminates with the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington DC. Poetry Out Loud encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry by studying, memorizing, and performing some of the most influential and timeless poems of the English language. Through Poetry Out Loud, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage and contemporary life.

A program of the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation**, Poetry Out Loud is delivered in all 50 states and three territories through partnerships with State Arts Agencies. The Arizona Poetry Out Loud program is managed by the University of Arizona Poetry Center and supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Participation in Arizona Poetry Out Loud continues to grow with over 10,000 students in communities throughout the state participating in the program each year.

School finalists compete at one of three regional competitions: Central, Northern and Southern. Finalists are selected at each regional competition to advance to the State Finals where they compete for the title of **Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion**. The winner of this year's Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals will receive \$200 and the winner's school library will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second-place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for their school library.

In addition, the Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion will compete at the National Finals. The Poetry Out Loud National Finals will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

Contest Structure and Evaluation Criteria. Arizona Poetry Out Loud includes three levels of competition: School Finals, Regional Competitions and the State Finals.

School Finals. Each participating high school held a school contest at the end of their Poetry Out Loud unit or program. The top scoring students from each school final advanced to their region's competition.

Regional Competitions. Students competed at three regional competitions: Central, Northern, and Southern. At each regional competition, students recited two to three poems; the scores of these poems were tallied and the students with the highest scores advanced to the state finals.

State Finals. Students—from each region—performed recitations in tonight's event. Each student recited two poems, one in each of the first two rounds. The scores of these two recitations were tallied and the four students with the highest scores recited a third poem in a final round of recitations. The score of the third poem was added to each of the students' first set of scores. The highest scoring student will be named the Arizona State Champion; the second highest scoring student, the First Place Runner-up.

Scoring in Poetry Out Loud is cumulative between judges' scores and from round to round, however scores from previous competitions do not carry over to subsequent contests.

Each student is evaluated on a scale from one (weak) to six (outstanding) using the following criteria: Physical Presence, Voice and Articulation, Dramatic Appropriateness, and Evidence of Understanding. Overall Performance is evaluated on a scale from one to nine. Additionally, a maximum of eight points are assigned for accuracy.

For more information on Poetry Out Loud, visit www.poetryoutloud.org or <https://poetry.arizona.edu/education/k-12-youth/poetry-out-loud>.

The Arizona State Champion will compete at the **Poetry Out Loud National Finals**. The 2022 POL National Semifinals will take place on **Sunday, May 1st** and the 2022 POL National Finals will take place on **Sunday, June 5th**. Both will be video-based competitions and will be streamed on arts.gov.

Over the past 17 years, Poetry Out Loud has reached more than 3 million students and 45,000 teachers from 10,000 schools nationwide. The winner of today's competition will advance to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed.

Live Broadcast. The Poetry Out Loud National Finals will be webcast live. For broadcast information, visit:
<https://poetry.arizona.edu/education/k-12-youth/poetry-out-loud>.

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Special Thanks

NATIONAL PARTNERS

The **National Endowment for the Arts** is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation.

The **Poetry Foundation**, publisher of *Poetry* magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience.



PARTNERS

Central Region: The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University is a home for writers, readers and the larger community.

Southern Region: The University of Arizona Poetry Center is a leading literary institution and a living archive of poetry. As a premier example of a thriving public/private partnership, the Poetry Center connects the University of Arizona with the greater literary community in Tucson and beyond.

Northern Region: Northern Arizona University (NAU) is a public university whose academic programs, research, public service, and creative endeavors enrich lives and create opportunities in Arizona and beyond.

CYAZ is a student-led organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting the creation, publication, and exhibition of language and media arts from Arizona's middle and high school students.

Special Thanks

PARTNERS (cont.)

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS is one of 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the United States, the Arizona Commission on the Arts is a 53-year-old agency of the State of Arizona and a leading force in the creative and professional development of Arizona's arts sector. Through robust programs, research initiatives and strategic grantmaking, the Arts Commission catalyzes arts-based partnerships that strengthen Arizona communities through the arts.

MOLLY BLANK FUND is a program of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, which promotes positive change in people's lives and builds and enhances the communities in which they live. The Molly Blank Fund continues to support causes and organizations important to Molly Blank.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES faculty, students and staff are passionate about their pursuit of life-changing and world-defining challenges. They work in the streets of Tucson, the corporations and agencies that form the national bedrock, and in the embassies and institutions around the world devoted to identifying problems, listening to perspectives, imagining solutions, and enacting change.



College of Humanities

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Poetry Out Loud,
visit www.poetryoutloud.org
or
[https://poetry.arizona.edu/
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