

2020 Junior Amateur Talent Competition



Saturday, July 25, 2020

12:00pm on the Amphitheater

Youth Division (5-12 Yrs)* Teen Division (13-18 Yrs)*

Qualifying Show Winners: 1st place acts qualifying for and advancing to Wisconsin State Fair 2020 Junior Amateur Talent Competition will receive 2 Wisconsin State Fair admission tickets and 1 general parking ticket per performer. Additional tickets may be purchased through Wisconsin State Fair Admissions office or at the gate upon arrival.

2020 Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition **Contestant Rules**

Eligibility:

1. **Wisconsin Residents:** The contest is only open to legal residents of the state of Wisconsin.
2. **Qualifying Shows:** Contestants must appear in and win 1st place in a Wisconsin State Fair Qualifying Show to be eligible to compete at Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition. Contestants are allowed to qualify for Wisconsin State Fair with only one act per Fair. If a contestant/group is an earlier winner at another show and is already qualified for Wisconsin State Fair competition and that contestant/group wins first place at your show, they will receive your award; however, they will not advance to Wisconsin State Fair a second time. The second-place act will advance, unless they have already qualified at an earlier show, then the third-place act will advance.
3. **Performance Classes:** Individuals or groups compete in Vocal, Instrumental, Dance or Variety (anything else) performance classes.
4. **Contestant Age:** Youth Division: 5 through 12 years
Teen Division: 13 through 18 years

The contestant's age for all competitions is determined as of August 1st of the year they will compete at Wisconsin State Fair.

Example: Tom turns 12 in March. When he competes in a Qualifying Show in July, he will compete as a 12-year-old in the Youth Division. If he competes in a Qualifying Show in September, he will compete as a 13-year-old in the Teen Division (his age the following year when he would advance to Wisconsin State Fair competition).

Example: Spencer is age 18 as of August 1st. He turns 19 on August 2nd. When he competes in a Qualifying Show in July, he will compete as an 18-year-old in the Teen Division. If he wanted to compete in a Qualifying Show in September, he would be ineligible, as he is over the 18-year-old age limit.

Winning acts from shows held after the 2020 Wisconsin State Fair will be eligible to compete in the 2021 show at Wisconsin State Fair. Their age as of August 1, 2021 will determine whether they compete as a Youth or Teen.

5. **One Entry per Class:** Contestants may appear only once in each performance class in a single Qualifying Show. Contestants may not perform "solo" and also perform in a duet or group in the same performance class.
6. **Professionals** are NOT permitted to compete. This includes Union musicians and anyone whose principal source of income is from their talent. Compensation for performing at weddings, etc. does not constitute principal source of income.

7. **Prior Year Winners:** The prior year 1st place winners in Youth and Teen divisions at the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition are eligible to enter Qualifying Shows in the following year, but **not** in the performance class in which they won at Wisconsin State Fair. After one year out, they may again enter the performance class which they previously won.
Example: *Chris won the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition singing a vocal solo. Chris is able to enter the 2020 competition in dance, instrumental, or variety classes, either as a solo or as part of a group. He is not allowed to compete in the vocal class, whether performing a solo, duet or group vocal performance.*
8. **Group Acts:**
 - a. No more than 5 persons are allowed in a group. There is a one-minute time limit, so full band setups (drums, amps, amplified guitars etc.) are discouraged. This is not a battle of the bands contest; we do not have the capacity for a full band setup.
 - b. Group acts of mixed ages will be placed in the Teen Division based on the following:
 - i. Groups of two having one contestant age 13 or over will compete in the Teen Division.
 - ii. Groups of three having two contestants age 13 or over will compete in the Teen Division.
 - iii. Groups of four having two contestants age 13 or over will compete in the Teen Division.
 - iv. Groups of five having three contestants age 13 or over will compete in the Teen Division.
 - c. Groups must designate a coordinator; all information will be directed to that person. The group coordinator is responsible to provide information to all group members.
9. **Accompanists** are not considered part of the group and can be of any age. No more than three accompanists are permitted. Wisconsin State Fair does not provide accompanists for the Final Competition or any of the Qualifying Shows.
10. **Advancement to Wisconsin State Fair competition:** Qualifying Show winners advancing to the Wisconsin State Fair competition must perform the same song or routine that they used in winning at the Qualifying Show. Groups qualifying to advance to Wisconsin State Fair competition must contain the same members who competed in the Qualifying Show.

Entry:

1. **Qualifying Show Entry:** All contestants must complete an entry form for each performance class and pay any applicable fees on the day of the Qualifying Show. Groups must complete an entry form providing complete information for all individuals in the group.
2. **More than One Qualifying Show:** Contestants are allowed and encouraged to enter more than one Qualifying Show to gain valuable performing experience. However, contestants will only advance to Wisconsin State Fair competition with one act, from one Qualifying Show. A complete list of Qualifying Shows will be available at www.wistatefair.com/competitions after the middle of May.
3. **Wisconsin State Fair Entry:** The Qualifying Show Coordinator will forward all original entry forms to Wisconsin State Fair. Wisconsin State Fair will provide additional information (including tickets and parking) directly to contestants who have qualified for the Wisconsin State Fair competition.
4. **Winning Contestants W-9:** All contestants advancing to Wisconsin State Fair competition will be required to provide a W-9 form. Checks will not be issued without a W-9 form including the name, address and social security number of the contestant. The Person/information listed on W-9 **MUST** match the person/information on the entry form. This information will be used for tax reporting purposes. Wisconsin State Fair is required to file an information return with the IRS and must have the contestant's correct tax ID number to report payments paid to the contestant. All checks are void one (1) year after they are issued. Checks not cashed result in forfeiture of prize money won.

Performance and Judging:

1. **Performance Length:** Performances are limited to three minutes or less. Acts running longer than three minutes will receive the following point deductions:
 - a. Up to 10 seconds over three minutes will result in a 5 point deduction.
 - b. 11- 29 seconds over three minutes will result in a 10 point deduction.
 - c. Acts running over three minutes and thirty seconds will be disqualified.
Set-up time is not included in the three minute limit. Set-up is limited to 1 minute or less.
2. **Content** of the act should be family-friendly. The Qualifying Show Coordinator has the right to determine appropriate content.

3. **Available Space and Equipment:** At both the Qualifying Show and Wisconsin State Fair, you can expect the following to be provided:
 - a. A stage measuring 16' by 32' or larger to accommodate groups and acrobatic dance acts, with a smooth surface (no carpet).
 - b. A full 88 key electronic keyboard.
 - c. A public-address system able to play CDs, iPod, MP3 or other digital devices brought by the contestant.
4. **Accompanists:** Vocalists are strongly encouraged to practice and perform with the assistance of a live accompanist. Since live accompanists may be difficult to obtain we do allow pre-recorded accompaniment without any backing vocals. Pre-recorded tracks with backing vocals are not allowed and the act will be disqualified. This is not a karaoke contest.
5. **Entering/Exiting the Stage:** Contestants may not perform while moving onto or off the stage. After introductions, contestants may take any position on the stage they wish to begin the performance.
6. **Judging Criteria:** Contestants will be judged using a 40 point scale in the areas of Skill and Technical Ability, Stage Presence, Audience Appeal, Originality, and Overall Performance. Deductions will be applied for exceeding the three minute limit.
7. **Judges' Decisions** are final in all cases except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion not discovered at the time of the award is proven. The Qualifying Show Coordinator reserves the right to consult with Wisconsin State Fair management on any or all cases.
8. **Decision Review Procedure:** Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition will follow the rule interpretation/enforcement, exhibit liability, and decision review procedures found at www.wistatefair.com