



Senior Youth Talent Contest Rules, Regulations and Contract 2017



1. The purpose of the Independence County Fair Senior Youth Talent Contest is to discover, develop and encourage talent in the youth of Independence County. It is designed primarily for amateur talent, but any act which qualifies otherwise is eligible even if that act received pay at some time **EXCEPT** where the person/persons are actually engaged in the entertainment business or paid instructors of the arts. Acts that may be considered professional should be brought to the attention of the County Director who will determine the contestant's eligibility. Their decision will be final.
2. Contestants must be at least 16 years of age and not more than 21 years of age by July 1. Any contestant appearing younger or older than the age limits specified, should be prepared to furnish proof of age to the County Contest Director.
3. **ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE A LEGAL RESIDENT OF INDEPENDENCE COUNTY.** Attending school in Independence County does not constitute legal residency. All contestants must reside in Independence County.
4. The contestant cannot be or at any time have been married, pregnant, had/have had children, sired a child, miscarried or had an abortion. The contestant must have never been convicted of a crime nor have criminal charges pending.
5. No contestant will be allowed to compete in more than two categories.
6. Contestants must compete in and win the Youth Talent Contest sanctioned by their county fair in order to participate at the state level. Only winners from each division will be competing at the state levels.
7. Second and Third place winners will compete at the district level. Contestants must compete in and receive the title of a second and third place winner in order to participate at the district level.
8. In the event a County winner is unable to compete at the District or State level, the County director will appoint a delegate to represent the county.
9. Once named the winning act at the County level, no substitution of individuals or change in category will be allowed for the District or State Contest, musical selection included.

10. All acts must be performed on the stage. Please keep the stage dimensions in mind when preparing your talent presentation: 20 feet in length, 14 feet in depth and 4 feet in height.
11. No contestant can repeat a talent selection two years in a row. This includes name of music, dance step repetition, etc. The district and state level competitions are strongly enforcing this policy as well.
12. Contestants are required to be on time for their contest. Absent or tardy contestants are subject to disqualification, at the discretion of the county director.
13. Entry forms and contracts (this document) must be filled out completely and signed by each of the following: (1) contestant(s); (2.) contestant's parent or guardian. Acts with five (5) or more contestants **ONLY can designate one responsible adult for the group to sign the entry form who must also furnish a copy of the contestant's rules to each contestant in the act.** Entry forms and contracts **MUST** be submitted by the **July 11 deadline. All entry forms received after that deadline will be marked void and returned to sender.**
14. The Independence County Fair is not responsible for items lost or delayed in transit by any shipping method. Entries must be sent on time. The Independence County Fair is not responsible for your district or state registration. Winners that qualify for the district and state competitions will be given an entry form, rules/regulations, and contact information. At that point, it becomes the contestant's responsibility to make certain they are registered by those competitions deadlines. **NO DUPLICATE COPIES OF THE DISTRICT OR STATE ENTRY FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE KEEP UP WITH YOUR ORIGINAL.**
15. Any display of poor sportsmanship and/or unbecoming conduct, any interference and/or disturbance, or any other behavioral problem created by a contestant, chaperone, parent, relative or even a supporter of a contestant could/will result in disqualification of the contestant not only from the current contest but also from future contests. **IN THE EVENT THIS SITUATION SHOULD OCCUR ALL PRIZES WILL BE REVOKED AND REPAID.**
16. **Any inappropriate lyrics of a song in the vocal and variety categories or inappropriate moves in the dance and variety categories will result in immediate disqualification. The contest director has and reserves the right to interrupt a performance if it is not deemed suitable for the Senior Youth Talent Competition.**

17. **No decorative props of any kind will be allowed. A prop must be used as a functional part of the contestants act. Props must be discussed and approved by the County contest director prior to the competition. Failure to abide with this regulation will result in automatic disqualification.**

18. **MUSIC THAT IS NEEDED MUST BE A CD ONLY. NO EXCEPTIONS! A PARENT MUST ASSIST THE TECHNICIAN WITH THIS PROCESS!** It is required that contestants provide two (2) CD's for this competition, containing only the competition music.

19. The winning entry in the categories of Vocal Solo, Instrumental Solo, Dance Solo, and Variety will receive \$25.00 prize money from the Fair Association. Winners from Vocal Group and Dance Group will receive \$50.00 prize money from the Fair Association.

