

***STRING BAND
TALENT DEVELOPMENT EVENT
CONTEST***

RULES AND REGULATIONS



ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

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Alabama State Department of Education, Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education

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Revised December 2022
String Band Contest

STRING BAND CONTEST

PURPOSE

The purpose of this contest is to stimulate interest and appreciation of country and western music, bluegrass and traditional southern rock while providing wholesome recreation, promoting leadership, assisting in radio and television broadcasting, promoting group participation, and developing musical talent.

ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

This contest is open to all FFA members who are presently enrolled in Agriscience Education and also to those who have already completed at least one year of Agriscience Education and continues to follow a planned course of study, which includes a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program under the supervision of the Agriscience teacher. All participants must be in school and be paid FFA members in good standing.

All persons on the stage are considered to be band members. A majority of the instrumentalists must play stringed instruments.

Each band will play three numbers of its own selection. All numbers should be country/western, bluegrass or traditional southern rock. Each band will perform three numbers, one of which must be an instrumental.

Acoustic piano and electric keyboard are string instruments. No pre-programmed instruments may be used.

Area and/or district eliminations will be held prior to the state finals. The first and second place bands from the North, Central and South district competitions will compete in the state finals during the Alabama FFA State Convention. Winning string bands that are unable to compete in the next highest contest should notify the District Advisor in time for the runner-up to compete. If a district has no string bands, state staff may choose to pull the next place band from each additional district.

All bands planning to participate will need to submit required documents to their district specialist by February 15th by email. This documentation includes a list of all band members w/ equipment needs as well as lyrics for each song selection that will be performed. If a backline of amps, drums, etc will be provided, bands from that district will be notified in advance.

DISCLAIMER

In the event that contests (CDE, LDE, TDE's) cannot be held in person, a virtual option may be conducted. Contest rules and guidelines are subject to change to meet the needs of a virtual experience.

STATE AWARDS/SPONSOR(S):

Refer to Alabama FFA Contests and Awards Booklet at:
http://www.alabamaffa.org/forms_applications.htm

GUIDE FOR JUDGING STRING BAND CONTEST

Official score sheets should be used in judging each contest.

Three competent and impartial persons should be selected to judge the contest.

At the time of the contest, the judges should seat themselves apart from one another in the room in which the contest is held, where all band members can be seen.

Contestants shall draw for places on the program.

Each selection will be scored separately and recorded on the score sheet.

When all string bands have finished, the judges will retire and make their placings (1, 2, 3, etc.) without any discussion. The judges' rankings of each string band then shall be added, and the winner will be the string band whose total score is the lowest. This is the low point score method of selection. The person in charge will assist by recording the final placings of each judge on the Summary Sheet to determine the winners. In case of a tie, the judges should vote by secret ballot on the two string bands involved. Judges will be welcomed to make comments and suggestions for each string band to help enhance their performance as well as stage presence.

The Summary Sheet should be turned in, checked and double-checked before judges leave and the winners are announced. The decision announced is final! The individual score sheets should be destroyed immediately by the judges; no one else will be allowed to see the score sheets or the summary sheet.

SCORING

Each judge will score the three selections performed by a string band using a 100 point per selection basis. Each selection will be scored on the following items:

- Official Dress (10 points)
- Introduction and Vocals (15 points)
- Stage Presence of Entire Band (15 points)
- Variety and Blending of Instruments Including Lead Instrument (10 points)
- Appropriate Volume Level (10 points)
- Timing and Rhythm (15 points)
- Instrumental and/or Vocal Arrangement (15 points)
- Appropriateness of Selections (10 points)

Each judge will add the score given to each of the three selections for a string band to obtain the Total Score for that string band. The Total Score given by the judge for each string band in the contest will be used to rank the string bands in the contest. The highest score being ranked 1st, the second highest score being ranked 2nd, etc. The rankings of each of the three judges will be entered on the Summary Sheet by the person in charge of the contest.

