



Teens creatively cultivating
the next generation of leaders!

THE MOVEMENT

TWP-THE YOUTH MOVEMENT | 700 E. Olney Road, Norfolk, VA 23504 | P: 757-747-2679 | Info@TWPTTheMovement.org

Greetings,

All across the nation, young people are picking up the pen and stepping up to the microphone using spoken word poetry. Teens With a Purpose is pleased to enter its ninth year of collaboration with Youth Speaks Inc. and Brave New Voices, as seen on HBO, as we present to Southeastern Virginia the 2017 Hampton Roads Youth Poetry Slam Season and Festival. Spoken Word Poetry and creates a lifelong love of self-expression and literacy. Students learn how to represent themselves, their experiences, and their ideas, powerfully.

The Festival has become a modern tradition, a festival of competitive performance poetry that blends written tradition with lyricism, positive music and stage acumen in a way that profoundly affects and entertains youth and audiences of all kinds. Here young poets fearlessly tell their stories, in their own words to be shared with their generation and the community at-large.

As an educator, you know that youth engaged in literary arts are inspired learners. Teens With a Purpose program helps unlock hidden talent as it lights the fire that ignites a life-long love for learning.

TWP is asking you to encourage those students that you believe have the interest, a need and or the skills to participate in our 2017 Slam festival. This year the festival's launch at Chrysler Museum of Art on Saturday, April 8th, *includes writing and performing workshops.

Hampton Roads Poetry Festival TWP's HRYP Slam Fest is now in its 9th year. Each year teens come together in this Olympic style completion. The six finalist will represent all of Hampton Roads at Brave New Voices, the world's largest youth poetry festival and event. BNV bring together youth poets from 50 states and countries like South Africa, New Zealand, Ireland and England. The competitions take place this year at:

2017 Hampton Roads Youth Poetry Festival -

- Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk - Sat. April 8th 1pm – 5pm **Preliminaries***
- Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. Newport News, Sat. April 15th 3 – 6pm **Semi-Finals**
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach – Friday, April, 21st 3:30 – 5pm **Middle School Event**
- Zeiders American Dream Theatre, Virginia Beach, Sun. April 23rd, 4pm to 7pm **Finals**

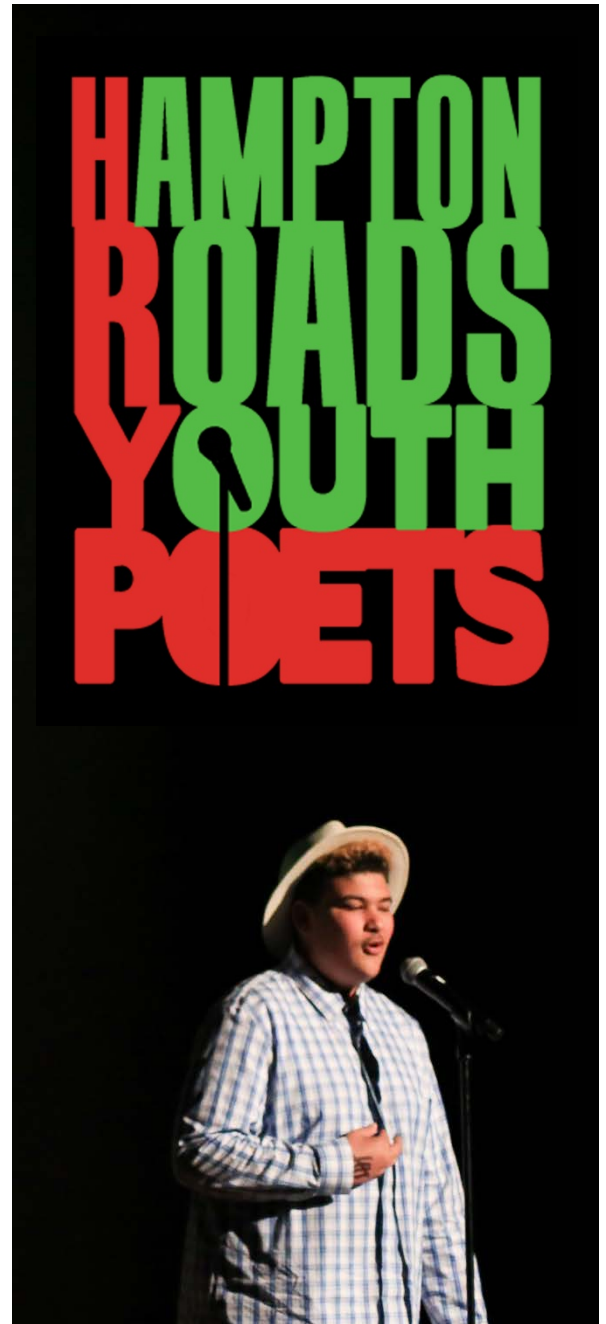
Attached are the entry forms for competing poets. Please feel free to contact me with any other questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your support of the 2017 Hampton Roads Youth Poetry Slam Season and Festival. This is truly an exciting opportunity for the young people of Hampton Roads.

