



OREGON ARTS  
COMMISSION

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For Immediate Release  
February 6, 2009

## School Winners, New Competitions Announced for *Poetry Out Loud*

The competition for *Poetry Out Loud*, the poetry recitation contest for high school students sponsored by the Oregon Arts Commission in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, is well underway. At stake is more than \$50,000 in scholarships at the state and national levels, including over \$20,000 for the national winner.

Oregon's 2008 State Champion, Sophia Soberon from Brookings-Harbor High School, took second place in the 2008 national competition. She won \$10,200 (\$200, state; \$10,000 national) in scholarships for her education at Southern Oregon University, while her school received \$1,000 (\$500 each, state and national) to purchase poetry books for its library. She will be one of the judges at this year's statewide competition.

In the 2008-09 school year, 19 Oregon high schools in 13 communities are competing. School competition winners will gather in Salem on Saturday, March 14 (**please note new location: Grand Theater, 1900 High St. NE, Salem**) to determine who will represent the state in Washington, DC at the end of April. The communities represented in the state competition are: **Arlington, Bandon, Condon, Grants Pass, Gresham, Hood River, Medford, Newberg, Portland, Prineville, Redmond, Salem, Sherwood.**

Several new schools adopted Oregon's *Poetry Out Loud* program this year. With the Oregon School for the Deaf competing for the first time, Oregon enjoys the distinction of being the first state in the nation to host a deaf student at the state contest. Announced winners of already-completed school competitions are:

Grants Pass High School: **Jessica Petersen**  
Oregon School for the Deaf, Salem: **Tiffany Hill**  
Salem Academy: **Katharine Hormann**  
Woodburn Arts & Communications Academy: **Brianna Eamons**

The schedule of remaining school competitions follows. Please contact the school coordinator for permission to cover a contest. (\*school new to the program)

<b>Thu Feb 5 7 PM</b> Redmond High School* 675 SW Rimrock, <b>Redmond</b> Coordinator: Rachel Sarrett 541-923-4800, <a href="mailto:rachel.sarrett@redmond.k12.or.us">rachel.sarrett@redmond.k12.or.us</a>	<b>Mon Feb 9 9:00 - 11:05 AM</b> Condon High School, English Room 210 East Baynard St., <b>Condon</b> Coordinator: Mike Keown 541-384-2441, <a href="mailto:mkeown@condon.k12.or.us">mkeown@condon.k12.or.us</a>
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**Mon Feb 9 7 PM**  
Crook County High School  
1100 SE Lynn Blvd., **Prineville**  
Coordinator: Anita Hoffman  
541-416-6900,  
[anita.hoffman@crookcounty.k12.or.us](mailto:anita.hoffman@crookcounty.k12.or.us)

**Tue Feb 10 Time TBA**  
Sam Barlow High School\*  
5105 SE 302nd Ave., **Gresham**  
Coordinator: Robyn Rose  
503-674-5668,  
[robyn\\_Rose@gbsd.gresham.k12.or.us](mailto:robyn_Rose@gbsd.gresham.k12.or.us)

**Wed Feb 11 8:45 AM**  
Veritas School  
401 Mission Dr., **Newberg**  
Coordinator: Megan Hills  
503-538-1962, [mhills@veritasschool.net](mailto:mhills@veritasschool.net)

**Thu Feb 12 7 PM**  
Hidden Valley High School  
651 Murphy Creek Rd., **Grants Pass**  
Coordinator: Julie Richardson  
541-862-2124,  
[Julia.Richardson@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:Julia.Richardson@threerivers.k12.or.us)

**Tue Feb 17 3 PM**  
West Salem High School\*  
1776 Titan Drive NW, **Salem**  
Coordinator: Christina Eddy  
503-399-5533, [eddy\\_christina@salkeiz.k12.or.us](mailto:eddy_christina@salkeiz.k12.or.us)

**3:30 PM**  
Bandon High School\*  
550 9th St. SW, **Bandon**  
Coordinator: Ellen Howard  
541-347-4413, [ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us](mailto:ellenh@bandon.k12.or.us)

