

VANDERBURGH COUNTY FAIR TALENT CONTEST

Jeri Zimmerman, Chairperson 812-455-9772

The Talent Contest for Vanderburgh County is scheduled during the Vanderburgh County Fair in the Auditorium. The Vocal and Instrumental Categories are scheduled for **Friday, July 28, 2023**, starting at 7:00 p.m. and the Dance, Tumbling and Novelty Categories are scheduled on **Saturday, July 29, 2023**. The Junior Division starts at 12 noon and the Senior Division starts at 3:00 p.m. Registration on Friday night and Saturday noon contests will start one hour before the contest begins and the registration for the Senior Division on Saturday starts 30 minutes before the contest.

Pre-registration is required for all acts. Please review all the rules and regulations below before completing your entry form. Changes have been made in the Categories where acts are to be performed (see Categories Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Novelty, Tumbling and Clogging) and also for who may participate in the contest (Rule 5). Entry forms may be obtained at www.vanderburghcountyfair.com. Each entry form must be completed and signed by person entering the act and the rules must be observed or it will be disqualified.

All entries and payments must be postmarked by **Friday, July 14, 2023**. Entry forms can also be sent via email to vcftalentcontest@gmail.com, payment must be mailed. Mail entry to:

Vanderburgh County Fair Talent Contest, 10814 N. Green River Rd., Evansville, IN 47725.

A fee of \$7.50 per person per act must accompany each entry. Checks should be made payable to the Vanderburgh County Fair Association.

Rules and Regulations

1. Every contestant in the Talent Contest must be an Indiana resident.
2. Contestants are limited to entering in one individual and/or one group act in competition, but also may perform an exhibition number (not in competition).
3. The Vanderburgh County Fair Talent Contest consists of three divisions.
 - *Junior Division – 12 years or less of age. (If you turn 12 years of age during 2023, you must enter the Junior Division.)
 - *Senior Division – 13–21 years of age. (If you turn 13 years of age anytime during 2023 calendar year, you must enter the Senior Division.)
 - *Exhibition (see rule #5)
4. Group acts must compete in the division determined by the ages of the majority of the group. No one older than 14 may compete in the Junior Division.
5. The Exhibition Division is for those ineligible for Indiana State Fair Competition because of age, out-of-county residence, those who want to participate but do not want to be judged or at the chairman's discretion and is not eligible for prizes or state competition. There is no age limit when performing in Exhibition since this category is not eligible for state competition.

6. Those contestants from other counties may enter in group competition providing a majority of the group is from Vanderburgh County. A solo act must be from Vanderburgh County for competition. A non-Vanderburgh County resident can do a solo in Exhibition division only.
7. Entries will be accepted in the 12 categories listed below. Winners will be eligible for State Fair in both the Junior Division and the Senior Divisions. If fewer than three acts are entered in any one category, the chairperson reserves the right to combine it with another category.

Vocal Solo and Vocal Group

Instrumental Solo and Instrumental Group or Band

Dance Solo and Dance Group

Clogging Solo and Clogging Group

Tumbling (Free X only) Solo and Tumbling (Free X only) Group

Novelty Solo and Novelty Group

Use the following descriptions as a guideline for selecting which category you register to participate in for Vanderburgh County. The lineup on competition day will be based on your registration form category choice and cannot be changed on competition day. No changes on your entry will be allowed after **July 14, 2023**. Changes have been made on the state level for the categories. Please read all the categories before making a decision for Vanderburgh County competition on where you want to be judged.

Prize money will be presented on competition day for up to five placings in all 12 categories in both the junior and senior divisions depending on the number of acts registered. All participants will receive a participation award.

VOCAL - Solo male, female or group (2 or more performers, male or female): This category shall consist of a solo or group performance by a vocalist(s). Instrumental accompaniment 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. Any background vocal on a CD must be minimal. (No props allowed)

INSTRUMENTAL - Solo or group (2 or more performers) or Band: This category shall consist of a solo or group instrumental performance without vocal utterance. Accompaniment is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. The test shall be whether the solo performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed. No instrument of the same nature may be used for accompaniment. The definition of a band is one lead singer, one bass player, one lead guitarist and one drummer/percussionist. A band must consist of four or more members. (No props allowed)

DANCE – Solo or group (2 or more performers): This category shall consist of a solo or group dance performance. Accompanists are permitted on stage. Ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, modern, hip-hop, step will be judged in this category. ***Dance-related acrobatic/tumbling skills will be allowed but should not exceed two (2) skills per solo and four (4) skills per group routine.*** Props must be a part of the costume (i.e. hat, cane, umbrella, parasol, etc.)