HEAR THIS YOUTH POETRY FESTIVAL AND SLAMFEST!

Teens With a Purpose is happy to announce the Hear This Poetry Festival has been expanded to a half day event with a grand prize of **\$100 cash** value prize. This year's festival will take place at the beautiful, **Chrysler Museum of Art, Saturday, April 8th 1pm to 5pm**. Youth from Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk and Williamsburg are all invited to participate in a series of performance and writing workshops, mini poetry slam, lunch then progress to the Chrysler Theatre for this year's **HRYP *Slam Fest!*** -Preliminary Slam. Youth are not required to compete in the slam to participate in this festival. The top ranking youth poets from this event will have the opportunity to move on to compete in the ***SlamFest!*** -Semi Finals to be held at **Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News on Saturday April 15th 4pm to 7pm** with the chance to move on to the **Grand Slam on Sunday, April 23rd 4pm to 7pm** at **Zeider's American Theatre, Virginia Beach!**

Registration is open to those 13 to 18 years of age or members of an existing Hear This Poetry Club. There are a limited number of slots available, so please make sure to register early if you want to secure your spot to compete in this amazing Festival. **The online registration will close on Friday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m.**

Please click on the following links for more information regarding the day's events, and please read the following information carefully before completing registration!



REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. **THE HEAR THIS FESTIVAL 2017, Saturday, April 8th, 2017.** The day's festivities will commence and conclude at Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk.
2. Students who are interested in partaking in the day's activities must abide by the rules and pay the registration fee to cover the cost of lunch and tee shirts!
3. Participants must arrive at the Chrysler Museum of Art by 12:30 p.m. for registration/check in. The event will conclude after the Poetry Slam at 5pm.
4. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2017.** Please submit your online registration form to us no later than 6:00 p.m. on Friday, MARCH 24TH, 2017. We will need all participants' names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers. There are a limited number of spaces, both for contestants and non-competitive participants, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible.
5. The registration fee is \$25 per participating poet, which covers entry to the competition and workshops, a t-shirt, and lunch. If you are registering five or more students, registration is only \$20 per student! If you have students who are interested in participating in the day's activities but not competing, they must register separately as "Non-Competitive Participants." The "Festival Permission Form," the parental consent form enclosed in the registration packet that will be collected at check-in/registration. Additional registration forms will also be available on the morning of registration.
6. If you are a student merely interested in partaking in the day's activities but not competing, your registration must be paid on the day of the event including your signed parental/guardian consent form including their contact information. We cannot accept your registration fee and you will be politely turned away if you do not have the signed consent form. The registration fee is \$10.00 and includes entry *only* to the workshops and lunch. Additional registration forms will also be available on the morning of registration.
7. Registration fees may be paid online or in the form of cash or check on or before the day of the event. Please make checks out to "Teens With a Purpose" with "Hear This 2017" on the memo.
8. There **MUST** be an adult supervisor/sponsor responsible for supervising each youth group. Although we will be in a safe and contained space, we need to ensure that there is at least one adult sponsor per team or group registering.
9. Each participant must have a minimum of two poems prepared for the day. The two poems used for the initial two-rounds may be used again in the final round, assuming the participant advances.
10. If you are an adult supervisor, please lead by example and help your students mix and mingle and meet new people. This is a community-building initiative and we appreciate your help in making it possible.
11. Earning the most points and winning the slam is not the purpose of Hear This Festival 2017. The purpose is to share in the art of performance poetry, bond with new people, and honor the stories, feelings, and talent of the poets participating. Remember: **"The points are not the point! The point is the poetry!"**

