

Three County Fair Open Mic/Talent Show

All events are held at the Three County Fair Entertainment Building.

There is an optional rehearsal Saturday, September 7th 2-4 pm

Contest - Saturday, September 21st at 5pm

It is not a requirement to compete. If you just want to perform your talent on the TCF stage we would love to have you be part of the Open Mic Night. We accept any talent and you do not have to live in Cross, Jackson, or Woodruff counties.

Please see below guidelines if you would like to compete and move on to the Arkansas State Fair.

QUALIFICATIONS & RULES

1. The purpose of the Three County Fair Youth Talent Contest is to discover, develop, and encourage talent in the youth of Cross, Jackson and Woodruff counties. 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 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 Talent Director. The Talent Director will determine the contestant's eligibility. Their decision will be final.

2. Our divisions fall in line with the Arkansas State Fair rules.....Youth Division 5-13 years, Junior Division 14-17 years, Senior Division 18-23 years, and Adult Division 24 and up. All of our County Fair winners* are eligible to move on to the Arkansas State Fair Competition. *Winners, defined as, contestant with highest score in the division that is from Cross, Jackson, or Woodruff will be the contestant to move on to the ASF.

3. Contestants must be legal residents or attend school in Cross, Jackson or Woodruff county. Contestants must not have ever been convicted of any crime or have any criminal charges pending.

4. No contestant will be allowed to compete in more than two categories at the State Fair level. The Three County Fair Youth Talent Contest allows you to compete in as many categories as you like. However, if you win in more than two categories you must choose which two you will compete in at the State level. The Three County Fair will then send the runner-up for the other categories to State.

5. Contestants can only compete in the county contest and win the Youth Talent Contest sanctioned by the County which they legally reside in. 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. County contestants can compete at the respective district competition. Contestants must have entered a sanctioned county contest to compete.

6. Entries to the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest are limited to one act in each of the six (6) categories from each County or District Fair sanctioned by the Arkansas State Fair. Counties with two recognized Arkansas fairs can send one act for each of the 6 categories from each fair providing that each holds a sanctioned 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.

7. 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.

8. All acts must be performed on the stage.
9. 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 Talent Director and Fair Management.
10. Entry forms must be legible and signed by each of the following: (1) contestant(s); (2) contestant's parent or guardian; (3) director.
11. 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.
12. Any inappropriate lyrics of a song in the vocal division 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 Youth Talent Competition.
13. No decorative or background props of any kind will be allowed. A prop must be used as a functional part of the contestant's act. Questionable props must be discussed and approved by the Talent Director before arrival.
14. The director and/or fair management of the Three County 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.

LENGTH OF PERFORMANCE

All acts must not exceed the 3-minute time limit (including recorded introduction). CD accompaniment is also subject to the same 3-minute time limit. The music being used for the talent acts must be the only music on the CD. No phones, iPods or MP3 Players will be able to be used. The music must meet time limit requirements. No fading or stopping of the CD by the Fair techs will be allowed. 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 Three County Fair 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. CD's used for accompaniment will be allowed to provide limited vocal background but is not suggested.
2. **VOCAL GROUP** shall consist of two or no more than ten vocalists. No other talent may be performed. CD's used for accompaniment will be allowed to provide limited vocal background but is not suggested.

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. 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.

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. Three County Fair welcomes all forms of talent! The following acts qualify for this category at the State Contest Level: vocal with accompaniment, juggling, ventriloquism, magic, gymnastics, and tumbling are the only allowable categories. No act may include a drum set(s), beat boxing, paint/watercolor, swords, any open flame or any form of liquid.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT CATEGORY ON THE ENTRY FORM.

INSTRUMENTS AND MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Professional sound equipment including CD player and microphones are provided, and their use is required. No personal CD players or microphones will be allowed.

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 whose 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 and labeled 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 Three County Fair Youth Talent Contest assumes no responsibility for CD's left unclaimed.

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, September 7th from 2-4 pm in the Three County Fair Entertainment Building. Rehearsal is not required!

DRESSING AND BACKSTAGE

The dress code is a must! (Sunday Best). No holes in pants or shirts. All acts will be judged on talent, appearance, preparedness and entertainment value. All contestants' appearance and talent packages are

subject to approval of the Talent 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.**

A winning act from each category will be announced.

JUDGING

The judges will be appointed by the Three County Fair. 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.