



For Immediate Release: July 11, 2016  
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***Be a Star Spangled Star At the New Mexico State Fair***  
*Annual contest seeks local stars to perform the National Anthem at  
NMSF Rodeo/Concerts*

*Be a Star Spangled Star* at the New Mexico State Fair! For the second year running, the State Fair is hosting a competition to identify local musical superstars to perform at the rodeo/concerts at Tingley Coliseum during various evenings throughout the fair, which runs September 8 - 18, 2016. This one of a kind opportunity gives talented New Mexicans the chance to sing the beloved anthem to an audience of thousands at premier Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association events followed by concerts featuring some of the country's best bands, with one semi-finalist being selected by the general public on social media as the "People's Choice" winner.

Today is the first day that individuals and groups (of 6 people or fewer) can apply online at <http://statefair.exponm.com/p/getconnected/320> for the opportunity to audition for the *Be a Star Spangled Star!* contest. The New Mexico State Fair will accept online applications until July 22, 2016 or until the maximum number of 50 contestants (individuals or groups) has been fulfilled. Auditions will be held at EXPO New Mexico/State Fairgrounds on July 26, 2016, at which time a panel of judges will pick 15 semi-finalists based on vocal performance and lyrical accuracy. Each audition will be video recorded with the top 15 posted on social media beginning on August 5, 2016, as part of a "People's Choice" component of the contest. The public can view each contestants' video in order to vote for their favorite, with online voting closing on August 20, 2016, at which time the individual or group with the most votes will be selected as an automatic winner, having secured a spot to perform at the New Mexico State Fair Rodeo. The remainder of the six winners will be selected by the same panel of judges that conducted the auditions, and announced on August 22, 2016. An additional two alternates will also be notified at that time.

All winners and alternates will receive two admission and rodeo/concert tickets to the 2016 New Mexico State Fair. As a bonus, the "People's Choice" winner will receive a one-night stay at one of the New Mexico State Fair's wonderful sponsor hotels.

For the complete set of rules, interested participants can log onto [www.ExpoNM.com](http://www.ExpoNM.com).