

2017 ARKANSAS STATE FAIR SENIOR YOUTH TALENT CONTEST **October 16 - 21, 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 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 Senior 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 actually 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 Competitive Events Administrator and / or State Youth Talent Director. The State Competitive Events Administrator and the State Youth Talent Director will determine the contestant's eligibility. Their decision will be final.
2. Contestants must be at least 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 2016 Grand Champion Winner of the Arkansas State Fair Senior Youth Talent Contest is not eligible to compete in the 2017 Senior Youth Talent Contest, but will perform at the Finals on Saturday Night. The 2016 Grand Champion will be allowed to compete in the 2018 Senior Youth Talent Contest. Contestants in the Arkansas State Fair Senior Youth Talent Contest are not eligible to compete in the Arkansas State Fair Queen Pageant or the Rodeo Queen Contest in the same year.
5. No contestant will be allowed to compete in more than two categories.
6. Contestants must compete in and win the Senior Youth Talent Contest sanctioned by their County or District Fair. Contestants must legally reside in the county they represent for six months immediately preceding the county contest or must be a full-time student who has attended school (academic, not dance, etc.) in that county for one full semester immediately preceding that county's contest. 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 and their runner-ups to the district competition.**
7. In the event a contestant legally resides in one county but is attending school in a different county in Arkansas, the contestant may compete at the county level in one and only one of these two counties.

8. Contestants entering the State Contest as a representative of one of the following District Fairs must meet the residency requirements for that District: North Central District Fair, Northeast Arkansas District Fair, Northwest Arkansas District Fair, Southeast Arkansas District Fair, Southwest Arkansas District Fair, and Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair. Contestants representing the Four States Fair in Texarkana must be a legal resident of and attend school in Arkansas.
9. Entries to the Arkansas State Fair Senior Youth Talent Contest are limited to **one act in each of the six (6) categories** from each County or District Fair sanctioned in the State of Arkansas. Counties with two recognized Arkansas fairs are allowed to send one act for each of the 6 categories from each fair providing that each holds a sanctioned Senior 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.
10. **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.**
11. **Contestant must use the same musical selection and dance choreography they used at their County and/or District competition. No exceptions are given to this rule.**
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. **Entry forms must be legible and signed by each of the following:** (1) contestant (s); (2) contestant's parent or guardian. **Please fill out the entry as soon as the contest is over with the director, so the director can send all the forms in at one time. Entry forms should be sent to the State Fair office within 5 days following the County of District contest.** Acts with 5 or more contestants can designate one responsible adult for the group to sign the entry form who must also furnish a copy of the contest rules to each contestant in the act. Entry forms should be submitted to the State Fair Office following the County or District Contest. The contestant will receive two gate admission passes and one parking pass. We must have the contestant entry form in time to mail the passes back to you. If you do not have your passes you will be require to pay gate admission and parking.
15. **No entry forms will be accepted after 5:00 pm on September 30, 2017.** Entry Forms may be faxed, emailed, mailed or hand delivered. The Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show Association are not responsible for items lost or delayed in transit by any shipping method.
16. 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.
17. Any inappropriate lyrics of a song in the vocal and variety categories 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 Senior Youth Talent Competition.
18. No decorative or background props of any kind will be allowed. A prop must be used as a functional part of the contestants act. Questionable props must be discussed and approved by the State Contest Director before arrival.
19. 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

Contestants may obtain Entry forms from the County/District Fair Manager or designated Contest Director, **or the State Fair Office**. **Entry forms must be legible and filled out completely**, including authorized signatures (see Rule #15) and sent to the State Fair Office. **No additions or corrections will be allowed once the entry form is submitted**. Avoid complications and delays at registration; submit entry on time, keep a copy, and confirm participation prior to arrival on the fairgrounds. Acts that include 5 or more contestants should be sent together. **Bring a copy of the entry form with all required signatures with you to registration.**

LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE

Any act must not exceed the **3 minute time limit** (including recorded introduction). CD accompaniment is also subject to the same 3 minute time limit. **Music must be brought on CD. No phones, iPods or MP3 Players will be able to be used.** 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 Senior 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. No other talent may be performed in conjunction with the vocal solo. CD's used for accompaniment will be allowed to provide limited vocal background.
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.
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, vocal and live instrumental, lip sync, pantomimes, impersonations, skits, juggling, ventriloquism, magic, and any other talent not applicable to any of the other categories. **No act may include a drum set(s).** No baton acts are included in this category. **All contestants must use the keyboard that is provided by the State Fair.**

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. Any act which includes self-accompaniment will be considered a multiple talent and must be entered in the Variety Category. **All contestants must use the keyboard that is provided by the State Fair.**

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 who's 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 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 Senior Youth Talent Contest assumes no responsibility for CD's left unclaimed.