**Thu Feb 19 9:30 AM – 2 PM**  
Hood River Valley High School  
1220 Indian Creek Rd., **Hood River**  
Coordinator: Regena Rafelson  
541-386-4500, [rrafelson@hoodriver.k12.or.us](mailto:rrafelson@hoodriver.k12.or.us)

**Fri Feb 20 12:25 PM**  
Cascade Christian High School\*  
855 Chevy Way, **Medford**  
Coordinator: Suzanne Ray  
541-772-0606, [sray@gmail.com](mailto:sray@gmail.com)

**Tue Feb 24 2:45 PM**  
Arlington High School\*  
1200 Main Street, **Arlington**  
Coordinator: Charles Van Gorder  
541-454-2632, [cvangorder@arlington.k12.or.us](mailto:cvangorder@arlington.k12.or.us)

**3 PM**  
Sherwood High School  
16956 SW Meinecke Rd., **Sherwood**  
Coordinator: Jared Jones  
503-825-5500, [jjones@sherwood.k12.or.us](mailto:jjones@sherwood.k12.or.us)

**Wed Feb 25 2:35 PM – 4 PM**  
South Medford High School  
815 S. Oakdale Ave., **Medford**  
Coordinator: Clancy Rone  
541-842-1441, [clancy.rone@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:clancy.rone@medford.k12.or.us)

**6 PM**  
Center for Advanced Learning  
1484 NW Civic Dr., **Gresham**  
Coordinator: Rita Ramstad  
503-667-4978,  
[rita\\_ramstad@thecenterforadvancedlearning.org](mailto:rita_ramstad@thecenterforadvancedlearning.org)

**Tue Mar 3 12:35 PM**  
Madison High School  
2735 NE 82nd Ave., **Portland**  
Coordinator: Daniel Fredgant  
503-916-5220, [dfredgan@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:dfredgan@pps.k12.or.us)

The state *Poetry Out Loud* Contest takes place:

**Sat Mar 14, 9 AM – 3 PM**  
Grand Theater  
1900 High St. NE, **Salem**  
Coordinator: Deb Vaughn  
503-986-0085, [deborah.vaughn@state.or.us](mailto:deborah.vaughn@state.or.us)

*Poetry Out Loud*, now in its fourth year in Oregon, involves the memorization and recitation of classic poetry and culminates in a statewide competition. Nationwide, more than 200,000 students are expected to participate.

Oregon’s 2009 competition will be judged by Lawson Inada, Oregon poet laureate; Sophia Soberon, 2008 national POL runner-up and Oregon state champion; Scott Poole, poet-in-residence, *Live Wire!*; Mindi L. Logan, theater professor, University of Portland; Scott Wildenstein, poet and sign interpreter at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; and Howie Seago, a noted deaf actor.

In addition to winning a \$200 scholarship and \$500 for the school library’s poetry collection, the state champion receives an all-expense-paid trip, with a chaperone, to Washington, DC to compete in the national finals, April 26-28, 2009. April is National Poetry Month.

*Poetry Out Loud* seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by capitalizing on the latest trends in poetry – recitation and performance. The program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement, and brings aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theater into the English class.

“Learning great poetry by heart develops the mind and imagination,” observes Dana Gioia, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “*Poetry Out Loud* isn’t just an arts program. By immersing themselves in powerful language and ideas, students develop their ability to speak well, especially in public. This is a skill they will use in the workplace and the community for the rest of their lives.”

The Oregon Arts Commission, the NEA and the Poetry Foundation partner to sponsor *Poetry Out Loud*. The Arts Commission has developed an Oregon Curriculum Guide that can be used to connect *Poetry Out Loud* classroom activities to Oregon’s Content and Performance Standards in Language Arts and the Arts/Drama.

For further information on *Poetry Out Loud*, contact the Oregon Arts Commission at 503-986-0082, or visit the national website at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Economic Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission’s expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. For more information about the Oregon Arts Commission: [www.oregonartscommission.org](http://www.oregonartscommission.org).