



# LOUDER THAN A BOMB 2017 – REGISTRATION PACKET

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Between April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>, teenage poets from DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV), will come together for the fifth 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 3-7 youth poets will participate in the festival which is comprised of the opening ceremony at the Kennedy Center, preliminary bouts, and several city wide workshops/events. The Grand Slam Finals on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> will culminate the festival, where one team will be crowned the 2017 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](mailto:joseph@splitthisrock.org) 804.426.3050
- Brian Hannon, Youth and Education Development Fellow, Split This Rock  
[brian@splitthisrock.org](mailto: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 2017 will take place between April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>.** Once registration closes, we will disseminate the tournament bout sheet and send it to you so you can see exactly when and where your team will compete. 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: FRIDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** Please complete your team's online registration no later than 6:00pm on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We will need you and your students' names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, t-shirt sizes, and team name.

The registration fee is \$150 per school team, covering your team's competition entry fee, all-access passes (which will get you into all of the LTAB events), and shirts.

**Your payment will be collected at your designated venue on the day you are scheduled to compete.**

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](mailto:info@splitthisrock.org).
- By cash.

Your invoice is included in this packet.

3. The "Crossing The Streets" Opening Ceremony will take place at the Kennedy Center on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. All participating teams are expected to attend.
4. The preliminary bouts will take place on both Saturday and Sunday of the weekends of April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at Busboys & Poets – Brookland from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Grand Slam Finals will take place in the evening on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kennedy Center – Millennium Stage.

**\*If you know that you and/or your team will be unable to attend one of these dates, please let us know upon registration!**

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: three individual pieces and one group piece. 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 seven poets.
- Each team should prepare at least 4 original poems for competition: **three individual pieces and one group piece**. The group piece must be comprised of least 2, or at most 4 poets performing a poem they wrote collaboratively. Your team may perform their group piece in the round of their choosing.
- Round 3 is the “1 Minute Speed Round.”** All poems (either a solo piece or a team piece) performed in this round have a time limit of one minute.
- Every registered poet must perform at least once, but no more than twice.
- Poets may not perform more than one solo piece during the slam. Poets may touch the stage again during their group piece, however.
- 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 both Saturday and Sunday of the weekends of April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at Busboys & Poets - Brookland. The Grand Slam Finals will take place on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 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

# INVOICE

## Split This Rock

1301 Connecticut Ave NW,  
Suite 600 Washington, DC  
20036  
202.787.5210

| DESCRIPTION   | AMOUNT                 |
|---|------------------------|
| <p>Team Registration Fee</p> <p><i>* Registration Fee Includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All-Access Passes</li> <li>- T-Shirts</li> </ul> | 150.00                 |
|   | <b>TOTAL \$ 150.00</b> |

**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](http://paypal.com) to direct the registration funds to [info@splitthisrock.org](mailto:info@splitthisrock.org).
- By cash.

**\* Your payment must be submitted at your designated venue on the day your team is scheduled to compete.**

## FESTIVAL PERMISSION FORM

I hereby grant permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to attend and participate in the 2017 Louder Than a Bomb DMV regional youth poetry competition and festival as part of the \_\_\_\_\_ High School Slam Team between April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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:

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