



SOUTHERN FRIED POETRY, INC. PRESENTS

29th Annual Southern Fried Poetry Slam

a fully virtual online festival and competition

Event **GUIDE**



\$6000

in cash prizes!



SFZ021

SOUTHERN FRIED POETRY FESTIVAL / VIRTUAL EDITION

JUNE 8 - 12, 2021

America's largest and longest-running poetry slam festival!

**Potential for strong language and adult content*

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4 Days
of Tournament Bouts

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Side Events



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From the President's Desk:

Dearest friends and family of SoFried,

Let me begin by saying that you are sorely missed. We have never gone this long without sharing hugs, stories, and life. Are you well? Have you been gentle with yourselves? We celebrate that you have chosen to write - still - and have chosen to share it with us and our audience, no less. We welcome the new faces, those who have only heard the stories about us or have seen photo glimpses of what our utopia is like. We are much like the average family, full of genius and talent, who love deep and only want to see success for everyone around us. But we also fuss and fight and disagree and through it all, we are here, and Southern Fried Poetry, Inc. remains committed to providing the tools and resources needed for our members to be successful at the art of spoken word poetry, and as people living in this world.

So, ARE YOU READY TO SLAMMMMMMMMMM??? You are here because you're ready to prove that you are the best of the best, right? Well, show us!!! We are excited to hear what you have been working on! We have cleared our schedules, got our boutfits on and are ready to hear some amazing poetry. We may not be physically together, but the spirit of Southern Fried will not be denied! We are ready to be blessed and baptized with the words that our hearts didn't know were needed until YOU gave them to us. May your poems offer healing and hope and happiness to our listeners around the world. May your voice remain strong and unwavering. May your art resonate and change us as it has changed you.

Come one, come all. Welcome to the 29th Annual Southern Fried Poetry Slam festival - the Virtual Edition!

- Sarita "Sincere" Goods

President's

Address

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Southern Fried Board of Directors & Executive Staff

Sarita "Sincere" Goods

President

Matthew "Cuban" Hernandez

Vice-President

Sarah Timmons

Treasurer

Dr. Dorian "Paul D" Rogers

Secretary

Eddie Vega

Trustee

Shanya "Lady S" Speller

Trustee

Akin "Shadow" Sawyerr

Executive Director

Dr. Adam "Henzbo" Henze

Program Director

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Southern Fried Poetry Slam Tournament

Akin "Shadow" Sawyerr
Festival Director

Eddie Vega
Tournament Director

Shanya "Lady S" Speller
Volunteer Coordinator

Sarah Timmons
Events Coordinator

Akin "Shadow" Sawyerr
Registration Coordinator

Adam "Dr. Henzbo" Henze
Membership Coordinator

Dr. Dorian "Paul D" Rogers
Community Outreach Coordinator

Akin "Shadow" Sawyerr
Marketing Coordinator

Matthew Cuban
Tech Support Coordinator

Festival Staff

Matthew Cuban
Workshops Coordinator

Sarah Timmons
Community Service Coordinator

Yolanda "Yogii" Barnes
Hospitality Coordinator

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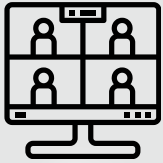


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General Information



- The tournament will be entirely virtual, with teams broadcasting from their own spaces.
- A team is defined as any group of 4 or 5 poets, representing a venue. There are no geographic or team qualification criteria. Each poet must be a registered member of Southern Fried Poetry, Inc.
- Each team is responsible for their own internet access and connectivity. Teams are highly encouraged to acquire hard line connections to the internet.
- Bouts will be spread over 4 days - 6 bouts/day and held at 5PM, 7PM and 9PM (EST).
- Concurrent bouts will be broadcast individually on different YouTube Channels and The Echo.
- Zoom will be used to host and manage the broadcasting of each bout.
- Teams are highly encouraged to have backup devices (additional laptops, webcams, tablets, phones, etc.) on hand to use in case a primary device fails.

Virtual Rules

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Bouts



- Each bout will have a host/emcee, bout manager, tech manager, scorekeeper and timekeeper.
- Teams should consider lag difficulties for group pieces and practice accordingly. Each team can have one pre-recorded group piece per bout. Pre-recorded pieces must be ready for upload and submitted via WeTransfer before the pre-bout check-in/tech check, and verified one hour before each bout at tech check.
- Teams can do as many group pieces as they wish, but only one can be pre-recorded.
- Teams can be together in-person or at different locations, whichever is safe and appropriate for them.
- Pre-recorded pieces should not be professionally produced. They must be recorded from one stationary camera without a distracting backdrop that could be misconstrued as a prop. Solid colors, blank walls, or official SoFried Poetry virtual backgrounds are strongly encouraged as backgrounds. Backgrounds with words, graphics or other distracting images will be considered props.

