

VANDEBURGH COUNTY FAIR TALENT CONTEST

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Vocal and Instrumental: Friday, July 25, 2025 7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Dance, Tumbling and Novelty: Saturday, July 26, 2025 12:00 Noon. Auditorium

Pre-registration is required. Entry forms, including the Venmo link, are available at www.vanderburghcountyfair.com. Entry deadline: Friday, July 11, 2025. Entry fee: \$10 per person, per act, with a maximum of \$100 for groups of 10 or more. Please review all rules and regulations carefully, as non-compliance may lead to disqualification. Check-In begins 1 hour prior to the contest. Please be checked in no later than 30 minutes before the start time.

The Fair Talent Contest is not a 4-H event; 4-H participation is not required. Contestants must be Indiana residents. Non-Vanderburgh Co residents may enter the group competition if the majority of the group is from Vanderburgh Co. Solo acts must be from Vanderburgh Co.

DIVISIONS

Junior – Ages 12 and under. Solo & Group. If a participant turns 13 at any time in 2025, they must compete in the Senior Division.

Senior – Ages 13–21. Solo & Group.

Exhibition – For those ineligible due to age, residency, or other reasons, or for those who wish to not be judged. Exhibition acts are not eligible for prizes or advancement to state competition to represent Vanderburgh Co.

Contestants may compete in one solo and/or one group act. Group acts must compete in the division based on the majority age. No one over 14 allowed in the Junior Division.

CATEGORIES

Categories will be divided by solo male, solo female, or group (2+ performers, male or female).

A) VOCAL – Vocal performance with instrumental accompaniment (must remain purely supportive). Background vocals on CD should be minimal. No props allowed.

B) INSTRUMENTAL – Instrumental performance without vocal utterance. Accompaniment is allowed but must be purely supportive. No same-type instruments for accompaniment.

C) DANCE – Dance performance (ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, modern, hip-hop, step). Dance-related acrobatic/tumbling skills allowed (2 per solo, 4 per group). Props must be part of the costume (e.g., hat, cane, umbrella).

D) CLOGGING – Clogging performance (freestyle, artistic, traditional, hoedown, precision). Tumbling is not allowed. Props must be part of the costume.

E) TUMBLING/RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS – Floor routines with more than two acrobatic/tumbling skills. Must provide own mats & runners. Props/scenery allowed. No spotters.

F) NOVELTY – For acts that don't fit other categories, such as skits, impersonations, lip sync, comedy, magic, recitations, mime, juggling, unicycling, hula hooping, reenactments, jump rope, or theatrical performances. Props allowed.

*If fewer than three acts are entered in a category, they may be combined with another category.

For concerns about stage space limitations, please contact a chairperson to discuss possible alternate options.

RULES

1. *Time Limits: Setup:* Two-minute limit for setting up props, instruments, mats, etc.

Teardown: One-minute limit for clearing the stage.

Performance: Solo acts: 2 minutes / Group acts: 2.5 minutes / Bands: 5 minutes

Timing: An official timer begins when the music starts (if used), or at the first movement or vocal utterance. Exceeding the limit incurs a 10-point deduction, with disqualification at 30 seconds.

2. *Prohibited Items & Acts:* No cheerleading, baton twirling, or acts using batons, machetes, or sharp instruments. Fire, dry ice, fog, straw, or confetti are not allowed on stage.

3. *Props, Costumes, & Equipment:* Props are hand-carried items, not part of the costume (e.g., hats, canes, and similar accessories are part of the costume). Contestants are responsible for their costumes and special properties. Microphones and a piano will be provided.

4. *Accompaniment:* If used, contestants must provide their own accompanist (live or recorded).

5. *Sound & Music:* A sound system and operator will be provided for all acts that require it.

Instrumentalists may bring their own amplifier. All music must either be on a CD (one song, good quality, scratch-free) and/or an Apple or Android device. The sound operator will provide a 1/8-inch plug (3.5mm audio cable) to connect the headphone jack on devices. Contestants must provide a person to operate the device, and the device may need to be removed from its case. CDs will be collected at registration and retrieved following the awards. Label CDs with contestants' names. Music errors may result in a 10-point deduction. All acts must use the provided lighting system.

6. *Liability:* Contestants are responsible for their costumes, props, and equipment. The fair is not liable for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

7. *Judging & Concerns:* Awards will be given to all participants, with prizes for the top three in each combined category. Judges' decisions are final. Written complaints may be submitted to Vanderburgh County Fair Assoc., P.O. Box 58, Inglefield, IN 47618, by July 30, 2025. Verbal complaints will result in disqualification and ineligibility for the following year.

8. *State Fair Representation:* Vanderburgh Co. may send one act per category in both Junior and Senior Divisions to the Indiana State Fair Talent Contest, with a second-place winner also eligible at the discretion of the co-chairs.

9. *Multiple Wins:* A performer winning in both solo and group acts may be sanctioned for both. Contestants must inform us if they are already sanctioned in another county to avoid multiple sanctions. If a winner elects not to participate, they must notify a chairperson by noon on Sunday, July 27, 2025. The next eligible act may be contacted to represent Vanderburgh Co.

10. *Fair Grounds Entry:* Contestants and parents are responsible for Fair Grounds entry fees.

*The Talent Contest Chairpersons will interpret the rules, and their decisions are final.