

TALENT CONTEST RULES & INFORMATION (updated 5/30/2017)

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to all amateur entertainers; professionals (union musicians or those whose talent is a principle source of income) are not permitted to enter. Each contestant may perform in a maximum of 2 acts and each act needs to be a different type of talent. There is a \$2.00 fee per act that can be sent with the entry form or pay at the fair office before the contest.

DIVISIONS: All acts compete in one of three different divisions, based on the ages of the contestants at the time of the county fair contest date. The Preteen Division is open to contestants age 12 and under. The Teen Division is open to contestants ages 13 through 18. The Open Division is open to any contestant regardless of age. In cases where the act consists of a group of people, choose the division that is appropriate for the majority of the group members. Accompanists may be of any age.

ACCOMPANIMENT: Vocalists may use recorded accompaniment, provided it contains instrumental accompaniment only; **THERE SHOULD BE NO BACKGROUND VOCALS ON THE RECORDING.** You will not be disqualified if there are background vocals, but it will affect the final score. **THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR DOES NOT ALLOW ANY BACKGROUND VOCALS IN RECORDED ACCOMPANIMENTS.** You may bring a CD of your recorded accompaniment or it can be played from your phone or ipod provided it has a headphone jack for the output. Listed below are some karaoke producers that offer no background vocals in their songs. These were found on iTunes, but they also may be available through other downloadable music companies or services. All-Star Karaoke, Pro Source Karaoke, Keynote Karaoke, Avid Professional Karaoke, and Performance World.

CHECK-IN: All acts are required to check in no later than 15 minutes prior to the contest. If you don't check in then your spot may be given to someone on the waiting list. Contestants who are using recorded accompaniments will need to bring it with them at this time.

JUDGING: Judge's decisions are final and scores are not released to contestants or the public. Contestants will be judged on: Quality of Performance (including selection), Stage Presence, and Entertainment Value.

TIME LIMIT: The time limit for each performance is 4 minutes. You will be penalized for going over.

PRE-REGISTER: The registration form is posted on the website www.houstoncountyfair.com. Click on "contest information" then scroll down to Talent Contest where you will find a link to it. If you have any questions you can call Todd Krueger at (507)459-9993 or email him at tkrueger@acegroup.cc. Pre-registration is a requirement and entries will be limited to the first 25 contestants. **REGISTER EARLY TO GUARANTEE YOUR SPOT.**

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about these rules please contact Karyl Diersen (507-724-2330) or Todd Krueger at the number above.