

# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Poetry Bash at Omaha Public Library

**December 3, 2016 1:30-3:30 PM**

## OFFICIAL RULES

1. Entrants must be in grades 8-12 at the time of the contest.
2. Limit of 40 entrants for the competition. Preference is given to pre-registered poets.
3. Entrants must arrive on December 3<sup>rd</sup> between 1:00-1:20 PM. Any walk-in entrants will be placed on a waiting list and given the unclaimed spots beginning at 1:35 PM on a first-come, first-served basis until all open spots are filled.
4. Each entrant must bring two original poems. Plagiarized poems will be disqualified. The first poem will be used in the preliminary round. If selected to continue to finals, the poet must perform a different poem than was used in the first round.
5. Content matter should not exceed a PG-13 rating, i.e. avoid excessive violence, sexually explicit content or language, profanity, discriminatory language, or language which is degrading to any group of people. Poems may still deal with the ideas or notions of violence, sex, profanity, discrimination, or degradation (and so on), but should not perpetuate such things. Violations of this rule will result in a score reduction, and may result in disqualification depending on the severity.
6. Poems may last up to 3 minutes. At 3 minutes a warning will be given. Poems may last up to 3 minutes and 10 seconds before time-penalties are assessed. Time penalties shall be 0.5 points for every 10 seconds over the time allotment (rounded up). After 4 minutes and 10 seconds, poems will be disqualified (receiving a score of 0.0) and the poet asked to leave the stage.
7. Poets may not use props, costumes, instruments, or accompaniment.
8. It is encouraged that the poet perform the poem, or recite it from memory, in order to receive a higher score. Simply reading the original poem from paper is permitted but may result in lower scoring.
9. Entrants will draw for their performance order when they check in at the registration table.
10. The competition will have an emcee, timer/scorekeeper, and judges. Judges will be Nebraska poets and/or Louder Than a Bomb: Great Plains coaches who will be impartial no matter which school they are affiliated with.
11. Each performance will be scored by each judge from 0.0-10.0. The highest and lowest scores will be dropped and the remaining scores combined. The top five entrants with the highest scores will move on to the finals round.
12. In the finals round, the same format will occur as the preliminary round. The highest score will be declared the winner, with additional prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
13. Cash prizes are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$10.