

FLYING HANDS ASL POETRY COMPETITION

2014

What is the Flying Hands Competition?

Originating in 2006, the Washington School for the Deaf Flying Hands Competition is an American Sign Language (ASL) poetry competition for Oregon and Washington students. It is designed to encourage the study and practice of ASL and its literary forms. ASL poetry is a format in which to instill pride and allow students to study Deaf Culture and the ASL Arts.

This year the competition will be Thursday, March 6 from 9:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. in the Lloyd Auditorium at the Washington School for the Deaf. The address is 611 Grand Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661

Who Can Participate?

Deaf and hard-of-hearing students from pre-school through grade 12, from Washington and Oregon, are welcome to participate in the Flying Hands ASL Poetry competition.

Family, friends, peers, students of ASL or an Interpreter Training Program are invited to observe and support the contestants. The event is open to the public.

The registration fee for participants is \$15.00. The fee covers expenses for the t-shirts, DVDs, and medals.

Poetry Criteria

The criteria and categories have changed to make judging more equitable and to honor time limits. Please read the guidelines carefully:

Criteria for all categories include:

- Three-minute time limit
- Uses Hand-shape Rhyme for the specific age division
- Handshape Rhyme may be combined with other poetic elements like location, rhythm, repetition, etc.
- Fight song is a one category and does not follow a specific age division
- Wear competition T-shirt
- Props or costumes are not allowed (EXCEPT for a drum for a Fight Song)
- Poetry contestants may compete individually and/or in a group or team
- Limit 1 poem per person

Expectations

- Completed registration forms are due **January 23, 2014**
- **No late registrations will be accepted**
- **We will not be able make changes or updates as we have in the past**
- Contestants are to check in at the performance hall 15 minutes before the competition begins.
- Competition T-shirts are given to the instructor
- Each contestant will have three (3) minutes to present his or her poem
- Time is monitored and contestants will lose points if they continue after 3 minutes
- Poems may be under three (3) minutes
- No props allowed except for a drum for the Fight Song genre
- Students will be interviewed for their favorite Deaf poet, description of genre and the poetic process
- All students performing in the poetry competition will be recorded and their teacher will receive the DVDs of the event at a future date.
- The child must be able to be photographed.

Schedule

- Pre-K through Grades 5 will compete in the morning from 9:30-11:00
- Pre-K and Kindergarten receive their medals immediately after performing.
- Grades 1-5 receive medals at the end of the morning competition
- Grades 6-12 compete from 12:30-2:30, an award ceremony follows afterward
- A lunch break will be from 11:00-12:30 in the Kastel Building

Procedures

- A moderator will greet the audience and announce the competition categories
- The moderator will introduce each contestant
- The contestant will take the stage.
- When signaled by the moderator, the poet will sign the title and begin his or her poem.
- When the presentation is complete the moderator will thank the contestant and ask several interview questions. The contestant will answer the questions, thank the audience, and return to his or her seat.
- Judges will have 60 seconds between each contestant to complete scoring rubrics
- The moderator will then call the next contestant and repeat the process until all the contestants in that category have finished.
- At the end of each category, ballots will be collected and scores will be counted.
- The competition will culminate with an award ceremony. All competitors receive a medal of participation or a place medal.

Dress Code

Each contestant will receive a t-shirt. T-shirts are to be worn at the competition. Contestants are expected to be neat and clean. Hair should be away from the face.

Genre

- Handshapes: Specific handshapes are used, and are listed for each age category. Handshapes include A,B,C,O,S,1,5. Handshapes may used in conjunction with a repeating pattern, rhythm, and/or location
- Fight Song: Derived from the Gallaudet (Bison) Fight Song this poem uses a drum and a rhythm of 1-2, 1-2-3. See video listed below.
- Note: Contestants should be able to explain the genre of poem and the poetic devises they are using in their poem

ASL POETRY CATEGORIES	
Division	Hand shape Genre
Pre-School and Kindergarten	The poem must have 3 handshapes of the student's choosing. May be combined with other poetic elements. The poem must have meaning.
First and Second Grades	The poem must use only 2 handshapes of the student's choosing. May be combined with other poetic elements. The poem must have meaning.
Upper Elementary Grades 3-5	The poem must use no more than 3 handshapes one of which must be the "5" handshape; the others are of the students choosing. May be combined with other poetic elements. The poem must have meaning.
Middle Grades 6-8	The poem must use no more than 2 handshapes one of which must be the "1 (one)" handshape; the others of the students choosing. May be combined with other poetic elements. The poem must have meaning.
High School	The poem must use only the "5" handshape. May be combined with other poetic elements. The poem must have meaning.
Fight Song	The poem must use 2 participants and use the 1-2, 1-2-3 rhythm. A bass drum must be included. The fight song must show school spirit or include another positive message.

ASL Poetry Resources

ASL Poetry, by Clayton Valli. These are the definitive works of the late ASL poet, Clayton Valli. Each poem is followed by an explanation of its structure. Excellent resource for learning and teaching ASL Poetry Available at DawnSign Press: ISBN: 0-915035-24-3

The Treasure, by Ella Mae Lentz. Original Poetry by Deaf artist Ella Mae Lentz created specifically for teaching and learning ASL. Available at DawnSign Press.
ISBN: 0-915035-96-0

Comprehensive resource on ASL Poetry history and structure
<http://www.dawnsign.com/support/aslpoetry.html>

Captioned Media Program has several ASL video tapes to borrow and/or view- free for schools and other programs
www.captionedmedia.org

Gallaudet (Bison Fight Song) Several versions can be found on You Tube including, "The Final Cut of the Bison Fight Song 2009"; and "The Bison Song 2008-2009" <http://www.youtube.com>

Poetry genre, title and description are due at registration. No late registration forms will be accepted. Registration forms must be complete.

Contact Information

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FLYING HANDS ASL POETRY

Competition

Registration Form

Due January 23, 2014

Student Name(s) _____

School Name _____ Grade Level _____

School Address _____

Teacher Name _____

Teacher email & phone number _____

T-Shirt Size

Adult Size: ()S ()M ()L ()XL ()XXL

Youth Size: ()S ()M ()L ()XL ()XXL

In order for signs to be seen clearly, dark shirts will be ordered to contrast student's light skin, and light shirts will be ordered to contrast student's dark skin.

Please indicate the contrast you need:

_____ light colored shirt

_____ dark colored shirt

Poem Title _____

Partner's Name (for poems signed by more than one person) _____

Include a brief description of your poem or art piece for the program

Make checks for \$15.00 to the Washington School for the Deaf / Partial scholarships may be available

Submit forms & registration fee to:

Flying Hands ASL Poetry Competition

Washington School for the Deaf

611 Grand Blvd.

Vancouver, WA 98661

Received by Business Office _____

Amount Received _____

Cash/Check/MO/PO _____

Receipt # _____