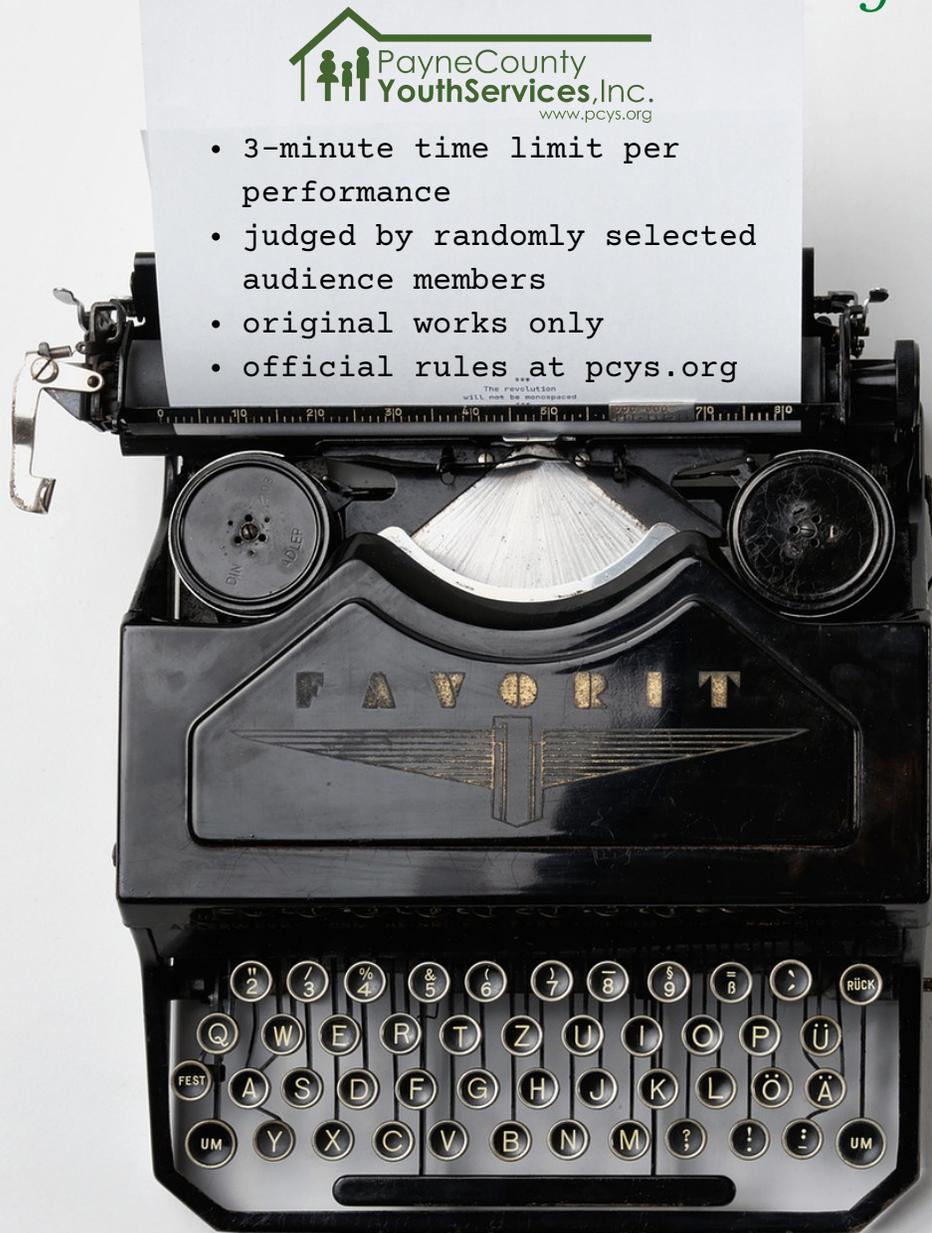


# POETRY SLAM

*Special Edition: National Runaway  
Prevention Month Candlelight Vigil*



- 3-minute time limit per performance
- judged by randomly selected audience members
- original works only
- official rules at [pcys.org](http://pcys.org)



**Tues. 11/17 @ 7p.m.**  
**@ Couch Park in Stillwater**

Suggested Theme: runaway and  
homeless youth in the U.S.

To pre-register, call 405.377.3380 or email [kims@pcys.org](mailto:kims@pcys.org) by 3pm 11/17.

**Walk-Ups Welcome**

Open to all youth in Payne & Noble Counties age 18 and under or currently affiliated with PCYS.  
Face masks and social distancing required at all times during this event.

# What is a Poetry Slam?

## What is slam?

A competitive poetry performance in which selected audience members score performers, and winners are determined by total points. Slam is a composite genre that combines elements of poetry, theater, performance, and storytelling.

(poetryfoundation.org)

## Is there a certain form required for slam poetry?

Slam poetry is a forum not a form  
And the difference is u --  
Something living, someone alive,  
It's the difference between a boulder,  
unmovable  
And being bolder, or  
At least moving  
Toward each other  
Because the difference is u.

-John S. O'Connor



"Poetry is the  
rhythmical  
creation of  
beauty in  
words."

-Edgar Allen Poe



## Can I say whatever I want to say?

Yes!\* ...and no.

This event is open to the public, so whatever you say should be appropriate for all ages.

Choose language that effectively expresses how you feel about a topic, but remember to respect your audience - they're the judges, after all!

\*Excessive use of offensive language may lead to disqualification and/or termination of performance at the discretion of PCYS staff. Hate speech, in any form, will not be tolerated. Keep it classy.

## Other stuff you'll

### want to know if this is your first slam :

- All poems should be original to the performer and each performance is limited to 3 minutes.
- Practice your poem out loud - do you enjoy the way it sounds? If not, change it till you do!
- Consider the rhythm/beat of your lines. Try using different literary tools like internal rhyme, alliteration, assonance, and others to make the *sound* of your poem interesting.
- The topic of your poem should be something that *you* feel *passionate* about. Share your passion with your audience; elicit emotion.

# PCYS Poetry Slam in the Park

## Official Rules

1. Each performance is limited to three minutes.
  - a. There is a 10 second grace period, after which the MC will ask you to leave the stage.
2. No props or instruments allowed.
  - a. Singing, clapping, stomping, snapping are all okay.
3. Performers may ONLY present their original work.
4. Contest is open to all youth in Payne and Noble counties age 18 and under or otherwise affiliated with PCYS.
5. Scoring:
  - a. Five audience members will be randomly selected to score each performance.
  - b. The highest and lowest scores given will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to create the final score for the performance.
  - c. The performance with the highest score wins.
6. In the event of a tie, participants with the high score will have the opportunity to improvise a tie-breaker performance (performance must follow all rules previously stated).
  - a. The winner of the tie-breaker will be decided by audience applause.
7. Excessive use of offensive language may lead to disqualification and/or termination of performance at the discretion of PCYS staff.
  - a. Performances should be appropriate for all ages.
8. Hate speech in any form will not be tolerated and will lead to immediate termination of performance as well as disqualification from the contest.
9. The winner of the slam will get to MC the next slam!
10. PCYS staff has final say on all matters relating to scoring, qualification, and early termination of performances.

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**Pre-register to guarantee your spot in the show:** email [kims@pcys.org](mailto:kims@pcys.org) or call 405.377.3380 by 5pm 10/16/20. Walk-ups welcome as time allows.