ENTRY FORMS

Contestants may obtain entry forms from the following locations: Independence County Fairgrounds or the fair website, www.icfair.com. No additions, corrections or changes will be allowed once the entry form is submitted, music selection included. Entry forms and the contract, signed both by the contestant(s) and parent(s)/guardian(s) must be submitted by the deadline, **July 11. All entry forms received after that date will be marked void and returned to sender.**

LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE

Any act must not exceed the 3.0 minute time limit (including recorded introduction). CD accompaniment is also subject to the same 3.0 time limit. All acts are limited to a 1 minute time limit in setting up equipment. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** Setups and performances will be timed. All contestants exceeding the time limits will receive a point deduction.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

There are six (6) categories in the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest. Competing acts must qualify by one of the following category descriptions:

1. **VOCAL SOLO** – shall consist of a vocal performance by one vocalist. No other talent may be performed in conjunction with the vocal solo. CD's used for accompaniment will be allowed to provide limited vocal background.

2. **VOCAL GROUP** – shall consist of two or no more than fifteen vocalists. No other talent may be performed. CD's used for accompaniment will be allowed to provide limited vocal background.

3. INSTRUMENTAL SOLO – shall consist of an instrumental performance without vocal utterance by one performer. Taped accompaniment may be used. Contestants are encouraged to memorize their piece rather than using sheet music during their performance. **NO INSTRUMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THIS COMPETITION.** Contestants are responsible for providing their own instruments. The Independence County Fair will not be responsible for anything damaged, lost, stolen, etc.
4. DANCE SOLO – shall consist of one dancer. No other talent may be displayed in conjunction with the dance performance. All types of dancing will be judged in this category ...tap, jazz, ballet, folk, ethnic, fad, etc. Gymnastics, tumbling, acrobatics, or any other form of gymnastics is not included in this category. However, a dance routine may include a maximum of two gymnastics or acrobatic stunts.
5. DANCE GROUP – shall consist of two or no more than fifteen dancers. No other talent may be displayed in conjunction with the dance performance. The same rules listed under Dance Solo will apply to this category.
6. VARIETY – shall consist of a performance of one or no more than fifteen people. This category is intended to provide a proper showcase for those acts in which multiple talents are displayed. Acts that fit the description of any other category will not be allowed to compete in this category. The following acts qualify for this category: song and dance, vocal and live instrumental, lip sync, pantomimes, impersonations, skits, juggling, ventriloquism, magic, and any other talent not applicable to any of the other categories. No act may include a drum set(s) or more than two (2) electric instruments and one (1) amplifier. No baton acts are included in this category. No fire is allowed. When multiple acts apply, such as song and dance, the lesser part of the act must be at least one-third of the act's total time.

INSTRUMENTS AND MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

NO INSTRUMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING A PIANO.

Professional sound and lighting equipment will be furnished and their use is required. No personal CD players, microphones or other equipment will be allowed.

Contestants must furnish their own CD's, which must contain only the music needed for performance and must be no longer than 3.0 minutes. It is required that you bring a second CD to have in case of an emergency. All CDs must be properly labeled and cued in advance and MUST be of good quality. A parent/guardian must assist the sound technician with the CD.

All CD's should be clearly marked with the contestant(s) name, time of selection and music title. All CD's must be claimed from the sound technicians immediately following the contest. The Independence County Fair assumes no responsibility for CD's left unclaimed. No CD's will be mailed or kept on file following the contest.

DRESSING AND BACKSTAGE

The dress code is completely optional, but attire must be in good taste and suitable for performance. All acts will be judged on talent, appearance, preparedness, and entertainment value. All contestants' appearance and talent packages are subject to the County Directors approval. It would be best to come ready if possible. Dressing space is extremely limited. No visitors are permitted in the dressing room including, talent coaches, family or friends. **ONLY CONTESTANTS WILL BE ALLOWED BACKSTAGE. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.**

THE DIRECTORS OF THE INDEPENDENCE COUNTY FAIR YOUTH TALENT COMMITTEE RESERVE THE FINAL AND ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO INTERPRET THESE RULES AND ARBITRARILY SETTLE AND DETERMINE ALL MATTERS, QUESTIONS AND DIFFERENCES IN REGARD THERETO, OR OTHERWISE ARISING OUT OF OR CONNECTED WITH, OR INCIDENT TO THE CONTEST, AND THE RIGHT TO AMMEND OR ADD TO THE RULES AS THEIR JUDGEMENT MAY DETERMINE. THE CONTEST DIRECTORS WILL DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO FAILS TO ABIDE BY ANY RULE THAT IS STATED OR GIVEN FROM THIS CONTEST, ANY FUTRURE CONTEST AND THE STATE FAIR FINALS.

I do hereby solemnly swear and state that I understand the penalties of violating the above-mentioned rules. I also understand that during the course of the competition if any RULE IS VIOLATED automatic disqualification may occur, ALL PRIZES RETURNED AND REPAID.

CONTRACT AGREEMENT - Please sign below:

(Contestant Signature)

(Parent/guardian signature unless 18)

(Date)

Contract (pgs. 1-5) must be returned with your application. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call Pam Lloyd 612-4446. We greatly appreciate your entry. Best of Luck!!

