

EVENT INFORMATION

The theme for this year's Halloween Poetry Slam is "Skeletons in the Closet." *You do not have to stay on theme* but we encourage you to explore the depths this theme may encompass. Examples taken from this theme can include: secrets, regrets, failed cycles, acceptance, relationships, personal struggles, etc. Be creative and have fun!

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- No profanity or explicit sexual language is allowed
- Open to ages 13 years and up
- Please have three poems prepared
- You must send a copy of each poem for approval
- **Please show up if you sign up!**

WHAT IS A POETRY SLAM

A poetry slam is when a group of poets get together to perform their work for each other and an audience. This will be a competition however, so scores will be given for each performance. Each poem will be judged on a scale of one to ten by a panel of judges picked from the audience. The poem itself, delivery, and overall performance will be taken into account when the score is assigned. Prizes will be awarded to the poets who come in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

POEMS AND PERFORMANCE

- Poems can be on any subject or in accordance to the theme above and in any style
- Poems do not have to be original, but the poet **MUST** disclose the original author before they begin
- We ask that no work contains profanity or explicit sexual content
- No props are allowed, including grabbing/motioning at or with accessories or clothing
- Only one poem may be used in each round, repeated poems will be subject to negative marks

SENSITIVITY RULE

We at TAM have strong views against discrimination and ask that while you are here you please abide by the same practices. Any participants who make disparaging remarks about any ethnic group, particular religion, culture, sexual orientation or gender differences will be **immediately disqualified**.

THE THREE-MINUTE RULE

No performance should last longer than three minutes. A timekeeper will be present to time the performances. The time begins when the performance begins, which may be before the first word is spoken. Poets are allowed several full seconds to adjust the microphone and get themselves settled and ready, but as soon as they make a connection with the audience, the timekeeper can and may start the clock. After three minutes, there is a 10-second grace period (up to and including 3:10.00). Starting at 3:10.01, a penalty is automatically deducted from each poet's overall score at .5 points for each additional 10 seconds.

EMAIL POETRYSLAM@THEARTMUSEUM.ORG TO SECURE YOUR SPOT

ENTRY IS FREE FOR PARTICIPATING POETS