

## The 54th Annual Dutchess County Fair's Talent Search

No Auditions

Participants compete Tuesday through Friday during the Fair for a chance to be asked back for the finals on Saturday. At the end of the competition Saturday, the top three acts in both junior (12 years old and under) and senior (13 and up) categories receive a cash prize and corresponding 1st, 2nd or 3rd place ribbon. Participant ribbons are awarded to all who perform. A panel of professional judges renders the decision on the winners of the competition. The top 25 finalists in both the junior and senior categories are eligible to compete in the New York State Fair Talent Search held in Syracuse, New York. Applications for the State Fair will be available on the day of the finals. Any questions regarding the NYS Fair Talent Search may be directed to Jason Mark.

There are no age limits and no auditions. The categories are compiled after the acts are sorted and include junior/senior and solo/group distinctions. All acts must be strictly amateur.

The Talent Search provides a stage, piano, dressing tents, a sound/light system, and a well seasoned staff including the Mark family to keep the show running smoothly.

**There is an ENTRY FEE charged per act.**

**Solo (one person): \$5.00 per act**

**Group (2+ people): \$10.00 per act**

**Please make checks payable to DCAS, Inc. and mail with the completed application**

[www.dutchessfair.com](http://www.dutchessfair.com)

For further information or questions please call Jason Mark 845-889-4099

### General Rules

1. All types of acts are invited to participate. In the past we have showcased the offerings of musicians (solo, group/instrumental, and vocal), comedians, actors/actresses giving dramatic monologues, poets, dancers, acrobats, magicians, and various other entertainers. There are only two main requirements that all contestants must meet; only amateurs may participate (meaning participant does not receive any compensation for performing on a regular basis) and first prize winners of last year's competition are also exempt from entering in the same category.
2. There are two age divisions for each category—contestants 13 years and older compete in the Senior Division, while those under 13 compete in the Junior Division.
3. The 50% rule concerning groups will strictly be adhered to—in a duo, if one contestant is 12 or under and the other is 13 or over, they will compete in the Senior Division. In a group of three or more, if 50% or more of the group is 13 or older, they will compete in the Senior Division.
4. No fire/pyrotechnics allowed on stage during the competition.
5. **All acts must be limited to 5 minutes.**
6. Contestants must be **strictly amateur**. (Anyone who receives any compensation for performing is NOT eligible.)
7. A contestant can perform a **maximum of three (3) times**—One (1) solo and as a member of two (2) other unique groups or as a member of three (3) different groups with No solo. If this rule is violated, the contestant and the group will be **DISQUALIFIED!**
8. **Previous first place winners are NOT eligible to enter the finals in the SAME CATEGORY**, e.g., a solo winner may not return as a soloist the next year. He or she may, however, perform as part of a duet, trio, or group.
9. Teachers are not permitted to compete or perform in their professional talent, e.g., a dance teacher could not compete as a dancer. This rule does NOT apply to students under scholarship who assist in teaching.
10. Due to time constraints, **NO ROCK BANDS** are permitted.
11. **THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL!!!**
12. **There is an entry fee of five dollars (\$5) per solo act and ten dollars (\$10) per duo or group act. Please make checks payable to DCAS and return with your completed application**

The stage at the Talent Search is equipped with a piano, electrical outlet, dressing tents, and a fully equipped sound system. You must furnish all other equipment necessary for your act. Please have all recorded music on CD.

Please fill out the enclosed application and forward it to Jason Mark, P.O. Box 344, Staatsburg, NY 12580. **Applications should be postmarked by August 1st. (NOTE: TO AVOID BEING CLOSED OUT OF THE CONTEST, SEND IN APPLICATION ASAP AS SPACE IS LIMITED).** Once all applications have been received, the Talent Show Committee will set up a show schedule which will be mailed out to all applicants. You may expect to receive this letter in August. If you have a preference as to which day you would like to perform (Tues thru Fri.), please indicate this on your application. We will do our best to accommodate as many people as we can. If scheduling is a big concern to you, it is in the best interest to return your completed application as soon as possible. If you should have any questions or need more information, please contact **Jason or Christina (845)889-4099**. Good Luck!