



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) SHEET:

WHAT IS WIREGRASS TALENT QUEST?

Wiregrass Talent Quest Jr. is a fundraiser for the Cultural Arts Center to help the center provide financial support for programs for children and adults in the performing and visual arts as well as to continue to provide the home for 4 arts organizations to work and perform in. The fundraiser is supported by Five Star Credit Union as one of their major nonprofit organization events. As such the event itself is a SHOW with Corporate Supporters, their families and friends, to see along with the contestant's parents, friends, and school supporters. As such the contestants are part of a major show that moves like clockwork to make the event exciting and enjoyable. Costumes and your performances along with the thrill of the People's Choice Award help our Corporate Supporters, and donors feel the event is accomplishing its mission: to help the Cultural Arts Center connect the arts to our community.

At no point in time does this event help you connect to an agent, another statewide or national talent show, or provide you with any performance or contractual arrangement with an agent or national show. It is local and stays local and is done to help students help their school continue to have the arts and to help the CAC connect the arts to the community! But it is great for resumes and stories to tell as you grow your act!

WHAT DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

\$30 single contestant;
\$40 for 2-3 contestants performing together;
\$50 for 4-9 contestants performing together;
\$75 for group of 10 or more contestants performing together.

WHAT DO I DO TO GET REGISTERED TO PERFORM IN THE SHOW?

1. Fill out the **Application by April 5, 2024**
2. Turn in all **parental signed legal documents by April 12, 2024**
3. **By April 12, 2024:**

Email to ann@theculturalartscenter.org a 5X7 color photo of yourself;

Email to ann@theculturalartscenter.org any music that you intend to use as an MP3 file;

Do the video of yourself performing your act in your costume and upload to YouTube according to the guidelines on the YouTube page in the packet and email the link to

ann@theculturalartscenter.org

4. If using a CD and not an MP3 that you email, please bring the CD to the Cultural Arts Center no later than **APRIL 12, 2024**.

WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED OF ME TO PARTICIPATE:

BE AT DRESS REHEARSAL APRIL 22, 2024 AT 6 PM AT THE CULTURALARTS CENTER AUDITORIUM.

Be dressed as if you were performing in the show. You will learn your entrance and exit details, perform your act for sound/lighting/costuming check, receive details about dressing room, backstage, and more that night. If you miss it, you could be removed from the show.

WHAT ARE THE AWARDS THAT CAN BE GIVEN AT THIS EVENT:

OVERALL winners:

1st place: \$500

2nd place: \$250

3rd place: \$150

CATEGORY awards:

Best in Dance: \$100

Best in Vocal: \$100

Best in Instruments: \$100

Best in Vocal: \$100

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD:

Contestant who gets the most votes by middle of the night wins \$100 + 30% of PCA dollars goes to your school to use in the arts

WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR:

There will be 3 Judges that screen you on:

Stage Presence, Professionalism & Technical Ability: *overall confidence, poise, and ability to communicate or interact with the audience; quality, pitch, projection, use of instruments or props, dance form, group synchronization, pitch & timbre, proper chord structure, timing/rhythm (40 points out of 100)*

Appearance and Costuming: *not 'risque' but family oriented costuming, professional, and appropriate to the act and contestant's genre, your costume fits you well and you are able to perform in it without any problems; it is not your everyday clothing but something designed to wow the audience and judges. (25 points out of 100)*

Difficulty of Selection or Act: *your performance is smoothly disguised, any sleight of hand is unnoticeable; humor is relevant; music difficulty for voice and instruments; voice range is broad, timing is on target for dance and musical theater; components of act are smoothly presented and has good flow; eye contact with audience is strong; in musical theater, scene is well depicted through your actions and props; in instrumental, you have strong control over your instrument and over the song you have chosen to perform. (35 out of 100 points)*

HOW DOES JUDGING WORK?

During the show a judge will give each contestant an overall comment on your performance at the end of your act. Also each judge will use the above criteria to judge you as part of the overall performance of ALL contestants and within the genre of your talent such as dance or instrumental. An overall score will be given by each judge and turned in to the Adjudication Secretary who tallies all scores, divided by 3 and you have one score. The highest 3 scores overall get one of 3 awards: 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place overall. Within each performance category or genre (Dance, Vocal, Instrumental, Musical Theater) the highest score gets the Category Award for each group.

Judge's sheets are turned over to the Adjudication Secretary after each act. At the end of the night, Judges and Adjudication Secretary along with members of the board who will certify the winners, go to a room to determine scores. Once this has been done, judges return to the judging table and contestants are brought back out on stage to hear the awards.

Announcements will begin with the People's Choice Award, then the Category Awards, then the Overall Awards. For Photo sessions, big checks will be given to each winner, and once photos have been taken, big checks are taken back and exchanged for real checks. Photos will be published in the local newspaper and placed on Facebook, Instagram, and on our website.

WHAT IS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD?

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD is a chance for every contestant and their family to win regardless of your act. It is an award separate from the Overall Winners or the Category Award.

Votes are \$1 a vote, and you can gather votes from your family and friends while you are at school, at work, your parents are at work, at church, or your teachers. Votes can be cast online after a certain date and through the night before the show itself. Votes will be collected during a period of the show where we concentrate on getting those who have attended to vote.

If you collect cash, you turn that in at the Dress Rehearsal prior to show night and we calculate it and add it to what we are receiving online.

The WINNER of this category gets \$100 but the bigger difference is that 30% of the total dollars raised by everyone voting will go to the winner's school and the Winner gets to decide where in the school's art programs the money gets to be spent. A photo of the Principal and Winning Student will be taken and posted in the newspapers, online, and on Facebook!

It is your job to push people to vote for you. It is your job to let your school know you are performing and get them to support you since, if you win, some of the money can go to them! So don't be shy, be bold and get those votes counted for you!

WHY IS THERE A DRESS REHEARSAL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SHOW?

At dress rehearsal we sort out everything about the performance so that the show runs like clockwork, all equipment works, lights and sound are set, and there is no lag time in the show.

You will have the chance to perform onstage so we can set lights, set microphones, determine what microphone works best for your act, set sound for your equipment, make sure CD's and MP3 play, make sure you can hear your music, let you know where you are on the stage, how to come out and how to exit the stage since there is also a short interview with each contestant by the Emcee at the end of the act. We also give you a chance to practice in your costume to see that you can walk, talk, and perform in it on our stage since no 2 stages are the same. If you are in a long gown, you get to practice going downstairs to play the piano, going down steps to get from dressing rooms to backstage; if you have props and need set up time it allows us to add to our script for the emcee so we can fill in time gaps while we set you up.

It is where we learn everything about you, your act, and you learn about us, the stage, the show, and how it all will work.

PRIOR TO THE DRESS REHEARSAL you will be given the line-up for the show so you will know where are in the performance line-up. This helps you know when we will pull you to go backstage and how long the night could be. Each act is given 5-7 minutes to get on stage, perform, answer Emcee questions and exit. So, if there are 25 contestants X 5 minutes each, the show itself will be 2 hours 5 minutes plus judges time and awards time.

On show night, there will be contestant introductions as they perform a snake and wave to the crowd, then the individual acts begin and continue with only a short break for collections of People's Choice Award Votes and then back to the show. What will take us 4 hours to go through at Dress Rehearsal will take us 2.5 hours to do and get awards! But it will be your best introduction to the stage and live performance of your act before an audience. And it is fun!

**So are you ready to put your act on stage and show
our community your talent!!!**

Then sign up and let's get started!!!

For more detailed information contact Ann Cotton at:

ann@theculturalartscenter.org

or 334.699.2787

or 334.435.0438