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Judging/Scoring



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- Judges will be pre-selected by the tournament committee.
- If a judge is eliminated from the Zoom call because of a technical difficulty, the low score will be dropped from the remaining four judges in order to score the round.
- If there are sufficient grounds, the “Mulligan Rule” may be enacted. See Official Southern Fried Poetry Slam Rules for more information.

Virtual Rules

***These virtual tournament rules are a 2021 Addenda and are not intended to replace the current rules and regulations agreed upon by the slammasters found at sofriedpoetry.com/rules-and-regulations.**

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Technical Preparation (Download Zoom)

Livestream Guide



Please make sure you have a strong internet connection.



If possible, use a Desktop or Laptop with a cabled connection, not WiFi.



Turn off any other programs that may use up bandwidth; Pause or stop syncing with online drives/clouds.



If you have a VPN, please turn it off. VPN is not needed for Zoom and may slow down the system.



The Echo Virtual Campus requires a PC or MAC computer and is not available for mobile devices.

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Video & Audio



If you have to use a phone or tablet, your device should be held horizontally. Devices should be on a surface during the performance to avoid being moved.



Try to position your camera at eye-level, placing the laptop on a box, to give a better angle of your face. Make sure you are close enough to the camera, with proper framing.



Please make sure you are in a quiet place with minimal ambient noise. Speak directly into center of laptop or phone. If you have a USB microphone, it may give better quality. In the Zoom app, press the arrow next to the Mic icon and choose your USB microphone.

Livestream

Guide

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Backstage

zoom



Once you log into the Zoom meeting, you will be placed in a virtual waiting room. If you receive a message which says, "Please wait, the meeting host will let you in soon," you're in the right place. Please sit tight. Our technical team will do one-on-one tests with each participant and then send you back to the waiting room. Once everyone is tested, all participants will be admitted into the event.

Livestream Guide



MIC CHECK! If you are not in the Zoom meeting by the time of the technical tests, we may not be able to admit you as a performer.

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Staging



- Please try to keep out unexpected guests - pets and children - from interrupting during your performance.



- Please make sure the room is appropriately lit prior to joining Zoom. Try sitting with a lamp behind your device which will softly light your face. Do not have a light source in the picture with you.
- Strong overhead lighting is only best if you are using the virtual greenscreen. For the best results, have a lamp lighting your face in a dark room.



- As a tournament, we are not responsible for any technical disruptions which may occur on the competitor's end. Please prepare backup plans accordingly. We recommend multiple devices to be used as backup.

Livestream

Guide

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Virtual Backgrounds



Official SoFried Poetry virtual background images will be provided and the use of them is strongly encouraged during your performance. Save them to your computer/phone.



If you are unable to use said backgrounds, then position yourself in front of a blank wall to avoid potential prop violations.

Your experience will vary depending on your operating system.

At the bottom of the window, next to 'Stop Video', you should see an upward arrow ^. That should open your video settings.

Click 'Virtual Background'.

Click the + sign and then you can upload the Virtual Background photo.

Livestream Guide

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Prepare Yourself



Ensure that you're facing your screen straight on. No gum-chewing, eating or drinking.



Wear bold, solid colors. Stripes, large patterns and prints can be distracting.



Feeling self-conscious about how close the camera is to your face? Under 'Video Settings', click 'Touch Up My Appearance' to soften those details.

Want to make sure your left and right stay the same? Unclick 'Mirror My Video' in Video Settings. This makes it seem like someone is taking your photo, rather than appearing like selfie mode.

Livestream Guide

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During the Livestream



At the end of your piece, please say "Thank You" to the audience. This will be the signal to the Bout Manager to switch back to the Bout Host and for the Timekeeper to end your time.



When you're on deck, try to have a smile and be engaged before it cuts to you. Wait to see the screen switch to you and watch for the mute icon to vanish before you talk.



Please keep the chat room open on your screen. This will allow us to send you group or private messages during the event including calling you up to deck next and letting you know when we're about to cut to your camera.



If you need assistance, please use the 'Raise Hand' function. (Under Chat). Do not use the 'All Participants' chat function.