REHEARSAL

Every act will be given rehearsal time only once prior to Regional Contests. **All contestants must rehearse their act in full or they will be disqualified.** NO EXCEPTIONS! While it would be to their best advantage to do so on the day of their Regional Contest, contestants that are unable to rehearse that day because of an **emergency** may request an alternate rehearsal time from the State Contest Director. 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, must be in good taste and suitable for performance (Sunday Best). 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 Senior Youth Talent contestant. Only contestants and chaperones 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 and rehearsals for each Regional Contest will begin at 11:30 am. **YOU MUST BE ON TIME AT 11:30.** It is recommended that you stay on the grounds between the end of rehearsal and contest check-in time. Anyone who leaves the grounds, including contestants and chaperones, must pay gate admission and parking when they return.

Contestants must be present no later than 4:00 pm to prepare for the contest at 5:30 pm. Those returning to the grounds must allow for traffic delays. Heavy traffic is not an acceptable excuse for being late. Roll Call is at 4:00 pm. Those not present are subject to disqualification.

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 for a 3:00 pm rehearsal to learn an opening production number.** No rehearsal for individual talent numbers will be permitted. Contestants will be excused at the end of rehearsal, but must report back for roll call at 4:30 pm. The competition will begin at 5:30 pm.

A winning act from each category will be announced. One of those acts will be named the Senior Grand Champion and be awarded an 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 Senior 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
10/16*

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

NORTHWEST

*Tuesday
10/17*

Baxter
Benton
Boone
Carroll
Conway
Crawford
Franklin
Johnson
Logan
Madison
Marion
Newton
Perry
Polk
Pope
Scott
Searcy
Sebastian
Washington
Yell
Arkansas – Oklahoma
NW District

NORTHEAST

*Wednesday
10/18*

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

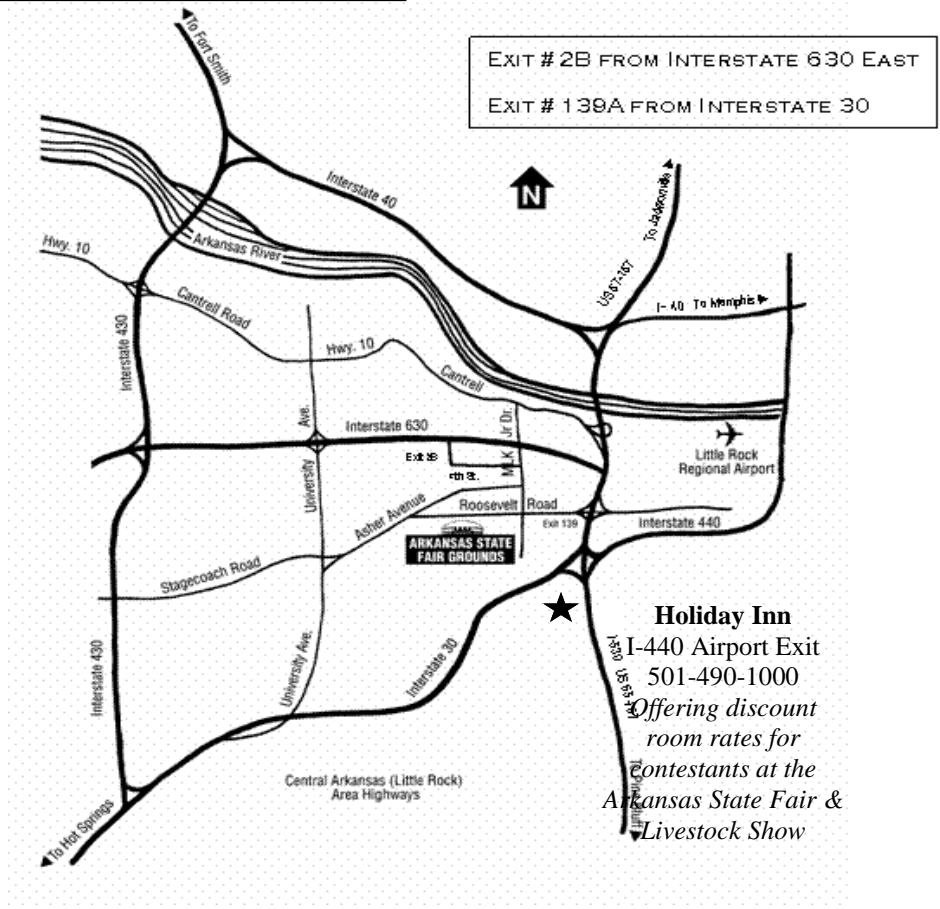
SOUTHEAST

*Thursday
10/19*

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 AT deb@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.

