



2020 Junior Amateur Talent Competition

Sunday, August 16, 2020
12:00pm on the Amphitheater

Youth Division (5-12 Yrs)

1st: \$3,000
2nd: \$1,500
3rd: \$500

Teen Division (13-18 Yrs)

1st: \$3,000
2nd: \$1,500
3rd: \$500

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 large enough to accommodate groups and acrobatic dance acts, with a smooth surface (no carpet).
 - b. 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

Show Coordinator Rules

The program is best presented as a "Free Admission" event for a local celebration or county fair. The Qualifying Show may charge a fee to participate in the show.

The Junior Amateur Talent Competition is a state-wide program open to Wisconsin residents. All participants must be legal residents of Wisconsin. Competition should not be limited to a specific county or area.

Winners from earlier Qualifying Shows in the state can compete in other Qualifying Shows to get valuable experience performing. If a winning contestant in your show has already qualified for the 2020 State Fair Show, they receive the Qualifying Show award, but the second-place act will advance to the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition.

Qualifying Shows must have registered their show with Wisconsin State Fair by submitting the "Qualifying Show Application" no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Failure to do this will result in having an unqualified show and your winners will not advance to Wisconsin State Fair competition.

Promotional Material: You will receive materials from Wisconsin State Fair which must be included in your show:

- a) A Junior Amateur Talent Competition logoed banner (approximately 4' x 6') must be displayed on the stage during your show.
- b) Junior Amateur Talent Competition posters (11"x17) to be used for pre-show promotion.

Preparing for a Qualifying Show:

Judges: A minimum of three judges are required; up to five are allowed. We recommend your judges have a background in the performance classes: Vocal, Instrumental, Dance and Variety (anything else). Judges cannot be related to or have direct or perceived ties to contestants.

Please utilize music, dance and vocal teachers from the area. Individuals with substantial knowledge of the performance classes, including college students, may be used as necessary. Students of high school age are not allowed to judge.

Prizes: Qualifying Shows are encouraged to provide prizes, which may include ribbons or trophies. The prize value must be equal for each division. Example: If a youth winner's 1st place prize value is \$25, the teen winner's 1st place prize value must also be \$25.

Staging: Qualifying Shows will provide the following:

- a) The stage large enough to accommodate groups and acrobatic dance acts.
- b) The surface should be smooth (no carpet).
- c) A public-address system with a knowledgeable sound engineer must be provided.
- d) A CD player that can play through the PA system
- e) Be prepared to play any digital recordings from an iPod, MP3 or other digital device

The same will be provided at the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition. It is recommended that Qualifying Shows provide a full 88 key electronic keyboard for contestants to use. A full 88 key electronic keyboard will be provided at the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition.

The Day of the Qualifying Show:

Check In/Entry:

- 1) Complete the Qualifying Show, Qualifying Show Date, and Coordinator's Name on Entry Forms ahead of time.
- 2) All contestants MUST check in at your show a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour prior to your show to complete entry forms before they are allowed to participate.
- 3) A separate entry form must be completed for each class entered.
- 4) Please review completed entry forms **before** performances to assure:
 - a. Age as of August 1st is correctly calculated and they are in the appropriate age division.
 - b. No contestant is entered in more than one act in any one performance class.

Order of Show: Contestants in the Youth Division will perform first, followed by awards for the Youth Division. The Teen Division will follow, with Teen awards presented after their competition.

Family-friendly Content: Qualifying Show Coordinator has the right to determine appropriate content.

Judging:

- 1) **Three Minute Limit:** Contestants are required to keep the performance to three minutes or less. Judges, the coordinator, or an assistant must use a digital timepiece to time acts. Any acts running longer than three minutes will receive point deductions:
 - a. 1 - 10 seconds over 3 minutes equals 5 point deduction.
 - b. 11- 29 seconds over three minutes equals a 10 point deduction.
 - c. Acts running longer than three minutes and thirty seconds will automatically be disqualified.Set-up time is not included in the three minute limit. Set-up is limited to 1 minute or less.
- 2) **No ties** for any placing are permitted.
- 3) Judges should be instructed to provide brief, constructive comments for performers giving the contestants an opportunity for improvement.

Winners from earlier Qualifying Shows around the state can compete in other Qualifying Shows to get as much experience as possible. 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. The show coordinator must ask the contestants if they have already qualified Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition in this calendar year.

After the Qualifying Show:

Forward Entry Forms to Wisconsin State Fair: The 1st place winners of the Youth and Teen Divisions will advance to Wisconsin State Fair. Only one act may advance in each age division.

The Show Coordinator is required to send (no more than two business days following your show) the Qualifying Show Competition Report with the original completed Entry Forms to Wisconsin State Fair. Please check that all information is complete and legible. Please retain a copy for your records. Entry forms can be emailed to: bevin.ketter@wistatefair.com or faxed to 414.266.7007, attention Bevin Ketter.

Questions should be directed to:

Bevin Ketter

Wisconsin State Fair

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