



2019 ARKANSAS STATE FAIR YOUTH TALENT CONTEST

October 14 - 19, Arkansas State Fairgrounds

ONE REGIONAL WINNER from each category will be chosen from each Regional Contest held from Monday through Thursday. These Regional winning acts will receive a plaque and return on Saturday for the Finals. One winning act will be chosen from each category in the Finals. The Final winning acts will receive a trophy and cash award. One overall Junior & Senior Grand Champion will receive a trophy and an additional cash award. All events will be held in the Arkansas Building southwest of the Coliseum.

QUALIFICATIONS & RULES

1. The purpose of the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest 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 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 Manager who will be responsible for notifying the State Youth Talent Director. The State Youth Talent Director will determine the contestant's eligibility. Their decision will be final.
2. **Junior Contestants must be 10 years of age and not more than 15 years of age by the opening day of the Arkansas State Fair. Senior Contestants must be 16 years of age and not more than 21 years of age by the opening day of the Arkansas State Fair.** Any contestant appearing younger or older than the age limits specified should be prepared to furnish proof of age to the State Contest Director.
3. Contestants must be legal residents of the state of Arkansas. Contestants must not have ever been convicted of any crime or have any criminal charges pending.
4. The Grand Champion Winner(s) of the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest are not eligible to compete until person(s) is eligible to compete in the next age division. Senior Grand Champion Winner(s) will not be eligible to compete again. Contestants in the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest are not eligible to compete in the Arkansas State Fair Pageants or the Rodeo Queen Contest in the same year.
5. No contestant will be allowed to compete in more than two categories.
6. Contestants can only compete in the county contest and win the Youth Talent Contest sanctioned by the County which they legally reside in. 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 the two counties in which the contestant's parents reside. The State Fair is now requiring the county send their county winners to the state competition. **County contestants can compete at the respective district competition.** Contestants must have entered a sanctioned county contest to compete.
7. Entries to the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest are limited to **one act in each of the six (6) categories** from each County or District Fair sanctioned by the Arkansas State Fair. Counties with two recognized Arkansas fairs can send one act for each of the 6 categories from each fair providing that each holds a sanctioned Youth Talent Contest. Any tie at the County or District level must be broken prior to entry in the State Contest. If a County or District Fair sends more than one act in any one category, all the acts in that category from that County or District will be disqualified.

8. In the event a County or District winner is unable to compete at the State Contest, the County or District Contest Official can send a runner-up to represent their fair.
9. All acts must be performed on the stage. Please keep the stage dimensions in mind when preparing your talent presentation: 40 feet in length, 24 feet in depth, and 2 feet in height. Dimensions are approximate.
10. Contestants are required to be on time for all rehearsals and contests. Absent or tardy contestants are subject to disqualification, at the discretion of the Contest Director and State Fair Management.
11. Entry forms must be legible and signed by each of the following: (1) contestant(s); (2) contestant's parent or guardian; (3) director. **Director is responsible for filling out and submitting entry form. Entry forms should be sent to the State Fair office within 5 days following the County of District contest.**
12. Each contestant will receive two gate admission passes and one parking pass. We must have the entry form in time to mail the passes back to the director. It will be the responsibility of the Director to see that each contestant receives their admission passes and parking pass. If you do not have your passes you will be required to pay gate admission and parking.
13. **No entry forms will be accepted after 5:00 pm on September 30, 2019.** Entry Forms may be faxed, emailed, or mailed. The Arkansas State Fair is not responsible for items lost or delayed in transit by any shipping method.
14. 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 or district 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.
15. Any inappropriate lyrics of a song in the vocal division, 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 Competition.
16. No decorative or background props of any kind will be allowed. A prop must be used as a functional part of the contestant's act. Questionable props must be discussed and approved by the State Contest Director before arrival.
17. The director and/or state fair management of the Arkansas state fair youth talent contest 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 state contest director and/or state fair management.

