

2018 MSF County Fair Talent Contest Rules and Information

PLEASE NOTE: Regardless of the rules used at the originating county fair, all advancing acts must comply with the following:

GENERAL RULES

County Representation: Contestants may represent only one county in the MSF County Fair Talent Contest. Should a contestant win more than one county fair contest, they must choose which county they will represent. The other county may send their second place winner as a substitute. Contestants who win first place in multiple county fairs may only appear once at the State Fair. Contestants may represent only one county fair regardless of the division in which they competed. The rules state each act may appear only once. (An act is defined as the same person or configuration of people.)

Eligibility: Contestants must win a county fair talent contest in order to participate. The contest is open to all amateur entertainers. Professionals are NOT permitted to compete. This includes Union musicians and anyone whose principle source of income is from their talent. Compensation for performing at weddings, etc. does not constitute principle source of income. There is no fee to enter this contest. Contestants are responsible for State Fair parking and admission fees.

Appearances: Each act may only appear once in any given show. An act is defined as the same person or configuration of people performing the same discipline. This applies to both semifinals and the final competitions. A contestant may not perform "solo" and then return in the same show as part of a group. Contestants are allowed to also compete in the MSF Amateur Talent Contest, but they may only qualify for the MSF Amateur Talent Contest Finals competition with one act.

Past Winners: If a contestant previously won the MSF County Fair Talent Contest, they may not compete again in that division at the MSF County Fair Talent Contest level. Former Teen Division first place winners are required to compete in the Open Division. Past Preteen first place winners must also compete in the Open Division if they are not of age to compete in the Teen Division. If a contestant is a former winner of the MSF Amateur Talent Contest, they may not compete in the same division for the County Fair Talent Contest.

Divisions: All acts compete in one of three different divisions, based on the age of the contestant at the County Fair contest date. Each act must compete in the same age division as at the County Fair contest, unless act does not comply with MSF age requirements.

- **The Preteen Division** is open to contestants age 12 and under only.
- **The Teen Division** is open to contestants ages 13 through 18 only.
- **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, when not a part of the act, may be any age.

Accompaniment: Vocalists may use recorded accompaniment, provided it contains instrumental accompaniment ONLY; absolutely no vocals are allowed on the recording. For vocal acts, contestants will be disqualified if accompaniment recording has vocals of any kind. **For recorded accompaniment, a CD is required. NO iPods, iPads or cell phones are allowed for accompaniment recordings.**

AWARDS

Semifinals:

Open: Nightly winners receive \$100 and advance to the finals Sept. 1; first runners-up receive \$50.

Teen: Nightly winners receive \$50 and advance to the finals Sept. 1; first runners-up receive \$25.

Preteen: Nightly winners receive \$50 and advance to the finals Sept. 1; first runners-up receive \$25.

Finals:

First, second and third place winners in each division receive trophies in addition to the cash prizes listed below.

Open Division Finals: First place receives \$375; second place receives \$275; third place receives \$175.

Teen Division Finals: First place receives \$100; second place receives \$75; third place receives \$50.

Preteen Division Finals: First place receives \$100; second place receives \$75; third place receives \$50.

First and second place winners from the finals in each division receive the opportunity to compete as a finalist in the MSF Amateur Talent Contest Finals, held at **7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 2** in the Grandstand.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please call **651-288-4418** or email **msfent@mnstatefair.org**