

November 15, 2007

Dear Talent Show Coordinators:

We are already making plans for our 2008 Iowa State Fair. We are looking forward to working with you on the 49th Iowa State Fair Bill Riley Talent Search.

Please find enclosed the rules for the Talent Search. There are two different sets. One is designed for the coordinators and one for the contestants in the show. Please read both sets carefully.

The "List" (location of local shows) is put together from the application sheet include with this letter. We need all information from this sheet to put our list together. This may seem early, but we get calls daily for a list of shows. **Please return by March 1, 2008. If I do not receive a show application, your show will not be put on the list, and will not be an official qualifying talent show.** This list will be posted on the website by April 1, 2008.

Please encourage contestants who are qualifying for the Bill Riley Talent Search to keep dates of August 7-17 open. We strongly discourage making schedule changes once contestants have received a performance date. We need to keep our show fresh with a variety of acts on each day and changes make this impossible. Absolutely no changes can be made when you win at the State Fair and advance to the Semi-finals.

August 3rd, 2008 is the final day for qualifying for the Iowa State Fair Talent Search. Winners of the August shows will be scheduled to appear on August 12 or 13, 2008. Please inform contestants of this.

Thank you for being a coordinator for the Bill Riley Talent show. Without your show we would not be able to hold our State Fair Talent Search at the Iowa State Fair. Please feel free to contact Bill Riley, Jr. or myself if we can help you with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tonya Cook
Special Events Director
(515) 262-3111 ext. 215
E-mail tcook@iowastatefair.org
E-mail riley505@gmail.com (Bill Riley, Jr.)

2008 BILL RILEY'S IOWA STATE FAIR TALENT SEARCH RULES FOR SHOW COORDINATORS

Please read the following information carefully. It is the responsibility of the coordinator to see that the winning acts qualify according to the rules. Please hand out the Contestant Rules to participants before entering contest.

1. The sponsoring group will select a committee or person to coordinate the show. Set the date of your show and return the application before the deadline! Include all information!
2. The program is best presented as a "Free Admission" event for a local celebration or county fair. Young people cannot be charged a fee for participation in the talent show. All participants must be legal residents of Iowa.
3. We encourage competition in your local show to be open to anyone in Iowa, unless limited by you to a specific area such as county only. Remember, this is a statewide show. Winners from earlier shows around the state can compete in any subsequent local shows to get as much experience as possible. If such an act in your show is an earlier winner at another show and is already qualified for State Fair competition, and that act wins first place in your show, they receive the cash award. The second place act will advance, unless they have already qualified at an earlier show, then the third place act will advance, and so on. The Master of Ceremonies must ask the acts if they have already qualified for the State Fair Talent Show at the time prizes are presented.
4. **Semi-Finalists** from last year's Iowa State Fair Talent Search are invited back. They do not have to re-qualify for next year's show, but can win at a local show and win the prize money. We encourage competing at local shows. Contestants will return to the State Fair the following year at the age of when they first qualified.
5. **Birthdays and Semi-Finalists:** If a sprout act makes the semi-finals at the age of 12, they pre-qualify for the next year. They will perform in the sprout division as they were 12 when they qualified. If they make it into the semi-finals the next year as a 13-year-old sprout act, they pre-qualify for the following year, but will compete in the senior division.
6. **Senior Finalists** need to sit out one year from the State Fair, but will need to re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence. They may participate in local shows for experience. **Sprout Finalists** must sit out one year from the State Fair, but will need to re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence.
The only exception to the one-year absence will be for the sprout champions that qualified for the finals at the age of 12. 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 senior division.
Senior Champions: The champions of the senior division at the Iowa State Fair are no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Talent Show.
7. A person's age for the Iowa State Fair competition is determined at the time they win at a local show. A 12 year-old (or 21) could turn 13 (22) by the State Fair and still be eligible in the sprout or senior division, as they met age requirements at the time of qualification.
Sprouts: 2 through 12 years
Seniors: 13 through 21 years
8. When one member of an act is 12 or under, that act must appear in the sprout category. All 13 or 14 year olds may appear with younger persons in an act, but no one age 15 or older will appear in the sprout category or no one 12 or under will appear in the senior division.
9. Only one winner from your show is permitted to advance to the Iowa State Fair from each division (Sprout and Senior.) **NO TIES** are permitted, even in 2nd, 3rd, etc., place. (over)

