



Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs State Competition Talent Contest Info & Rules January 18, 2025



2025 will be here before you blink and it is time for the IAAF State Talent Contest to be held at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL on Saturday, January 18, 2025!

Registration is \$25.00 per person. **Pre-registration is highly recommended to avoid long lines in the hotel lobby and reduce congestion.**

We will start the Junior Division contest at 1:30pm in Plaza H, I, and J-Level 1. Junior Division winners will be announced as soon as possible after the completion of the division. A short break will follow with the Senior Division starting at approximately 5:30pm.

Check in at talent registration, just inside the doors of the talent contest room on Level 1 will begin at 10:00am. Junior Division contestants must be checked in by noon. Senior Division contestants must be checked in by 4:30pm.

The program is arranged at random to separate different types of acts so no definite performance time will be able to be given in advance.

A professional sound system will be available for the show. **THE ONLY PROVIDED MICROPHONES ARE CORDLESS MICS. ANYONE WHO WANTS A LAVALIERE OR HEADSET MIC MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN.** Recordings must be clear. Someone with your act must have the recording to the sound person at least five minutes before your act is to compete. **Always have a second recording option with you.** We also have professional light people for the show.

There are two stages approximately 12 feet deep and 20 feet long. A hardwood dance floor, approximately 16' x 26' is available for dance, tumbling, acrobatic, etc. acts. **ANY ACT THAT NEEDS TUMBLING MATS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN.** A tuned piano will be available for contestants if necessary. We ask all vocalists to use the right stage for better presentation.

A practice room will be available starting at 10:00am. Two large restrooms are available on Level 1 for costume changes and last-minute make-up check.

The first-place winner in each division **may be asked to perform** on Sunday during the Queen Pageant, if they are available. Also, some could be asked to perform at the State Fair this summer. More details at the convention.

There will be four cash prizes in each division with the top eight placings being recognized.

Prizes are:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| First Place - \$150.00 & trophy | Second Place - \$135.00 & trophy |
| Third Place - \$120.00 & trophy | Fourth Place - \$105.00 & trophy |

There are two panels of judges. One panel of three judges for each division.

Point Value for Judging

Costume	10 points
Audience Appeal	10 points
Stage Presentation	30 points
Ability	50 points
TOTAL POINTS	100 points

We anticipate the number of acts to be equal to or greater than last year's so please be prompt and ready to perform.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE-Please read thoroughly and understand all the rules. Special attention should be given to rules number 1, 3, 4, & 9! Professional entertainers ARE NOT eligible as defined in rule #1.

1. A professional entertainer is someone who has a lot of experience or skill in a particular job or activity; engaged in a specified activity as one's paid occupation rather than as a pastime. For this contest you **may not participate** if you have been paid fees for performing in your area of talent. Ex: A dancer who has been paid as a dancer may enter as a singer but not as a dance contestant.
2. The entry can only represent one county fair. Each fair may enter only one Junior and one Senior act per year. Entry must represent the county in which they won an actual talent competition in 2024. The runner up act may represent if winner cannot compete.
3. Any act that performs over the 4-minute time limit will be disqualified. Timing starts when act starts entertaining. **Contestant is not to introduce their act.** The emcee will announce the county or fair they represent when the act begins.
4. Age limits each division:
 - a. Junior Division-Contestants can be 14 years old or younger on the date of the local contest. Junior division contestants can be 15 years old when competing at the state level in January, if they met the age requirements at their local contest.
 - b. Senior Division-Contestants cannot be over 21 years of age on the date of their local contest. Senior division contestants can be 22 years old when competing at the state level in January, if they met the age requirements at their local contest.
5. A piano and floor mics are the only equipment furnished. Floor mats and lavalier mics will need to be furnished by the contestants.
6. The panel of judges' decision will be final.
7. There will be a controlled setup time limit of 3 minutes per act.
8. To lessen sound prop confusion, when using recorded accompaniment, **only the song the contestant is using shall be on the thumb drive, etc. No like talent is allowed on the recording ie. Vocal, backup singers, tap dancing, any like instrument, etc.** This is strictly monitored.
9. Entries and fees must be received no later than October 1, 2024. Late entries are not recommended. An entry fee of \$75 per division is due with the application by October 1, 2024. Checks are payable to the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs (IAAF). One check that includes both divisions is acceptable and preferred.
10. Provided all talent entries are received timely by the deadline, fair talent directors or participants will be sent or emailed information needed for the January 18th contest.
11. Admission badges are \$25.00. All guests aged 10 and over must purchase a badge. **Talent contestants will receive complimentary badges.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

IAAF State Contest Talent Director

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Send entries to:

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