COMPETITION RULES

- Sponsors and students must arrive by 12:30 p.m. on **Saturday, April 8 at Chrysler Museum of Art**. The adult sponsor must be present with each group.
- All participants must have signed registration forms completed by parent or guardian.
- Students must remain at Chrysler Museum of Art and may only leave with permission of sponsor.
- Every registered poet must have a minimum of two poems prepared for the day. The two poems used for the initial two-rounds may be used again in the final round in the theatre, assuming the participant advances.
- Poets have 3 minutes to perform with a 10 second grace period. Going over 3:10 results in a 0.5 deduction from total score per 10 seconds starting at 3:10 (i.e. 3:10= -0.5; 3:20= -1; 3:30 = -1.5; etc.). The time starts at the first utterance after the poet says her name, school/ organization, and poem title.
- Poems must be original and of the poet's own construction. NO PLAGIARISM allowed, or it will result in disqualification.
- Poets may NOT use any props, costumes, or musical accompaniment (this can include mentioning and touching clothing or jewelry; we will explain).
- Good sportsmanship is required. Booing or trying to sabotage another poet/school is unacceptable.
- The poets will be judged by three audience members on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0. This means that the highest possible score is a 30. Unlike traditional poetry slams, however, the scores from the preliminary bouts will not be announced to the slam's participants and spectators immediately following each poem.
- Profanity and hate speech are prohibited. Poets are completely discouraged from the use of profanity (including the n-word), sexually explicit content, and/or language that degrades any group of people. Violation will result in a 1.5 point deduction from the poet's total score; potential disqualification; and scorn from the host and organizers.
- Food and drink may not be consumed in the theatre at Chrysler Museum of Art. Bottled Water is permitted. Snacks may be purchased at the TWP Table during workshops and lunch will be provided.
- Memorization of poems is not required, but *highly recommended*. All poets, however, are not allowed to physically hold a piece of paper or handheld device while performing; doing so will result in a 1.5 point deduction and/or potential disqualification. If a poem is not memorized, it may be placed on the music stand we provide, and poets will not be penalized by the judges for doing so.
- Before the slam, the bout manager will draw numbers to determine the order of the slam.
- The top six scoring poets from the preliminary slam will advance to the Semi Final Slam at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, Saturday, April 15th. Again, unlike traditional poetry slams, the scores from the preliminary bouts will not be announced to the slam's participants and spectators immediately following each poem; the scoring from the individual slams will be done silently. The finalists will be announced at the conclusion of the slam.
- Traditional slam rules and announcements will apply during semi-finals and Finals where poet's scores will be announced at the end of each round.

REGISTRATION

Welcome to the Hear This Festival 2017 Registration Page! Please note that there are three separate links for registration: one for existing poetry club sponsors, one for students who are not affiliated with a school sponsored poetry club, and one for students who are merely interested in partaking in the day's activities as opposed to competing. Please make sure that you click on the appropriate link to complete registration.

If you have any questions about the registration process, please don't hesitate to contact us at either twpmichelle@gmail.com or twpteenevents@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

CLUB SPONSORS

If you are a sponsor of an existing Hear This poetry club within your school, please click on the following link to complete registration for your club's competing member(s). The registration fee is \$25.00 per participant which includes entry to the competition and workshops, a t-shirt, and lunch. If your school is registering five or more poets, however, the registration fee is only \$20.00 per participant. Registration payment for your poet(s) will be due on the day of the event, April 8th, 2017. [Open Registration Form](#)

NON-AFFILIATED STUDENT COMPETITORS

If you are a 13 – 18 years of age and not affiliated with a school sponsored poetry club but is interested in representing your school as an individual poet, please click on the following link to complete registration. The registration fee is \$25.00 per participant and includes entry to the competition and workshops, a t-shirt, and lunch. Your registration payment will be due by the day of the event, April 8th, 2017. [Open Registration Form](#)

NON-COMPETITIVE PARTICIPANTS

If you are 13 – 18 years of age and interested in merely participating in the day's workshops, please click on the following link to complete registration. The registration fee is \$10.00 per participant and includes entry to the workshops and lunch. Your registration payment will be due on the day of the event, April 8th, 2017. [Open Registration Form](#)

FESTIVAL PERMISSION FORM

I hereby grant permission for my child, _____, to attend and participate in the 2017 Hear This Youth Poetry Competition and Festival as a representative of _____ School/Club at Chrysler Museum of Art Saturday, April 8th.

I acknowledge that Teens With a Purpose and all affiliates presenting the 2017 Hear This Festival are not liable for the conduct of my child and reserve the right to remove anybody if he or she is endangering the safety of others or the integrity of the program. I grant Teens With a Purpose and all affiliates the right to take photographs and video of my child in connection with this program, and to use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that Teens With a Purpose and all affiliates may use such photographs or video of my child with or without their name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

Travel to and from the Hear This & HRYP Slam Festival will be arranged by the student's teacher, slam coach, or adult supervisor. Students must arrive at the Chrysler Museum of Art by 12:30 p.m. on

- ALL STUDENTS are required to return this form, signed by parent/guardian, in order to participate.
- STUDENT CONDUCT at the Hear This Festival is governed by each school's respective STUDENT CONDUCT RULES and will be enforced by their teachers, slam coaches, or other school officials.
- DINNER will be provided by Teens With a Purpose for free, but it is strongly suggested that students bring money (or food from home) for any additional meals or snacks.

By signing, I hereby understand the rules, guidelines, and responsibilities for the festival and have made sure that my son or daughter understands, as well.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name