ENTRY FORMS

Directors will have the entry form for the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest. **Directors MUST** complete the entry form with the winning contestant. **Directors MUST** submit the application with their Director form. Once the entry form is received at the State Fair office, addition or correction to the entry form will not be allowed. **The entry form must be legible and received at the State Fair office within 5 days of your county or district fair. All correspondence must be made with you director. Do not call the State Fair office verifying receipt of your entry form.**

LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE

All act must not exceed the **3-minute time limit** (including recorded introduction). CD accompaniment is also subject to the same **3-minute time limit**. **The music being used for the talent acts must be the only music on the. CD. No phones, iPods or MP3 Players will be able to be used.** The music must meet time limit requirements. No fading or stopping of the CD by the State Fair techs will be allowed. 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 Arkansas State Fair Junior 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. You may accompany yourself with a musical instrument such as guitar or piano. CD's used for accompaniment will be allowed to provide limited vocal background but is not suggested.
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 but is not suggested.
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. **All contestants must use the keyboard that is provided.** 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, lip sync, pantomimes, impersonations, skits, juggling, ventriloquism, magic, baton and any other talent not applicable to any of the other categories. **No act may include a drum set(s), beat boxing, paint/watercolor, swords, any open flame or any form of liquid. All contestants must use the keyboard that is provided.**

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT CATEGORY ON THE ENTRY FORM.

INSTRUMENTS AND MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

An electronic keyboard is provided (not a piano) on stage and adequate plug-ins for electric instruments are available. Professional sound equipment including CD player and 6 microphones are provided, and their use is required. No personal CD players or microphones will be allowed. **All contestants must use the keyboard that is provided.**

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 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 and labeled 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 table immediately following the contest. The Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest assumes no responsibility for CD's left unclaimed.

REHEARSAL

No formal rehearsals will be held for any division / category of the Youth Talent Contest. A one minute microphone set-up and CD check will only be conducted. Heavy traffic is not a valid excuse for being late. For further details, the County or District Contest Director should contact the State Fair office not more than 48 hours prior to the competition.

DRESSING AND BACKSTAGE

The dress code is a must! (Sunday Best). No holes in pants or shirts. All acts will be judged on talent, appearance, preparedness and entertainment value. All contestants' appearance and talent packages are subject to approval of the State Contest Director. Dressing areas are provided for contestants who will perform in costume.

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

REGIONAL CONTESTS

Each Regional Contest will be held in the Arkansas Building located on the southwest side of the Fairgrounds. Enter the fairgrounds through Gate 11. A guard will direct you to the Arkansas Building if you identify yourself as a Youth Talent contestant. Only contestants and one parent or chaperone will be allowed free admission and parking when entering the grounds, the first time. All others must pay gate admission and parking. No permanent parking is available at the Arkansas Building. Contestants will be allowed to unload vehicles at the Arkansas Building and then be directed by security personnel to park elsewhere.

Registration will begin at 10:00am and rehearsals for each Regional Contest will begin at 11:00 am. YOU MUST BE ON TIME. DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING at the end of rehearsal. If the parent decides to leave the fairgrounds, they will have to pay gate admission and parking when they return.

All Youth Talent Contests will begin this year at 1:00 pm.

One winner in each category will be selected from each region to return to the finals on Saturday. Regional winners will be given instructions regarding the Final rehearsal and competition for Saturday night.

FINALS

The Regional Winners of each category will return to the finals on Saturday. No substitution of any individuals in any act will be allowed, and contestants must perform the same act as they did in the Regional Contest.

The finals will be held in the Arkansas Building. Be sure to bring CD's with you. **All contestants in the finals must report to the Arkansas Building at 12:00pm for rollcall.** Once rollcall has been taken, DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING! *No rehearsal for individual talent numbers will be permitted.* **Finals will begin promptly at 1:00pm.**

A winning act from each category will be announced. A Junior and Senior Grand Champion will be announced. The two Grand Champion acts will perform during the evening Pageant. Junior and Senior Grand Champion(s) will be awarded with additional prize(s).

JUDGING

The judges will be appointed by the Arkansas State Fair & Livestock Show. They will be persons well qualified to judge a contest of this kind. Their decision will be final. Judges scores are confidential, and critiques are NOT allowed to 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.

The Arkansas State Junior Youth Talent Contest is divided into 4 Regions.
 Find the Region for your fair and come on that day.
CONTESTANTS MUST BE ON TIME FOR ALL PHASES OF COMPETITION.

