

# **2015 Washington County Fair Youth Talent Contest Information Sheet**

## **Qualifications and Rules**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> place winners are expected to represent Washington County Fair at the State Fair Talent Contest.
2. Participants may not be engaged in the entertainment business, nor may they be paid instructors of the arts.
3. The age limit is 10 to 21 for progression to State Fair Talent Contest.
4. Contestants must be single and never married.
5. Contestant must have resided in Washington County for six months immediately preceding the contest OR must be a full-time student who has attended school in Washington County for one full semester immediately preceding the contest.
6. Contestants may compete in two categories. County categories and their descriptions are determined by the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest rules. A group is defined by State Fair as two or more.
7. All acts must be performed on the elevated stage. Contestants will perform on the elevated stage unless special accommodations deem otherwise.
8. Musical accompaniment for any act must be taped. Any act, which includes self-accompaniment, will be considered a multiple-talent act and must be entered in the Variety category. Vocal with music must have little or no vocal on recorded music.
9. Talent presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes, nor may any act exceed a one-minute limit in setting up equipment, props, etc. All acts will be timed for both set-up and performance. Those who exceed the time allowed will have 10 points deducted. (At the state level of competition you will be disqualified if you exceed the time allowed.)

## **Registration**

Contestants must be registered on the attached official entry form. Deadline for returning the form to the Extension Office (2536 North McConnell Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72704) is 4:30 p.m. on August 29.

The contest is limited to the first twenty-five entries received. All contestants submitting applications will be notified as to whether they are included in the first twenty-five.

Contest will be held Saturday, September 5, beginning at 6:00 p.m. inside the Livestock Arena at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Contestants should check in between 5:00-5:30 p.m. for final instructions and order of appearance.

**Costumes/dress must be appropriate for the act. Any participant whose costume is not in good taste will not be allowed to perform. This decision will be made by the Talent Show Superintendent and/or judges. Their decision will be final.**

Contestants are encouraged to arrive in costume, but **limited** dressing room facilities are available.

### **Admission to the Fairgrounds**

Gate Pass for admission on the night of the Youth Talent Contest: Each contestant will be mailed three passes, provided there are no additional contestants in the same family. Families with more than one contestant will receive a pass for each contestant and two additional passes for their parents. Any additional persons accompanying contestants must pay the regular admission fee.

### **Instruments and Musical Accompaniment**

Adequate plug-ins for electrical instruments are available. Sound equipment including a CD player and microphones will be provided, and their use is required. Contestants must furnish their own CD. **Any act whose CD has more than the music needed for that act's performance will be automatically disqualified.**

- It is recommended that you bring a second CD in case of an emergency.
- **All CD's should be clearly marked with the contestant's name and music title.**
- **NO keyboard or piano available.**

### **Awards**

The top three acts overall will be presented cash awards of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place.

### **Sanctioning to State Contest**

The top-scoring act in each of the six categories will be certified for participation in the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest. The regional contest is Tuesday, October 13 during the Arkansas State Fair in Little Rock. Contestants bear all expenses for their participation in both the regional semi-finals and state finals. They will be provided a copy of the rules and requirements for the state contest, and are responsible for following them.

Participants at the county level will be notified immediately should there be any updates or changes to the state rules.

**Categories: There are six categories in the Youth Talent Contest. Competing acts must qualify by the following category descriptions:**

**Vocal Solo** shall consist only of a vocal performance by one vocalist. No other talent will be allowed to be performed in conjunction with the vocal solo. Music used for accompaniment will be allowed to have limited vocal background. Judges should hear the Contestant clearly over any vocal. Judges may disqualify any act that they determine does not meet the guidelines.

**Vocal Group** shall consist of two or more vocalists. No other talent will be allowed to be performed. Music used for accompaniment will be allowed to have limited vocal background. . Judges should hear the Contestant clearly over any vocal. Judges may disqualify any act that they determine does not meet the guidelines

**Instrumental Solo** shall consist of an instrumental performance without vocal utterance by one performer. Music accompaniment may be used.

**Dance Solo** shall consist of one dancer. No other talent will be allowed to be displayed in conjunction with the dance performance. All types of dancing will be judged in this category – tap, jazz, ballet, folk, ethnic, fad. Gymnastics, tumbling, acrobatics, or any other forms of gymnastics, are not included in this category

**Dance Group** shall consist of two or more dancers. No other talent will be allowed to be displayed in conjunction with the dance performance. The same types of dancing as listed under Dance Solo are allowed. No form of gymnastics is included in this category.

**Variety** shall consist of a performance of one or more persons. This category is also intended to provide a proper showcase for those acts in which multiple talents are displayed. Any act that fits the description of any of the other categories will not be allowed to compete in this category.

The following acts qualify for this category:

- Song and dance
- Vocal and live instrumental
- Live instrumental group (no vocal)
- Lip sync
- Pantomimes
- Impersonations
- Skits
- Juggling
- Ventriloquism
- Magic
- Other talent not applicable to any of the other categories

No act may include drum sets or more than two electric instruments and one amplifier. This category does NOT include bands. No form of gymnastics is included in this category. No baton acts are included in this category

NOTE: Instrumental Group (two or more contestants playing musical instruments without vocal utterance) was eliminated as a separate category in the 1998 state rules. Any act that would have qualified as Instrumental Group must be entered in Variety.

Washington County Fair Youth Talent Show will follow the Arkansas State Fair Talent Show rules.