

NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS DISTRICT FAIR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YOUTH TALENT CONTESTS

September 28, 2019– 6:00 p.m.
Ozarka College John E. Miller Auditorium
Melbourne, Arkansas

QUALIFICATIONS & RULES

The purpose of the North Central Arkansas District Fair Youth Talent Contests is to discover, develop, and encourage talent in the youth of Arkansas. It is designed primarily for amateur talent, but any act which qualifies otherwise is eligible even if the act received pay at some time EXCEPT where the person(s) 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 / District Fair Talent Director who will be responsible for notifying the State Competitive Events Administrator and / or State Youth Talent Director. The State Competitive Events Administrator and the State Youth Talent Director will determine the contestant's eligibility. Their decision will be final.

Youth Division – Age 14 -17 Years of Age by the date of State Competition.

Senior Division – Age 18 – 23 Years of Age by the date of State Competition.

1. Contestants must be legal residents of the 7-County North Central Arkansas District Fair Area (Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Sharp, Stone or Van Buren Counties. Contestants must not have ever been convicted of any crime or have any criminal charges pending.
2. No contestant will be allowed to compete in more than two categories.
3. Winners in each category from the county competition cannot enter the District Youth Talent Contest. Any Contestant who has competed in a sanctioned County Youth Talent Contest with the exception of winners from the counties can compete in the District Youth Talent Contest.
4. Contestants must legally reside in the 7-county district area for three months immediately preceding the county contest. In the event a contestant's parents are divorced and live in separate counties, and have been court ordered to reside jointly with both parents, the contestant can only compete in one of district talent competition.
5. Contestants are limited to **one act in each of the six (6) categories** from each county per age division.
6. Contestant must use the same musical selection and dance choreography they used at their County competition. No exceptions are given to this rule.
7. All acts must be performed on the stage. Please keep the stage dimensions in mind when preparing your talent presentation:
8. Contestants are required to be on time for all contests. Absent or tardy contestants are subject to disqualification, at the discretion of the Contest Director and District Fair Management.

9. **Entry forms must be legible and signed by each of the following:** (1) contestant (s); (2) contestant's parent or guardian and county talent contest director. **Entry forms should be sent to the District Talent Director by September 20, 2019** Acts with 5 or more contestants can designate one responsible adult for the group to sign the entry form who must also furnish a copy of the contest rules to each contestant in the act. The contestant and one parent or guardian per act will be admitted free. (For groups each contestant but only one adult gets in free).
10. **Each contestant will be charged a \$5.00 entry fee to offset the cost of the contest.** Entry Forms and the entry fee should be mailed or hand delivered to the **Youth Talent Director Sue Billiot; 1028 Sawyer Rd; Smithville, AR.** The North Central Arkansas District Fair are not responsible for items lost or delayed in transit by any shipping method.
11. Any display of poor sportsmanship and/or unbecoming conduct, any interference and/or disturbance, or any other behavioral problem created by a contestant, parent, county director, relative, or even a supporter of a contestant could result in disqualification of the contestant not only from this year's contest but also from future participation.
12. 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 the right to interrupt a performance if it is not deemed suitable for the Youth Talent Competitions.
13. No decorative or background props of any kind will be allowed. A prop must be used as a functional part of the act. Questionable props must be discussed and approved by the Contest Director before arrival.
14. The talent directors and/or district fair management reserves 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 amend or add to these rules as their judgment may determine. Any contestant who fails to abide by any of the above rules will be disqualified from the regional and state contests by the district contest director and/or district fair management.

ENTRY FORMS

Contestants may obtain Entry forms from the County Talent Director or by emailing ncadistrictfair@yahoo.com or they are available online at www.ncadistrictfair.org

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 minute time limit. All acts are limited to a 1-minute time limit in setting up equipment. NO EXCEPTIONS! Setups and performances will be timed.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

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

1. **VOCAL SOLO** shall consist only 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 use sheet music on stage. An electric key board will be provided by the State Fair for Instrumental Solo Contests. No piano is available. **NO DRUMS.**
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 can include a maximum of two gymnastic 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 apply.
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).** No baton acts are included in this category.

INSTRUMENTS AND MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

No Piano or Keyboard will be provided. Professional sound equipment including CD player and microphones are provided, and their use is required. No personal CD players or microphones will be allowed. Any act which includes self-accompaniment will be considered a multiple talent and must be entered in the Variety Category.

Musical accompaniment for any act must be recorded. Contestants must furnish their own CD's, which must contain only the music needed for performance and must not be longer than 3.0 minutes. **Any act whose CD contains more than the music needed for their performance will be automatically disqualified.** It is recommended you bring a second CD to have in case of an emergency. All CDs must be properly cued in advance and should be of good quality.

All CD's should be clearly marked with contestant(s) name, county/district represented, time of tape, and music title. All CD's must be claimed at the sound booth immediately following the contest. The North Central Arkansas District Fair Youth Talent Contests directors assumes no responsibility for CD's left unclaimed.

DRESSING AND BACKSTAGE

The dress code is a must, must be in good taste and suitable for performance (Sunday Best). All acts will be judged on talent, appearance, preparedness and entertainment value. All contestants' appearance and talent packages are subject to approval of the Contest Directors. Dressing areas are provided for contestants who will perform in costume.

JUDGING

The judges will be selected by the North Central Arkansas District Fair Officials. Their decision will be final. Judges scores are confidential and critiques will not be given to anyone. All acts will be judged on talent, appearance, preparedness and entertainment value. The judges will be required to break any tie(s) by considering the overall appeal of an act.

**ONLY CONTESTANTS AND ONE ADULT WILL BE ALLOWED BACKSTAGE
FAILURE TO ABIDE BY COMPETITION RULES MAY RESULT IN CONTESTANT DISQUALIFICATION**