

Fulton County Fair
Pre-Junior, Junior and Senior Talent Contests
July 13, 2024– 7:00 p.m.
Salem Civic Center/Fulton County Fairgrounds

QUALIFICATIONS & RULES

The purpose of the Fulton County 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 Fulton County Fair Talent Director.

Youth Division – age 5 – 8 Years of Age by date of county contest.

Junior Division - age 9 – 15 Years of Age by date of county contest.

Senior Division – Age 16 - 21 Years of Age by the date of county contest.

Contestants must be legal residents of Fulton County. Contestants cannot have been married or have given birth to a child and must not have ever been convicted of any crime or have any criminal charges pending.

1. No contestant will be allowed to compete in more than two categories.
2. All acts must be performed on the stage. Please keep the stage dimensions in mind when preparing your talent presentation. The stage is 18 ft. deep and 40 ft. wide.
3. Contestants are required to be on time for all contests. Absent or tardy contestants are subject to disqualification.
4. **Entry forms must be typed or printed in black ink and signed by each of the following:** (1) contestant (s); and (2) contestant's parent or guardian if under 19 years of age. Entry forms can be completed online and saved and printed. **Entry forms should be sent to the Fulton County Fair Office by July 1, 2023 along with the entry fee of \$10 per act.** Acts must 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 for 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).
5. Any display of poor sportsmanship and/or unbecoming conduct, any interference and/or disturbance, or any other behavioral problem created by a contestant, parent, 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. The Fulton County Fair and Zeta Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi 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 district, regional and state contests.

ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms must be typed or printed with black ink and can be completed online. Be sure to save the file after completing the form.

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 3-minute time limit in setting up equipment. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

There are six (6) categories in the Fulton County 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. Microphones are provided, and their use is required. Contestants can bring their own CD players. 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 music and it 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 music should be clearly marked with contestant(s) name, time of tape, and music title. All music be claimed at the sound booth immediately following the contest. The Fulton County Fair Youth Talent Contests directors assumes no responsibility for music left unclaimed.

DRESSING AND BACKSTAGE

The dress code is a must' and it 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 approval of the Contest Directors. We suggest dressing in the Civic Center restrooms to keep down congestion in the Dressing Rooms.

JUDGING

The judges will be selected by Zeta Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. 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.