10. The local sponsoring group is expected to provide prizes, which may include ribbons. The suggested range is:
SPROUTS: Low range: \$15, \$10 & \$5 High range: \$50, \$25 & \$20
SENIORS: Low range: \$25, \$15 & \$10 High range: \$100, \$50 & \$25
11. The stage should measure 16' by 32' or larger to accommodate acrobatic dance acts, and it should have a smooth surface such as plywood or masonite. Provide a well-tuned piano, a CD/cassette player, and an excellent public address system.
12. To help us schedule the shows, please categorize as follows:
- Vocalists: classical, country, or contemporary areas.
 - Dancers: tap, jazz, ballet, pointe, acrobatic, or baton.
 - Instrumental: classical or contemporary categories.
13. Acts should meet with your Master of Ceremonies one half hour prior to the show. The committee will have the show acts lined up with the complete sprout show first; judging, and announcement of the sprout winners will follow. The senior division will follow. **NO** intermission between shows. The suggested number of acts is 10 to 14 in each category, but you must have a minimum of five acts for seniors and seven acts for sprouts to qualify as an Iowa State Fair sanctioned show. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. A pianist is not considered part of the act and can be of any age.
14. Each act will run no more than three minutes. Acts running longer than three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction (judges' decision). Set up time is not included, but is limited to one minute.
15. Contestants may appear only once in any one show (not in a multiple and also as a single act at one show.)
16. 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.
17. **PLEASE FOLLOW AT LOCAL SHOWS: No vocal, pantomime, lip sync, or karaoke is permitted to pre-recorded accompaniment.** Compact disks may be used as accompaniment for dance acts, baton, etc. Pure "mime" is accepted. Pre-recorded accompaniment within an instrument cannot be used for vocal or instrumental accompaniment. This includes keyboards with added rhythms or orchestration.
18. The committee will arrange for judges (three adults are best) to meet with your Master of Ceremonies and declare a winner. We strongly suggest that judges should be recruited from other towns (music teachers, dance teachers, etc.) No parents, teachers, students, or family members are allowed to judge. There will be competition in the sprout and senior categories with the 1st place act in each group advancing to the Iowa State Fair. Only **ONE** act may advance in each category. **NO ties are permitted.** Upon completion of your program, it is the responsibility of the contact person to let Tonya Cook know **ALL** information regarding your winners. You may call the results in to Tonya at (515) 262-3111, Ext. 215, fax them to her at (515) 262-6906, or e-mail them to tcook@iowastatefair.org.
19. You will need name, complete address, birth date, age, social security number, phone number (include area code), and type of talent. Multiple member acts need one of the group members to act as a contact person with all information going through them. Additional members of the act need only birthdate, age and town.

BILL RILEY'S IOWA STATE FAIR TALENT SEARCH
2008
RULES FOR CONTESTANTS

1. Show is open to residents of the state of Iowa only. Acts must appear in a locally sponsored show somewhere in the state of Iowa and WIN to be eligible to compete at the Iowa State Fair. Judges decisions are final.
2. Sprouts: 2 through 12 years
Seniors: 13 through 21 years
A person's age for the Iowa State Fair competition is determined at the time they win a local show. A 12 year old (or 21 year old) could turn 13 (or 22) by State Fair and still be eligible in the sprout (or senior) division, as they met age requirements at the time of qualification.
3. When one member of an act is 12 or under, that act must appear in the sprout category. All 13 or 14 year olds may appear with younger persons in an act, but no one age 15 or older will appear in the sprout category and no one 12 or under will appear in the senior division.
4. Each act will run no more than three minutes. Acts running longer than three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction (judges' decision). Set up time is not included, but is limited to one minute.
5. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. Piano accompanist is NOT included in an act and may be any age. No more than three accompanists permitted per act. Drums, amps, etc. are discouraged due to the one-minute set-up time. No combos, rock bands or similar musical group permitted.
6. Groups must form a straight line on stage for introductions. Acts may not dance onto or off the stage. After introductions, you may take any position you wish to begin your performance.
7. **Vocalists may not sing with a prerecorded tape or any type of prerecorded electronic musical accompaniment. This includes prerecorded accompaniment within an instrument.** (For example, keyboards with added rhythms or orchestration.) Pantomime, lip sync, and karaoke are also not allowed with a prerecorded accompaniment of any kind. Compact disks or cassette tapes may be used as accompaniment for dance acts, baton, etc. Pure "mime" is accepted.
8. Contestants may only appear once in any given show. 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 shows, but they may only qualify for the State Fair Show with one act.
9. 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.
10. **Competition at the State Fair:**
 - Preliminary rounds: First seven days
 - Semi finals: Days 8, 9, and 10
 - Championship show: Day 11There will be 5 acts advancing to the semi-final round from each age group during the preliminaries. (over)