Livestream Guide

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Zoom Bouts



- In order to ensure that all poets are scored correctly, please sign in to Zoom with the same name that you registered for the tournament. Competitors will be asked to update their screen name to include an identification code to help tech support facilitate the bout efficiently.
- You'll only be on screen during your performance; however, be aware of any background noise at all times.



- Please note that during the live event there may be as much as a 30-second delay between Zoom and when it reaches YouTube Live. We strongly discourage competitors from watching any live broadcasts during active bouts.
- All staff and competitors are expected to stay for the duration of the bout.

Livestream Guide

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Protests



A protest committee will be introduced to competitors before the tournament begins.

Livestream Guide

While the Southern Fried Organization requests some grace for the Virtual Slam we would like to remind all of the competitors that they have the ability to protest any rules violations they witness throughout the tournament. When doing so, please make note of which rule is being violated and bring those concerns to the protest committee as soon as possible.

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What is *the echo.*?

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- The Echo is a virtual reality software designed to connect users who are geographically apart. Users meet on a virtual beach, auditorium, classroom or other virtual event spaces to collaborate or just hang out and have fun.
- Once downloaded, The Echo virtual campus is open 24/7 for users to drop into, allowing for both scheduled and ad hoc collaboration.



- This avatar world will be used for side events and other events unrelated to the competition. Avatars are the virtual representation of The Echo users, and are used to interact with other users. Avatars are controlled by the user and give them the ability to “walk” around the virtual event space and speak with other avatars. They are fully customizable with a diverse selection of facial features and clothing options.

The Echo

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Minimum Hardware Requirements



Operating Systems Supported

The Echo software works on a PC running Windows 7 or newer - or - MAC running Mac OSX 10.6 or newer. It is not currently available for mobile devices.



Hardware Requirements & Recommendations

Headphones

A good pair of noise canceling headphones equipped with a microphone

CPU

2.0 Ghz Dual Core CPU or higher; Intel Core 2 or AMD Phenom recommended

Storage / RAM

500MB Available Storage / 2GB RAM (4GB recommended)

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Schedule of Events *Subject to change



WELCOME AND PRE-SLAM EVENTS

EVENT	DATE & TIME (EST)	LOCATION
Registration Deadline	TUES JUN 1	Website
Random Bout Draw	WED JUN 2 @ 7PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
Mandatory Slammaster Tech Check In	THU JUN 3 @ 6PM-8PM	ZOOM
Volunteer Management Meeting	THU JUN 3 @ 6PM-8PM	ZOOM
The Echo Check-In	FRI JUN 4-SAT JUN 5 @ 7PM-8PM	ZOOM
Opening Ceremony	MON JUN 7 @ 7PM	ZOOM
LGBTQIA+ Open Mic	MON JUN 7 @ 9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM

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TUESDAY, JUNE 8 **All competitors must check in to their virtual bout one hour before start time

EVENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
PRELIMS DAY 1 - Bout 1	5PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 1 - Bout 2	7PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 1 - Bout 3	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 1 - Bout 4	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
Slammaster's Slam	11PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

**All competitors must check in to their virtual bout one hour before start time

EVENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
PRELIMS DAY 2 - Bout 5	5PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 2 - Bout 6	7PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 2 - Bout 7	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 2 - Bout 8	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
Nerd Slam	11PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM

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THURSDAY, JUNE 10 **All competitors must check in to their virtual bout one hour before start time

EVENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
Slammasters Meeting Day 1	12PM	ZOOM
Writing Workshop 1	2PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 3 - Bout 9	5PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 3 - Bout 10	7PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 3 - Bout 11	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 3 - Bout 12	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
Erotica Open Mic	11PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM

*All staff and performers are expected to stay for the duration of the bout.

4 Days
of Tournament Bouts

\$6000
in cash prizes!

Side Events



SFZO21
SOUTHERN FRIED POETRY FESTIVAL / VIRTUAL EDITION

JUNE 8 - 12, 2021

America's largest and longest-running poetry slam festival!

