

**2016 Manitowoc County Fair (MCF) Junior Amateur
Talent Competition Contestant Rules**



1. Divisions:

Youth: 2 through 12 years
Teen: 13 through 18 years

Each division must have a minimum of four (4) acts to be eligible for State Competition. There is a maximum of fifteen (15) acts per division.

A person's age for the Wisconsin State Fair competition is determined at the time they win a local show. A 12-year-old (or 18 year old) could turn 13 (or 19) by State Fair and still be eligible in the Youth (or Teen) division, as they met age requirements at the time of qualification.

There are four (4) basic talent areas (not sub-divisions):

- Dance
- Vocal
- Instrumental
- Variety

2. Allotted Time:

Set Up: 1 minute max
Performance: 3 minutes max
Tear Down: 1 minute max

Acts are required to keep the performance at three minutes or less. Acts running longer than three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction. This will be at the judge's discretion. Set-up time is not included in the three minute limit. Please limit set-up time to one minute.

3. Prizes:

Youth Division

First: \$50
Second: \$25
Third: \$20

Teen Division

First: \$100
Second: \$50
Third: \$25

Each place will also receive an award ribbon.

Anyone who has previously competed and qualified for State Competition may not be eligible for prize money and/or ribbon. Contestants placing and qualifying for State Competition at another event must notify the MCF Office at 920-683-4378 or ensure that this information is notated on the contestant application prior to competition.

4. Stage, Keyboard, and Sound:

The stage size will be 35'x8' and flooring is made of wood. Please coordinate acts within the 35'x8' area.

Keyboard will be provided for contestant use.

Sound system will be provided with the ability to play iPod, MP3 players, and CDs.

Contestants must label music with the following information:

- Leader's Name
- Title of Number
- Entry Number

It is advised that contestants with a music routine have a backup CD.

Music **MUST** be tested by 1pm.

5. Youth acts will be permitted to have one performer who is 13 years old only. If a performer in a Youth act turns 13 before the State Fair, thus making the Youth act have two or more 13-year-olds, that act will automatically become a Teen act. Any performer who is 14 years or older will not be allowed to perform in a Youth act.
 6. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. Accompanists are not considered part of the act and can be of any age. Please limit the number of accompanists to three. Drums, amps, etc. are discouraged due to the one-minute set-up time. No combos, rock bands or similar musical groups permitted. This is not a Battle of the Bands Competition.
 7. Acts are asked to not dance onto or off the stage before introductions. After introductions, contestants may take any position they wish to begin their performance.
 8. **Vocalists are strongly encouraged to practice and perform with the assistance of a vocal coach and/or a live accompanist. We understand that live accompanists are expensive and sometimes very difficult to obtain for some performers. We do allow recorded accompaniment. The judges' preference is a single instrument. Multiple tracks, although permitted, are not suggested. This is not a karaoke contest. Any prerecorded track with backing vocals is not allowed, and the act will be disqualified.**
- MCF will provide a keyboard for contestant use only. Other equipment must be provided by the contestants.**
9. **Contestants may only appear once in any given show.** This applies to qualifying shows as well as the competition at the Wisconsin State Fair. They may not perform "solo" and then return in the same show in a duet or trio. Contestants are allowed to perform in different acts in different qualifying shows, but they may only qualify for the State Fair Show with one act.
 10. Show is open to legal residents of the state of Wisconsin only.
 11. 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.

Competition at the Wisconsin State Fair

- Championship show: Friday, August 11, 2017 (Tentative Date)

Birthdays and Semi-Finalists: If a qualifying show takes place after the Wisconsin State Fair, the act may be eligible to compete in the Championship Show the following year. Semi-finalists returning the following year will perform in the division for their current age. For example, if a 12-year-old makes the semi-finals in the Youth division and turns 13 by the next State Fair, they will remain in the Youth division.

Youth Division Champions: There will be 8 Youth Champions showcased in the Championship Show. All Youth Champions in the Youth division must sit out one year of competition before they re-enter. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 12 years old or less.

Teen Division Championship: There will be 8 finalists in competition. All finalists in the Teen division must sit out one year before they may re-enter the competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence and be 18-years-old or younger. The "Grand Champion" of the Teen division is no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition.

The only exception to the one-year absence will be for Youth division champions who were 12 years old when they won. They do not have to sit out a year and are automatically qualified for the next State Fair. They will, however, be competing in the Teen division. It is highly recommended that they compete at the local level as a Teen to get a feel for the older division.

All divisions must qualify within the age requirement. For example, if you are 18 and don't qualify before you are 19 you are ineligible, or if you are a Teen and don't qualify before you are 12 you will compete in the Teen division.

12. Acts will need name, complete address, birth date, age, phone number (include area code), and type of talent. Acts with multiple contestants need one member to act as a contact person, and all information will go through them. Additional members of the act need only birth date, age and town.

Bruce Sullivan, CFE

Entertainment Director
Wisconsin State Fair
(414) 266-7071
Bruce.sullivan@wistatefair.com

Nick Dattilo

Emcee