

2012 Bill Riley's Iowa State Fair Talent Search Show Coordinator Rules

1. 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.
2. The Talent Search is a state wide program. We encourage competition in your local show to be open to anyone in Iowa. Please do not limit the competition to a specific county or area. We continue to get reports of this activity and it is very disappointing. This is a program for all young Iowans, not just from your hometown. One suggestion would be to have a local talent show (not BRTS) for your residents only, with those winners going on to perform in your BRTS 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 Search.
3. Judges: A minimum of three judges are required, and up to five is advised. The Talent Search can be broken down into three basic areas; Dance, Vocal and Instrumental. We strongly advise judges with a background in these areas. Please access music, dance, and vocal teachers from the area; but they cannot have direct ties to the competitors. College students may be used, if need be, but they must have a declared major in one of the areas. No high school students or relatives of participants are allowed to judge. There will be competition in the Sprout and Senior categories with the first 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 your 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 email them to tcook@iowastatefair.org or specialevents2@iowastatefair.org. It is very important that the results are sent in immediately as scheduling is a detailed process.

Judging Comments: The Bill Riley Talent Search presents a nice opportunity for professional judges to help foster growth and improvement with all the young Iowans that compete in the program. Please make comment sheets available for all performers. These do not have to be lengthy, just some brief, constructive comments.

4. **Semi-Finalists:** Semi-Finalists from last year's Iowa State Fair Talent Search are prequalified for next year's State Fair competition. They are encouraged to compete at local shows. If they win, they are to receive the prize money, but the next place winner will advance to compete at the Iowa State Fair; since they have already advanced.
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. If they turn 13 prior to the start of the Iowa State Fair they would be competing in the "Senior" division. If the birthday falls during the Iowa State Fair they will stay in the "Sprout" division.

6. **Championship Show:**

Sprout Division Championship: There will be 6 Sprouts being showcased in the Championship Show. All six champions of the Sprout Division must sit out one year of competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 12 years old or less.

Senior Division Championship: There will be 9 finalists competing in the Championship show. All finalists in the Senior Division must sit out one year. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 21 years old or less. The "Grand Champion" of the Senior division is no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Talent Search.

The only exception to the one-year absence will be for Sprout 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 Senior division. It is highly recommended that they compete at the local level as a Senior to get a feel for the older division.

7. **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. All Sprout acts must qualify for the State Fair at the age of 12 or under.**

Age Groups: Sprouts: 2 through 12 years. Seniors: 13 through 21. All divisions are in competition. A person's age for the Iowa State Fair competition is determined at the time they win at a local show. If a 12 or 21 year-old has a birthday after qualifying for the State Fair competition, they will compete in the division they were in when they qualified.

8. Sprout acts will be permitted to have one performer who is 13 years old only. If a performer in a Sprout act turns 13 before the State Fair, thus making the Sprout act have two or more 13 year olds, that act will automatically become a Senior act. Any performer who is 14 years or older will not be allowed to perform in a Sprout act.
9. **Winners:** 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 in all placing.
10. The local sponsoring group is expected to provide prizes, which may include ribbons or trophies. 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; no carpet please. This is very important to the dancers. Please provide them with a quality stage area. Provide a well-tuned piano with a full keyboard. Please provide an excellent public address system, with a competent sound engineer. You must also provide a CD player that will play through the PA system and try to be prepared for any digital playback from iPod, MP3's and other digital devices.
12. To help us schedule the acts as they advance to the Iowa State Fair, please categorize as follows:
- Vocalists: classical, country, or contemporary areas.
 - Dancers: tap, jazz, ballet, pointe, acrobatic, or baton.
 - Instrumental: classical or contemporary categories.
13. **Check In:** Acts should meet with your Master of Ceremonies a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour prior to the show to get checked in. The Sprout division performs first followed by the Senior division. Judging is to be done between each division in order to give the judges plenty of time for their decision. Awards to follow each division.

14. There must be four acts signed up ahead of time in each division to qualify as an Iowa State Fair sanctioned show. We suggest no more than fifteen acts in each division. 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. You must also have registered your show with the Iowa State Fair by filling out the Show Application. Failure to do this will result in having an unofficial show and your winners will not advance!
15. **Timing Acts.** Acts must keep the performance to three minutes. Acts timed past three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction. Five seconds over would be a starting point to begin deductions, if ten seconds to three minutes over you are well within your right as a judge for disqualification. This is at the judges' discretion and should be monitored closely. At the local level this would be a great opportunity to let an act know that they were over the time limit. Please don't allow an act to advance to the State Fair competition only to be disqualified at that level. We have two different timers at the State level so we are very serious about the three minute rule. Set up time is not included. Please try to limit set up time to one minute.
16. Contestants may appear only once in any one show (not in a multiple and also as a single act at one show.)
17. 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.
18. 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 birth date, age and town.

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 will allow prerecorded accompaniment and suggest that it be a single track. We understand that "Musical Theater" acts will have multiple tracts, but we are trying to develop vocalists and do not want the Talent Search to turn into a karaoke contest. Any prerecorded tape with backing vocals is not allowed, and the act will be disqualified. Coordinators and Judges, please pay close attention to this!

Good luck with your show!

Please contact us with any questions.

Bill Riley Jr.

Bill Riley Talent Search
(515) 202-6232
rileystage@gmail.com

Tonya Cook

Special Events Director
Iowa State Fair
(515) 262-3111 ext. 215
tcook@iowastatefair.org

2012 Bill Riley Talent Search Show Application

Please return by May 15, 2012

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

In conjunction with _____
(county fair, town celebration, etc.)

Name _____
(Contact person coordinating contest)

Address _____
(Street, PO Box)

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Do not contact before a certain date _____

Your show must be placed on the “Show List” to be an Iowa State Fair sanctioned show. To do this, you must return the above application by May 15, 2012.

The “Show List” will be posted on www.iowastatefair.org.

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