CLOGGING - Solo or group (2 or more performers): This category shall consist of a solo or group clogging performance. Accompanists are permitted on stage. Freestyle, artistic expression, traditional moving line, hoedown, precision, artistic expressions are all allowed. Props must be a part of the costume. No tumbling is allowed.

TUMBLING/RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS – Solo or group (2 or more performers) (Floor exercise only): This category was created for the dance routines that incorporate more than two acrobatic/tumbling tricks. Everyone is responsible for his/her own mats and runners. Props and scenery are allowed. No spotters.

NOVELTY - Solo or group (2 or more performers): This category shall consist of a solo or group performance in any act that has not been previously described. The following acts are in this category: Skits, impersonators, Lip Sync, comedians, magicians, recitations (original or otherwise), mimes, jugglers (pins, balls, plates, etc.), unicyclist, hula hoops, reenactments, dramatic presentations (theatrical), jump ropes. THIS CATEGORY DOES NOT INCLUDE SINGERS, DANCERS, TUMBLERS, CLOGGERS OR INSTRUMENTALISTS. Props are allowed.

8. Cheerleaders and baton twirlers or similar acts using batons, machetes or sharp instruments will not be accepted in the contest. No fire, dry ice, fog, straw or confetti will be allowed on stage. Your act will be disqualified if this occurs. These acts can perform in Exhibition.
9. Props are determined as anything that is hand carried and not considered to be a part of the performer's costume, (i.e. hats, canes, etc. are considered a part of the costume.)
10. All contestants must furnish an accompanist (live or recording).
11. Contestants must furnish all costumes and special properties required for their act. The public address system and a piano will be furnished. Contestants will be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged equipment.
12. Names of contestants will be announced as they appear on the entry form.
13. All acts will use the sound system and sound operator provided by the fair. Instrumentalists may bring their own amplifier if needed. All music must be either on a CD (one song, good quality, scratch free) and/or an Apple or Android device. The sound operator will provide an 1/8-inch plug to connect the headphone jack on an Apple or Android device. Contestants must provide a person to operate these devices and the device may need to be removed from its case to ensure proper connection. CDs will be collected and devices will be tested during the registration time. Each CD should be labeled with the contestant's name and county. The fair is not responsible for lost or damaged CDs or devices. A representative of each act must take the CD to the registration table and the same person must pick it up. During the competition, miss-cueing of CD or error with sound will result in a penalty deduction of 10 points. The fair does not provide any equipment, except for lighting and sound equipment. All acts will use only the lighting system provided by the fair.
14. Set-up time for all props, instruments, mats, etc. is two minutes. Performance time shall be allotted to two minutes for a solo act, two and a half minutes for a group act and five-minute limit for a band. Tear down time for all acts is one minute. An official timer will be present. Timing for performances begins A) when music begins, when music is used, or B) at first movement or vocal utterance of performer without musical accompaniment.

All music must end within the designated time limit. Ten points will be deducted if time exceeds limits. Disqualification after thirty seconds over.

15. Winners will be selected by impartial judges. Decisions of the judges will be final. Interpretation of the rules will be at the discretion of the Talent Contest Chairperson, whose interpretations are final. The judges' scores will determine the placing for each category. Any grievance or questions about the Vanderburgh County Talent Contest must be mailed in written format to: Vanderburgh County Fair Assoc., P.O. Box 58, Inglesfield, IN 47618 no later than July 31, 2023. All grievances will be answered. Anyone who verbally complains to the judges, chairperson or other assistants of the contest will be disqualified and will be ineligible for next year's contest.

16. Contestants and parents must pay to enter the Fair Grounds.

17. Awards will be presented to all participants. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

	Group Acts	Single Acts
1 st	\$30 and trophy	\$20 and trophy
2 nd	\$25	\$15
3 rd	\$20	\$10
4 th	\$15	\$7
5 th	\$10	\$5

18. Vanderburgh County may send to Indiana State Fair Youth Talent Contest one act in each of the above categories in both the Junior and Senior Divisions and may also send a second place winner in each category if Chairperson agrees the 2nd place act deserves to compete in the Indiana State Fair Youth Talent Contest.
19. If a performer wins in both a solo and a group act, they can be sanctioned by Vanderburgh County to go to State Fair competition for both acts. The contestant(s) must inform us if they are already sanctioned in another county in either a solo act or a group act so they are not sanctioned for more than one solo and/or two group acts at state. If a performer elects not to go to the State Contest, he/she must decide by noon on **Sunday, July 30, 2023**, in which category he/she will not compete on the state level. The second-place individual/group will then be contacted and allowed to represent Vanderburgh County in competition at the State Contest in the declined category.