- Three senior division acts advance to the championship show from each semi-final round.
- Two sprout acts will be crowned champions every semi-final day. They will perform in the finals Sunday, but will no longer be competing.

11. Semi-Finalists: Semi-finalists from last year's Iowa State Fair Talent Search are automatically qualified for the next State fair competition. You do not have to re-qualify for next year's show by winning a local level show, but are encouraged to compete at local shows. If you win a local level show, you are entitled to the prize money, but you must inform the Master of Ceremonies that you have already qualified for the State Fair. The second place winner will then be able to advance to the State Fair competition. Remember you are entitled to the 1st place prize money.

12. Birthdays and Semi-Finalists: If a sprout act makes the semi-finals at the age of 12, they pre-qualify for the next year. They will perform in the sprout division as they were 12 when they qualified. If they make it into the semi-finals the next year as a 13 year- old sprout act, they pre-qualify for the following year, but will compete in the senior division.

13. Senior Finalists: There will be 9 finalists competing in the championship show, which is the last Sunday of the State Fair. All finalists must sit out the next year from State Fair competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 21 years old or less.

Sprout Champions: There will be 6 sprout acts performing in the championship show. They are already champions and are no longer competing. Sprout champions must sit out one year from State Fair competition, but will need to re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence.

Senior Champions: The champion of the senior division is no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Talent Show

"The only exception to the one-year absence will be for sprout champions who were 12 year 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 senior division. It is highly recommended that they compete at the local level as a senior to get a feel for the older division."

Seniors and Sprouts must qualify within the age requirement. For example, if you are 21 and don't qualify before you are 22 you are ineligible, or if you are a sprout and don't qualify before you are 13 you will compete in the senior division.

14. You will need name, complete address, birth date, age, social security number, phone number (include area code), and type of talent. Multiple acts need one member to act as a contact person with all information going through them. Additional members of the act need only birthdate, age, and town.

Contact Tonya Cook at the Iowa State Fair for more information.

Phone: (515) 262-3111, Ext. 215

Fax: (515) 262-6906

E-mail: tcook@iowastatefair.org

E-mail: riley505@gmail.com (Bill Riley Jr.)

2008 BILL RILEY TALENT SEARCH
SHOW APPLICATION

PLEASE RETURN BY MARCH 1, 2008

Date _____ City _____
(Show date) (Location of show)

In conjunction with _____
(County fair, fun days, etc.)

Name _____
(Contact person coordinating contest)

Address _____
(Street, box)

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____

CHECK OPTIONS APPLYING TO YOUR SHOW:

Area residents only _____ Show is open to anyone _____

Do not contact before a certain date _____

Former coordinator whose name should be removed from mailing list:

_____ No show this year; remove my name from mailing list.

_____ No show this year; leave on mailing list for next year.

For your show to be placed on "The List" which will be posted on www.iowastatefair.org, you **MUST** return the above application by **March 1, 2008**.

Return to:

Tonya Cook
Iowa State Fair
PO Box 57130
Des Moines, IA 50317-0003

Fax No: (515) 262-6906
E-mail: tcook@iowastatefair.org