



LOUDER THAN A BOMB 2018 – REGISTRATION PACKET

Between Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, May 6th, teenage poets from DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV), will come together for the sixth regional high school team poetry competition and festival, modeled off of, and in partnership with, the successful Chicago-based youth slam of the same name, Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB). Armed with nothing but their thundering voices, creative minds, courageous hearts, and true stories, teams of 3-5 youth poets will participate in the festival which is comprised of the opening ceremony, preliminary bouts, and several city wide workshops/events. The Grand Slam Finals on Sunday, May 6th will culminate the festival, where one team will be crowned the 2018 LTAB-DMV Champions.

Aiming to bring teens together across racial, neighborhood, and socio-economic lines, LTAB-DMV is a friendly competition that emphasizes self-expression and community. LTAB-DMV is presented by Split This Rock Youth Programs, a national network of artists and activists committed to using their words to speak for justice and peace, and elevating the role of poets in social and civic life.

The main organizers of LTAB-DMV are:

- ☐ Joseph Green, Youth Programs Coordinator, Split This Rock
joseph@splitthisrock.org 804.426.3050
- ☐ Chelsea Iorlano, Assistant Youth Programs Coordinator, Split This Rock
chelsea@splitthisrock.org 973.668.9109
- ☐ Brian Hannon, Youth and Education Development Fellow, Split This Rock
brian@splitthisrock.org 703.338.4535

Feel free to contact them anytime regarding these poetry programs.

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. **Louder Than a Bomb 2018 will take place between April 28th and May 6th.** All preliminary activities and competition will be held at Woodrow Wilson High School (3950 Chesapeake St. NW, Washington D.C.) on Saturday, April 28th from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The finals of the competition will be held the following weekend at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, May 6th. Please clear your schedules and make sure either you or another adult chaperone can be in attendance with your students for these events.
2. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 16th, 2018.** Please complete your team's online registration no later than 6:00pm on Monday, April 16th. We will need you and your students' names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, t-shirt sizes, and team name.

The registration fee is \$125 per school team, covering your team's competition entry fee, lunch, and shirts.

Your payment will be collected at Woodrow Wilson High School on Saturday, April 28th during check-in/registration.

Your registration fee may be paid one of three ways:

- By a check. Please make out your check to "Split This Rock" with "LTAB-DMV Festival" on the memo.
- By a credit card. You can use [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and direct the registration funds to info@splitthisrock.org.
- By cash.

Your invoice is included in this packet.

3. The "Crossing The Streets" Opening Ceremony and preliminary bouts will take place at Woodrow Wilson High School on **Saturday, April 28th from 10:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Lunch will be provided on this day. All participating teams are expected to attend.
4. The Grand Slam Finals will take place the following weekend on Sunday, May 6th at the Kennedy Center – Millennium Stage.
5. The faculty sponsor or coach must attend all events in which his/her team is participating.
6. Each team should prepare at least 4 original poems for competition, with a **MAXIMUM OF TWO GROUP PIECES**. Assuming your team advances from preliminaries to the Grand Slam Finals, your team may repeat any of the poems that were used in their preliminary bout.
7. There may be more than 20 teams competing this year, and a handful of teams participating but not competing. Please lead by example and help your students mix and mingle and meet new people. This is a community-building initiative and we appreciate you making it possible.
8. Earning the most points and winning the slam are not the purposes of the LTAB-DMV. 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!"* We just play the slam game to get people to listen. Please help us de-emphasize the competition aspect and uplift the importance of the content and expression of our students' poems, not the numbers random judges assign them.

COMPETITION RULES*

- ☐ Each team must have a minimum of three and a maximum of six poets.
- ☐ Each team should prepare at least 4 original poems for competition, at least one of which needs to be a group piece. Each team, however, is allowed a **MAXIMUM OF TWO GROUP PIECES DURING THEIR BOUT**. The group piece must be comprised of least 2, or at most 4 poets performing a poem they wrote collaboratively. The group piece(s) may be performed in any of the four rounds.
- ☐ **Round 3 is the “1 Minute Speed Round.”** The poem (either a solo poem or a group piece) performed in this round has a time limit of one minute.
- ☐ Poets may not perform more than one solo piece during the slam. Poets may touch the stage again in **ONE** of the two group pieces permitted. In other words, poets may not touch the stage more than two times during the bout.
- ☐ Poets have 3 minutes (**with the exception of Round 3**) to perform with a 10 second grace period. Going over 10 seconds results in a 0.5 deduction from total score (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 his/her name, school, 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. Coaches are expected to model this behavior.
- ☐ The poets will be judged by five audience members on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0. The lowest and highest scores will be dropped, and the three middle scores are added together for the final score. This means that the highest possible score is a 30.
- ☐ Poets may not perform poems with profanity or offensive language (if you can't say it on the radio, you can't say it on stage). Violation will result in a 1.5 point deduction from the poet's total score; potential disqualification; and scorn from the host, organizers, and parents.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ The preliminary bouts will take place on Saturday April 28th at Woodrow Wilson High School. The Grand Slam Finals will take place on Sunday, May 6^h at the Kennedy Center.
- ☐ If your team advances to finals, your team is free to use any of the poetry that was performed in previous bouts.
- ☐ The top scoring team from each prelim bout will advance to the Grand Slam Finals on Sunday, May 6th.
- ☐ Before each slam the bout manager and a single representative of each team will draw numbers to determine the order of the slam. The preliminary bouts will go as such:

Each bout will be composed of no more than 5 teams rotated within 4 ROUNDS:

- Round 1 - Team A, Team B, Team C, Team D, Team E
- Round 2 - Team B, Team C, Team D, Team E, Team A
- Round 3 (1 Minute Speed Round) Team C, Team D, Team E, Team A, Team B
- Round 4 - Team D, Team E, Team A, Team B, Team C

Split This Rock

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INVOICE

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Team Registration Fee <i>* Registration Fee Includes:</i> - All-Access Passes - T-Shirts	125.00
	TOTAL \$ 125.00

Special Instructions:

Your registration fee may be paid one of three ways:

- By a check. Please make out your check to "Split This Rock" with "LTAB-DMV Festival" on the memo.
- By a credit card. You can use [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) to direct the registration funds to info@splitthisrock.org.
- By cash.

*** Your payment must be submitted on Saturday, April 28th at Woodrow Wilson High School.**

FESTIVAL PERMISSION FORM

I hereby grant permission for my child, _____, to attend and participate in the 2018 Louder Than a Bomb DMV regional youth poetry competition and festival as part of the _____ High School Slam Team between April 28th and May 6th.

I acknowledge that Split This Rock, the DC Youth Slam Team, and all affiliates presenting Louder Than a Bomb are not liable for the conduct of my child and reserves the right to remove anybody if he or she is endangering the safety of others or the integrity of the program. I grant the organizers 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 the organizers 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 Louder Than a Bomb venues will be arranged by the student's adult faculty supervisor and slam coach.

- ALL STUDENTS are required to return this form, signed by parent/guardian, in order to participate.
- STUDENT CONDUCT at Louder Than a Bomb is governed by each school's respective STUDENT CONDUCT RULES and will be enforced by their teachers and slam coaches.

I have read and agree to the above:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Name

Emergency Contacts:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please list any allergies, medical, or mental conditions your child has that we should be aware of:
