

## Definition of a Professional Entertainer

The Tennessee Valley Fair Youth Talent Contest is designed for competition among amateur entertainers. A professional entertainer is hereby defined as one who earns more than one-half his/her normal living expenses by performing in any of the categories of competition of the Tennessee Valley Fair Youth Talent Contest, i.e. a professional dancer may not compete in the Youth Talent Contest as an amateur singer, musician, etc. A professional is further defined for Youth Talent Contest purposes as one who is a union member or one who has signed a contract with a professional agent or manager who is paid with either salary or commission for services rendered in securing employment in the entertainment field. Furthermore, an entertainer who sings or otherwise performs on any record released for commercial distribution through normal retail outlets shall be considered a professional by the Youth Talent Contest. This does not prohibit an entertainer from self-producing a record for sale or distribution to friends and associates such as in church group activities.

# 2009 Tennessee Valley Fair Regional Youth Talent Contest Rules

1. Age limits are 13 through 21, inclusive, as of September 16, 2009.
2. This contest is not open to professionals. Professional is defined as anyone who is a union member, has a professional manager or whose principle and supporting income is derived from performing.
3. This contest is not open to baton twirlers or similar acts using batons or machetes. No fire will be allowed on the stage during this competition.
4. In any vocal category, instrumental accompaniment by the persons in the act or others is allowed, but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. The test shall be whether the performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed. **NO vocal utterance may be used accompaniment by contestants in any vocal category. NO VOCAL BACKGROUNDS ALLOWED ON CDs.**
5. In an instrumental solo, live instrumental accompaniment is allowed, but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. The test shall be the solo performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed. No instrument of the same nature may be used for accompaniment.
6. In a band, no accompaniment is allowed. All performers must meet the age qualifications of the Tennessee Valley Fair Regional Youth Talent Contest.
7. In any dance category, accompanists are permitted on stage, but must not assume visual importance in the performance.
8. In a group act, all persons assuming visual importance in the act must meet the age qualifications of the Tennessee Valley Fair Regional Youth Talent Contest.
9. Any act may drop a member as listed on the entry form, but **MAY NOT ADD OR REPLACE** any member listed on the form.
10. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ACT SHOULD RUN NO MORE THAN 3 MINUTES AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES RUN MORE THAN 4 MINUTES. ANY ACT RUNNING MORE THAN 4 MINUTES **WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.** THIS INCLUDES BANDS. AN OFFICIAL TIMER WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CONTEST.
11. All contestants will use only the lighting system provided.
12. All contestants, excluding bands, will use only the sound system and the sound operator as provided. Bands may use their own amps.
13. All music for accompaniment must be on CD and be of the HIGHEST QUALITY. Please also bring a backup CD.
14. No teachers or parents will be allowed on stage during the contest.
15. Only one (1) person other than those visible on stage will be allowed backstage with each act. This includes all parents and teachers.
16. Contestants may make changes in their act prior to the Tennessee Valley Fair as long as those changes will not result in a change of category.
17. All preliminary contests must be held prior to September 8, 2009. Any exception must be approved by the Director of the Tennessee Valley Fair Regional Youth Talent Contest.
18. It is recommended that three judges be present at a preliminary sanctioned contest.
19. The Tennessee Valley Fair does not sanction recitals or talent divisions of beauty contests.
20. Each preliminary contest must have a minimum of ten (10) entrants.

**Tennessee Valley Fair  
Regional Youth Talent Contest  
Official Entry Form**

Please print or type all information.

Contest Invited From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman of Contest \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Act \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Act \_\_\_\_\_

Type of accompaniment \_\_\_\_\_ Equipment Needs (mics, stands, long cord, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Information on each member of the act must be included. If you need more space, please use back of this sheet.

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Name:	Age:	Birth Date:	SS#:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:

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Name:	Age:	Birth Date:	SS#:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:

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Name:	Age:	Birth Date:	SS#:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:

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Name:	Age:	Birth Date:	SS#:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:

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BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of contestant(s) (i.e. school, background, hobbies, interest, parents' name, etc.) If act contains more than one person, list information on each person on back of form. If act is a group, list background of group.

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I (we) have read the rules governing the Tennessee Valley Fair Regional Youth Talent Contest and agree to abide by them.

Signature of Contestant or Leader of Act \_\_\_\_\_

Send all contestant correspondence to: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Tennessee Valley Fair  
P. O. Box 6066  
Knoxville, TN 37914