

Columbia County's got Talent

Columbia County FAIR

Wednesday & Thursday **Sept. 1 & 2, 2010**

CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION

Categories of competition

Junior Division (ages 12 and under as of September 1, 2010) and

Senior Division (ages 13 and older as of September 1, 2010)

1. **Individual vocal** ("vocal" includes spoken word performers)
2. **Ensemble (2 or more) vocal**
3. **Individual instrumental**
4. **Ensemble instrumental**
5. **Individual dance** ("dance" includes cheerleaders and gymnasts who supply their own safety mats)
6. **Ensemble dance**

Eligibility

1. Individual contestants must be Columbia County residents or residents of a New York State county which does not have a County Fair with a talent contest. At least one-half of the members of an ensemble entry must meet one of these residence criteria.
2. If an ensemble entry includes some contestants who are 12 or younger and some who are 13 or older, the ensemble will compete in the division into which most of its members belong. If the ensemble members' ages are exactly half Junior Division and half Senior Division, they will compete in the Senior Division.
3. Contestants must be prepared to produce proof of age at any time during the contest.
4. Contestants must be amateurs. They must not have been under contract for reimbursement for performance at the Fair, nor are union card holders eligible to compete.

Criteria for judging

1. **Audience appeal (15 points)** - based on suitability of performance selection, stage presence, professional appearance and suitability of costume or mode of dress
2. **Artistic merit (30 points)** - based on "correctness" of execution (considering level of difficulty of piece and performer's age) and level of professionalism (e.g. qualities beyond mere "correctness")

Application procedure

1. Fill out and return application form. Include a video or DVD of your exact performance, including costumes or other appropriate dress. Performances may not exceed 5 minutes. You must wear in the contest what you present in the video. Applicants who cannot produce a video may request a live audition of the exact performance and exact attire to be used in the contest. Auditions will be held on Saturday, August 28, at the NorthGate Stage. We will contact you to set up an audition time.
2. Application materials can be dropped off at the Chatham Book Store or mailed either to Columbia County Agricultural Society, Box 257, Chatham, NY 12037 (Attention: Talent Contest), or mailed to Mrs. Marilyn Barry, 150 Albany Turnpike, Old Chatham, NY 12136.
3. Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, August 17, or personally delivered by Thursday, August 19. In case we do not have enough scheduled time to present all contestants in our competition, suitable applications will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis.

Applications with videos will be given preference on our wait list over applicants who request a live audition. We hope to be able to accept every applicant.

Prizes

1. Every participant will receive a ribbon.
2. First, second, and third place winners in all six categories and in each age division will receive trophies.
3. First place winners in each category and in both age divisions will compete on Thursday evening, September 3, in the Columbia County's Got Talent! Finals. There will be two grand prizes, one in the Junior Division and one in the Senior Division.
4. First and second place winners in all categories and in both age divisions will be eligible to participate in the New York State Fair Talent Showcase. Columbia County winners will be scheduled immediately by the State Contest Coordinator in order to compete as early as Friday, September 3 (Junior Division) or Saturday, September 4 (Senior Division). State contestants will be responsible for their own transportation and expenses. Contest details for the State Fair competition can be viewed online at www.nysfair.org.
5. Performers who think they might like to compete at the State Fair should study the State Fair competition guidelines ahead of time to make sure that their acts conform to all State requirements. In a few instances an act which qualifies at the local level might not meet State requirements.

Additional information

1. Junior Division competition will begin at 3:00PM on Wednesday, September 1. Senior Division competition starts at 2:00PM on Thursday, September 2. Finals will begin at 8:00PM on Thursday, September 2. There are no contest entry fees, but regular Fair admission fees apply, with one exception: Junior Division finalists competing at 8:00PM on Thursday are eligible for free admission for themselves and up to two chaperones on Thursday only.
2. Performances which require large spaces or more than 1 or 2 minutes of setup time cannot be accommodated. Our available performance space is approximately 24'x24'. The stage is about 30" high and is reached by a small set of steps. The floor surface is pressure treated hardwood. We will provide a sound system with microphones and stands, and we can accommodate one electronic device in addition to a CD. For example, a performer could bring a CD and also plug in a keyboard ... and sing! Accompaniments prerecorded on iPods or Mp3 players can be connected to the sound system.
3. Performers using pre-recorded music must bring their music CD or electronic device to the contest. The CD or Mp3 player must contain only the performer's contest selection, or must be readied for immediate playback of the contest piece. No time to "hunt" for your piece. You will be notified ahead of time of your slot in the performance schedule.

Questions?

Contact one of the following: Fair Manager Angelo Nero 392-2121
Director Marilyn Barry 392-1401