

## **2011 ARKANSAS STATE FAIR YOUTH TALENT CONTEST**

### **October 17 - 22, 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 trophy and return on Saturday for the Finals. One winning act will be chosen from each category in the Finals. These Final winning acts will receive a trophy and cash award. One overall 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 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 10 years of age and not more than 20 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 2011 Grand Champion Winner of the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest is not eligible to compete in the 2012 Youth Talent Contest, but will perform at the Finals on Saturday Night. The 2011 Grand Champion will be allowed to compete in the 2013 Youth Talent Contest. Contestants in the Arkansas State Fair 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 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.
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. If a District winner is also a County winner, the contestant must represent the District at the State Fair Contest, and the county which the contestant once represented will be allowed to send a runner up to compete in the State Youth Talent Contest.
9. 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 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 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. Once named the winning act at the County or District level, no substitution of individuals or change in category will be allowed for the State Contest. Contestants may change music selection only.
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. No contestant can repeat a talent selection two years in a row. This includes name of music, dance step repetition, costume, etc.
14. 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.
15. Entry forms must be filled out completely and signed by each of the following: (1) contestant (s); (2) contestant's parent or guardian; (3) an authorized County or District Fair Official. 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 **within 24 hours** following the County or District Contest.
16. The final deadline to submit Youth Talent Entry Forms is October 4, 2011. Entry Forms may be faxed, 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. Entries must be sent on time and contest participation should be confirmed prior to your arrival on the fairgrounds.
17. Any display of poor sportsmanship and/or unbecoming conduct, any interference and/or disturbance, or any other behavioral problem created by a contestant, parent, 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.
18. 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 Youth Talent Competition.
19. 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.

**20. 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 ONLY from the County/District Fair Manager or designated Contest Director, **not the State Fair Office**. Entry forms must be 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 3.5 minute time limit (including recorded introduction). CD accompaniment is also subject to the same 3.5 minute time limit. 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 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. No piano is available.
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) or more than 2 electric instruments and 1 amplifier. No baton acts are included in this category. When multiple acts apply, such as song and dance, the lesser part of the act must be at least one-third of the act's total time.

## **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.

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 3.5 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 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 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 completely optional, but attire must be in good taste and suitable for performance. 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 one responsible adult per act** will be allowed in the dressing area to help contestants get ready. **No visitors are permitted in the dressing area including professional hairdressers, make-up artists, talent coaches, family or friends.**

**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 no earlier than 10:00 am. The building will not be available until 11:00 am. A guard will direct you to the Arkansas Building if you identify yourself as a 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. 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 5:30 pm to prepare for the contest at 6:30 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 5:30 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 5:30 pm. The competition will begin at 6:30 pm.

A winning act from each category will be announced. One of those acts will be named the 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.

## **AWARDS**

- 1. Regional Winners:** Trophy to the best act from each category and the right to return to the finals on Saturday.
- 2. Final Winners:** Trophy and a monetary award to the First Place act in each category.
- 3. Grand Champion:** Trophy and an additional monetary award to the best over-all act.

**The Arkansas State 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  
10/17*

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

#### NORTHWEST

*Tuesday  
10/18*

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  
10/19*

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

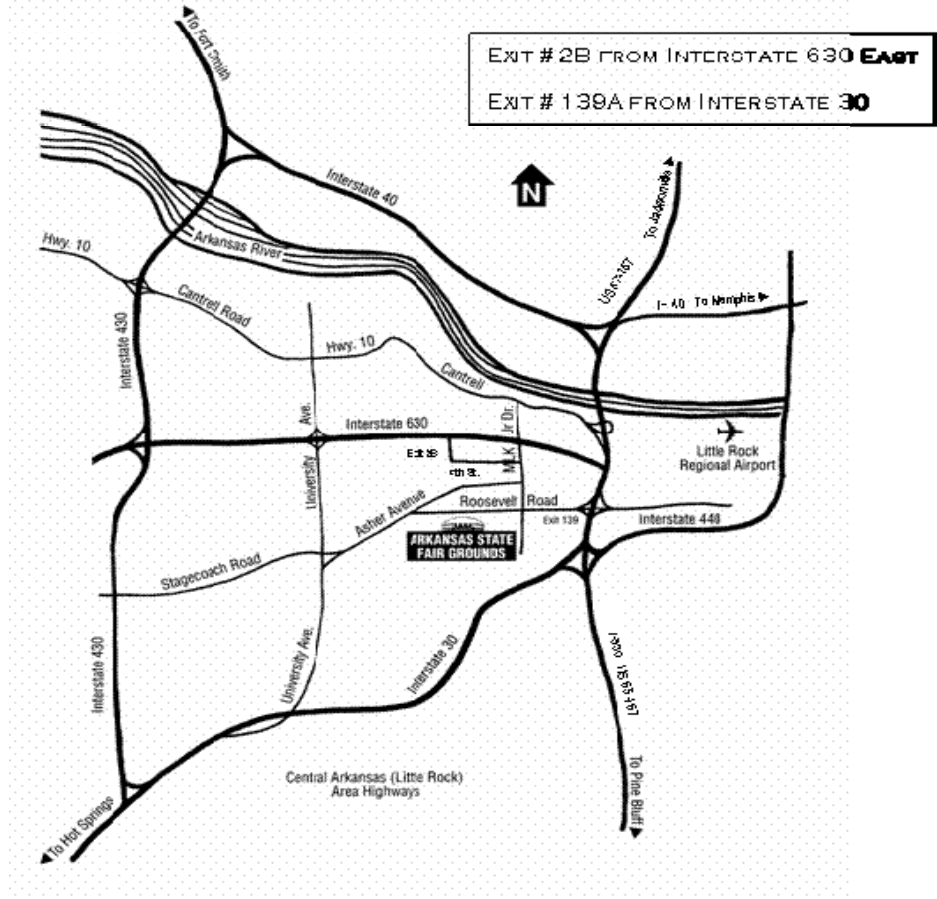
#### SOUTHEAST

*Thursday  
10/20*

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](mailto: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.

