



DC YOUTH SLAM TEAM

AUDITION & POINT SYSTEM INFO



All questions can be directed to Tucker@SplitThisRock.org

Qualifications - The DC Youth Slam Team (DCYST) is a program of Split This Rock, a nonprofit organization dedicated revitalizing poetry as a living, breathing art form. It is open to all current high school students in DC and surrounding Maryland and Virginia counties. All interested youth poets must fill out an application and get approval of parent/guardian to join the year-long program. Poets must be able to attend weekly meetings and special events with the team. No experience is necessary.

Process - Applicants will be evaluated based on our point system. In addition to competing in and winning slams, students earn points by participating in workshops, open mics, auditions, special events, and showing commitment to DCYST events, ideals, mission and goals. These points help determine who makes the team. The process looks like this:

Workshops & Qualifying Prelim Slams > Semi-Finals > Auditions > Finals

All interested poets should attend and participate in workshops and qualifying preliminary slams in the Fall and Winter. Workshops are every Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm at MLK Library Teen Space, and Open Mics are every 3rd Saturday at Busboys and Poets 5th & K 4:30-7:00pm, and additional workshops and special events occur frequently. There will be at least six qualifying prelim slams between August and January. The top 24 point earners will advance to Semi-Finals in January. Between Semi-Finals and Finals, these qualifying poets will go through auditions, through which the 12 making the team and Finals will be determined. Youth Programs Coordinator Jonathan B. Tucker keeps track of all DCYST candidates points and attendance.

Auditions - After the Semi-Final Slam, and before the Finals, all qualifying students will attend auditions. At auditions poets will perform 2-3 poems, answer questions, participate in a group activity, and sign an agreement form. A panel of coaches, teaching artists, and other staff members will assign up to 5.0 points here.

Point System - To qualify for the 2015 Semi-Finals, a poet must earn at least 1.5 points. To qualify for an audition, a poet must earn at least 3 points.

WHAT TO DO	POINTS
Attend or Participate in DCYST Workshop/Event	0.25
Compete in Qualifying DCYST Slam	0.25
Volunteer/Community Service for Split This Rock	0.5
Place in top 4 at Qualifying Prelim Slam	1.0
Place in top 10 at Semi-Finals	3.0
Auditions	Up to 5.0

Team - There are high expectations for everyone on the team, including weekly meetings, practices, monthly slams and open mics, and many other performances. Do not try out for the team if you cannot make the commitment for the entire year or already have too many obligations.

Questions – Email Jonathan at Tucker@SplitThisRock.org or call him at 301-538-8926.