*Potential for strong language and adult content

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Schedule of Events *Subject to change



FRIDAY, JUNE 11

**All competitors must check in to their virtual bout one hour before start time

EVENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
Writing Workshop 2	2PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 4 - Bout 13	5PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 4 - Bout 14	5PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 4 - Bout 15	7PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 4 - Bout 16	7PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 4 - Bout 17	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
PRELIMS DAY 4 - Bout 18	9PM	ZOOM, LIVESTREAM
Head-to-Head Haiku Deathmatch	11PM	DISCORD, LIVESTREAM

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SATURDAY, JUNE 12 **All competitors must check in to their virtual bout one hour before start time

EVENT

TIME (EST)

LOCATION

Community Service

9AM

ZOOM

Slammasters Meeting Day 2

11AM

ZOOM

INDIES FINALS

2PM

ZOOM, LIVESTREAM-MEMBERS ONLY

TEAMS FINALS

7PM

ZOOM, LIVESTREAM-MEMBERS ONLY

After Party

10PM

THE ECHO > GO TO > MUSIC ROOM

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Registered Teams

1. Verb Benders
Norfolk, VA

2. Lyrically Inclined Slam Team
Lafayette, LA

3. Say What Greenville Slam Team
Greenville, SC

4. Slam Duval
Jacksonville, FL

6. Beasts of the Middle East
Abu Dhabi, UAE

7. The Saint Louis Poetry Slam
St. Louis, MO

9. Detour Slam Team
Fayetteville, NC

10. DewMore Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

12. Burn Beautiful
Pensacola, FL

13. New Jeru
Rahway, NJ

Teams & Indies

5. BamaSlam Montevallo
Montevallo, AL

8. Secret City Slam
Oak Ridge, TN

11. Black on Black Rhyme
Tallahassee, FL

14. Bull City Slam Team
Durham, NC

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Side Events



SFZ021
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Registered Teams

15. Big Dreams Collective
Durham, NC

17. Puro Slam
San Antonio, TX

20. Toronto Poetry Slam
Toronto, Ontario

16. Strange New Voices
Richmond, VA

18. Team Ehalakasa
Accra, Ghana

21. FDK
Oakland, CA

Teams & Indies

19. The Writer's Den
Richmond, VA

4 Days
of Tournament Bouts

\$6000
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Side Events



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Registered Indies

1. IQ
Geelong, Australia

2. Matt G.
Los Angeles, CA

3. @BrandonAlexanderWilliams
Chicago, IL

4. Celia DaPoet
Northridge, CA

5. Sarah Bellum Mental
Houston, TX

6. Amanda Stemen
Los Angeles, CA

7. Chashawna Wesby
???

8. Ed Mabrey
Los Angeles, CA

Teams & Indies

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Side Events



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Registered Indies

9. Justin Blackburn
Asheville, NC

10. Amoya Reé
Toronto, Canada

11. Gwen Cee
Louisville, KY

12. Sarah Erin
Boca Raton, FL

13. John Stephens
Lakewood, CA

Teams & Indies

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How do you register to compete?

First, it is mandatory to become a member of SoFried Poetry on our website, southernfriedpoetryslam.com. Once your membership is confirmed, you can register your team or register yourself as an Indie.

Why do I need to be a member of SoFried to compete?

We are a non/profit 501c3 organization. None of our organizational leaders receive compensation for our work. We all need to do our part to keep SoFried Poetry going and growing. All donations and financial support is tax deductible.

What are the tournament and festival perks to being paid member of SoFried Poetry?

With membership, you can get free access to all content such as side bouts and workshops in our Echo avatar-based world. You also get to view finals for free which is \$15 for non-members.

How can I become a member of SoFried Poetry?

By paying annual Membership Dues which is \$20.

Frequently Asked Questions

4 Days
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Side Events



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How much is team and Indie registration?

Registration is \$275 for teams and \$175 for Indies

How many people can be on a team?

Up to five (5) members can be on team. There are only four (4) rounds per bout, so one person can be chosen as an alternate or you can choose to interchange poets.

What are the requirements to register a team?

We've loosened some requirements this year due to the virtual nature of the tournament. As long as your team represents a venue and city, you can choose whatever team members you wish.

This year, there is no requirement to have qualifying bouts to determine your team.

How many nights will I perform?

Preliminary bouts will be nightly from June 8-11, 2021. Competitors will perform once each night for a total of 3 nights. After four days of preliminary competitions, the top teams and Indies will make it to our virtual finals which will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Frequently Asked Questions

4 Days
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Side Events



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Thank You

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this event happen. Thank you to our sponsors and our partners. Thank you to our Poetry Slamily!

If you have any questions, comments or compliments, visit us online at sofriedpoetry.com or email us at info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com.

**4 Days
of Tournament Bouts**

**\$6000
in cash prizes!**

Side Events



SFZOZ1
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