REGIONS

SOUTHWEST

Monday
10/14
 Clark
 Columbia
 Garland
 Hempstead
 Hot Spring
 Howard
 Lafayette
 Little River
 Miller
 Montgomery
 Nevada
 Pike
 Saline
 Sevier
 Union
 Four State
 SW District

NORTHWEST

Tuesday
10/15
 Baxter
 Benton
 Boone
 Carroll
 Conway
 Crawford
 Franklin
 Johnson
 Logan
 Madison
 Marion
 Newton
 Perry
 Polk
 Pope
 Scott
 Searcy
 Sebastian
 Washington
 Yell
 AR-OK
 NW District

NORTHEAST

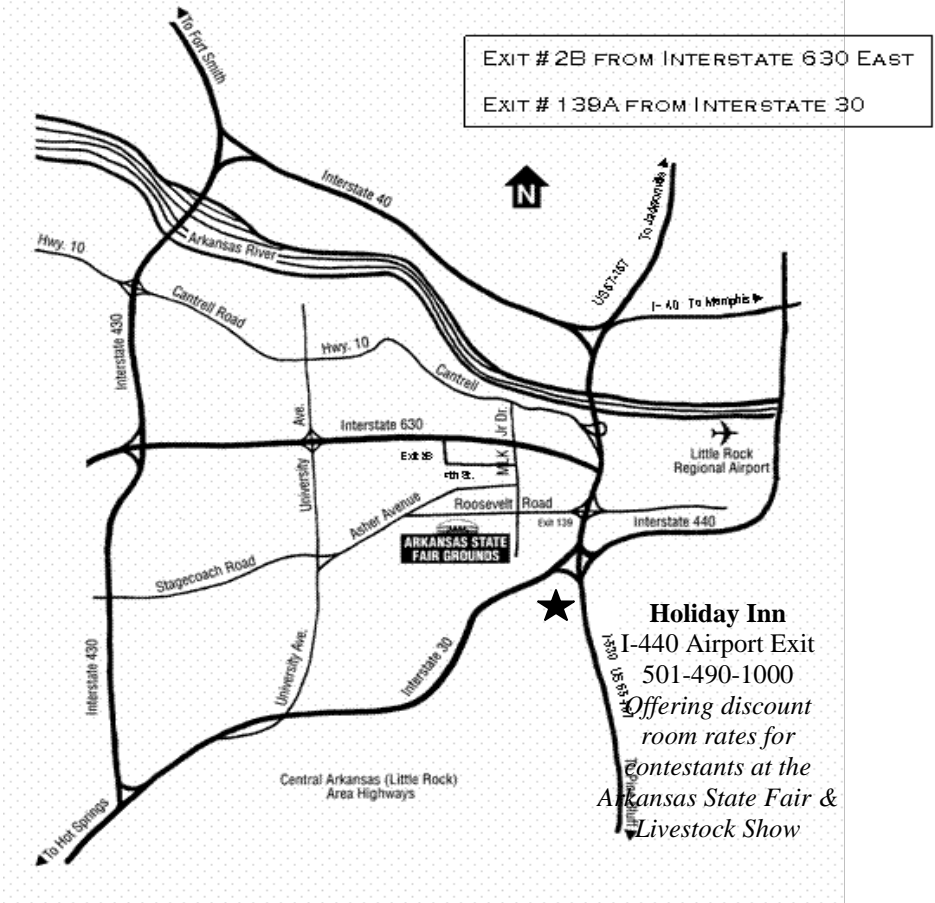
Wednesday
10/16
 Clay
 Cleburne
 Fulton
 Greene
 Independence
 IZard
 Lawrence
 Mississippi
 Poinsett
 Randolph
 Sharp
 St. Francis
 Stone
 Three County
 Tri – County
 Van Buren
 White
 N Central District
 NE District
 NE Region

SOUTHEAST

Thursday
10/17
 Arkansas
 Ashley
 Bradley
 Calhoun
 Chicot
 Cleveland
 Dallas
 Desha
 Drew
 Faulkner
 Grant
 Jefferson
 Lincoln
 Lonoke
 Prairie
 Pulaski
 SE District

YOU WILL BE ENTERING THE FAIRGROUNDS THROUGH GATE 11. VARIOUS GROUPS MAY BE ARRIVING AT THE SAME TIME. THIS INCLUDES SCHOOL BUSES AND LIVESTOCK TRAILERS, RESULTING IN POSSIBLE DELAYS AT THE GATE. ALLOW YOURSELF TIME. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE HAVE **YOUR CONTEST DIRECTOR** CONTACT THE STATE FAIR OFFICE AT 501-372-8341 OR BY EMAIL: talent@asfg.net

Arkansas State Fairgrounds
 2600 Howard St., Little Rock, AR 72206 (501) 372-8341



Access to Gate 11 from Roosevelt Road:

South on Schiller Street, along the East fence of the fairgrounds, to the end at Gate 11 on your right. Security staff will assist with directions to appropriate buildings and parking instruction.

