

**Pickin' on the Plains
Bluegrass Youth Talent Contest
Rules and Procedures**

DIVISIONS: A) Instrumental solo - Ages 10 and under
B) Instrumental solo - Ages 11 - 16
C) Band - Ages 16 and under (2 or more in group, vocal or Instrumental)
D) Vocal solo

PRIZES: First, second and third place will be awarded for each division.
First prize: \$40.00, Second prize: \$25.00, Third prize: \$10.00

RULES: Each contestant:

1. Will perform 2 songs, the total time of which shall not exceed 8 minutes;
2. Will perform on instruments usually associated with bluegrass music;
3. May have one back-up musician for rhythm only. The backup musician may not sing or play any instrumental breaks;
4. May enter in more than one category.

BANDS:

1. Will be any group of two or more, and may play instrumentals and/or sing;
2. May have a back-up musician over age 16 for rhythm only;
3. May not have any members who are performing as contracted musicians in this years' festival.

PROCEDURE OF CONTEST:

1. All contestants must register before their category is finished;
2. There will be no entry fee charged.
3. Order of sign in will be order of play, unless any contestant requests a draw for order of play. In that case, a random drawing will be held to determine order of play. Contestants will forfeit their place in the contest if he/she fails to show up at appointed

time.

4. Contestants may announce their songs if they prefer, or announcer may do it for them.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

1. Relatives of contestants may not be judges.
2. No audience ballots or applause meters will be used.
3. No recorded music may be utilized.
4. Contestants will be judged according to the following categories:
 - a) How well material reflects bluegrass/folk style (however does not have to be traditional style)
 - b) Tightness of performance (intonation and articulation)
 - c) Originality of arrangement
 - d) Stage presence/appearance
 - e) Talent

5. TIEBREAKERS:

In the event of a tie, the first tiebreaker shall be the highest number of points awarded in the Talent category. The second Tiebreaker shall be the highest number of points awarded in the Stage Presence/Appearance category. The third tiebreaker Shall be a secret ballot by the judges.

*Pickin' on the Plains
Bluegrass Youth Contest Committee*