

Dear Poets, Parents, and Teachers:

On Friday, December 16, Southern Word will host State of the Word, the region's leading youth poetry showcase. This event brings together Tennessee's top college and high school poets, emcees, rappers, and spoken word artists for a night of powerful performances.

You or your teen writer has been invited to participate in State of the Word workshops and activities leading up to the show. **Not all students who participate in activities will perform at the show; we will confirm with your student directly if we have a performance slot for them.** Regardless, whether or not you/your teen writer is selected to perform, we hope they will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to be part of the day's festivities. The schedule is as follows:

12:00p - 1:00p	Check In and Lunch at The Curb Center, 1801 Edgehill Ave.
1:00p - 4:30p	Workshops and Rehearsals
4:30p - 5:00p	Participants walk to Blair School of Music, 2400 Blakemore Ave.
5:00p	Pizza Dinner (provided by Southern Word)
7:00p	The State of the Word, Ingram Hall at Blair School of Music

Please also note that Southern Word creates platforms for youth to speak about the real hopes and challenges in their lives. Discretion is advised as parents may deem some content inappropriate for young children.

In order to participate, students:

1. Return included paperwork to jacqui@southernword.org or to appropriate school representative.
2. Return early dismissal permission form to school if required.
3. Confirm there is availability through jacqui@southernword.org or school representative. Schools have been allocated a certain number of program slots.

If you would like to reserve or purchase tickets to the show in advance, please do this online at www.southernword.org/2022-state-of-the-word.

Locations

1. Afternoon workshops are located at:

[The Curb Center](#)

1801 Edgehill Ave.
Nashville, TN 37212

Parking: There is only metered street parking available for this event. Parking meters take quarters.

2. Rehearsals and the performance are located at:

[Blair School of Music](#)

Ingram Hall
2400 Blakemore Ave.

Parking: You can park for free in the West Parking Garage, but you must enter through the Children's Way entrance directly across from the Blair School of Music.

Please scan and e-mail the included forms to jacqui@southernword.org if interested in attending the State of the Word activities or have additional questions. There may also be a permission form for early dismissal for your teen writer's school necessary for early dismissal.

All the Best,

Benjamin Smith, Executive Director



SOUTHEN WORD RELEASE FORM 2022 - 23

Last Name:		First Name:		M.I.:	
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Waivers, Releases, and Permissions:

1. I permit _____ to participate in Southern Word’s programs, including virtual workshops.

2. **Media** – I ____ do/____ do not (check one or the other) authorize Southern Word the right to use adapt, modify, reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and display the photographs, images, film, video, recordings or tape taken of _____ by or on behalf of Southern Word. This is necessary for youth to participate in virtual open mics, readings, and showcases.

3. **Transportation** – I ____ do/____ do not (check one or the other) give consent to Southern Word to transport my child via van or in the personal vehicles of Southern Word designated staff for Southern Word related activities. Also, I understand that Southern Word is not responsible for transporting my child to or from programs or events.

4. **Medical** - In case of emergency, I give Southern Word and its staff permission to act as they feel necessary to provide emergency medical or other care for my child. I have provided emergency contact information for myself and one additional person in the event of an emergency.

5. **Mentor Policy** – Southern Word strives to employ the very best staff and mentors possible in our programs. Outside of program hours, staff and writer mentors are no longer employed with Southern Word. These persons are private citizens and are no longer subject to our employment rules and procedures. Southern Word asks youth, staff, and writer mentors to restrict interactions to established program and event hours. I agree that Southern Word shall not be responsible and will be held harmless from any claims or liability in connection with activities outside of designated program activities.

6. **Personal Items** - I understand that Southern Word is not responsible for any personal items lost or stolen at our programs.

Signature

Date

If Signatory is under 18:

I represent and warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor whose name appears above, that I have read and approve of the foregoing Agreement, and consent to its execution by my child/ward.

Parent’s Signature

Date

Printed Name

INDIVIDUAL EMERGENCY CONTACT SHEET

Name (last, first): _____

Emergency Contact #1 _____

Relationship to Poet _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Emergency Contact #2 _____

Relationship to Poet _____

Phone Number(s) _____