EXPLANATION OF ITEMS TO BE SCORED

1. Official Dress

Male Members

Black slacks, white shirt, official FFA tie, black shoes, black socks, and the official jacket zipped to the top

Female Members

Black skirt/slacks, white blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black shoes and the official jacket zipped to the top

2. Introduction of the band and songs

Effectiveness of group spokesman in introducing the songs and band members.

3. Stage Presence of Entire Band

**Poise and confidence
Projecting a pleasing image to the audience**

4. Blending of Instruments and Vocals

**Diversity of instruments
Band and singer produces a pleasant sound
Musicians use proper dynamics**

5. Appropriate Volume Level

Appropriate volume is used for selections

6. Timing and Smoothness of Rhythm

**The band demonstrates the ability to play together in time.
The band starts, stops, and stays together**

7. Instrumental and/or Vocal Arrangement

Best use of instruments and vocals in each selection.

8. Appropriateness of Selections

**The use of musical selections that are commonly considered to be country-western, bluegrass, and/or traditional southern rock.
The musical selections are tasteful and should not contain profanity, or references to inappropriate subject matter.**

[Front of Score Sheet]
SCORE SHEET FOR JUDGING FFA STRING BAND CONTEST

ITEMS TO BE SCORED	POINTS ALLOWED EACH SELECTION	Name of Band and Points Awarded Per Selection																				
		String Band 1			String Band 2			String Band 3			String Band 4			String Band 5			String Band 6			String Band 7		
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1. Official Dress	10																					
2. Introduction of band and songs	15																					
3. Stage Presence of Entire Band	15																					
4. Blending of instruments and vocals	10																					
5. Appropriate Volume Level	10																					
6. Timing and Smoothness of Rhythm	15																					
7. Instrumental and/or Vocal Arrangement	15																					
8. Appropriateness of Selections	10																					
TOTAL POINTS FOR EACH SELECTION	100																					
TOTAL SCORE (1+2+3)/BAND [1+2+3] (300 points possible/string band)																						
FINAL PLACING [1 ST , 2 ND , 3 RD , 4 TH , ETC.]																						

Each judge will add the score given to each of the three selections for a string band to obtain the Total Score for that string band. The Total Score given by the judge for each string band in the contest will be used to rank the string bands in the contest. The highest score being ranked 1st, the second highest score being ranked 2nd, etc. The rankings of each of the three judges will be entered on the Summary Sheet by the person in charge of the contest.

[Back of Score Sheet]

EXPLANATION OF SCORE CARD POINTS

1. Official Dress

Male Members - black slacks, white collared shirt, official FFA tie, black socks, black dress shoes, and the official jacket zipped to the top.

Female Members - black skirt, white collared blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe, and the official jacket zipped to the top.

2. Introduction of band and songs

Effectiveness of group spokesman introducing songs and band members.

3. Stage Presence of Entire Band

Poise and confidence.
Projecting a pleasing image to the audience.

4. Blending of Instruments and Vocals

Diversity of instruments.
Band and singer produce a pleasant sound.
Musicians use proper dynamics.

5. Appropriate Volume Level

Appropriate volume is used for selections.

6. Timing and Smoothness of Rhythm

The band demonstrates the ability to play together in time.
The band starts, stops, and stays together.

7. Instrumental and/or Vocal Arrangement

Best use of instruments and vocals in selections.

8. Appropriateness of Selections

The use of musical selections must be performed in the style of traditional country-western, bluegrass, and/or traditional southern rock. The musical selections are tasteful and should not contain profanity, references to drugs or alcohol or any other inappropriate subject matters.

GUIDE FOR JUDGING FFA STRING BAND CONTESTS

- Official score sheets should be used in judging each contest.
- Three (3) competent and impartial persons should be selected to judge the contest.
- At the time of the contest, the judges should seat themselves apart from one another at the front of the room in which the contest is held, where all band members can be seen.
- Contestants shall draw for places on the program.
- Each selection should be scored separately and recorded on the score sheet.
- When all string bands have finished, the judges will retire and make their placings (1, 2, 3, etc.) without any discussion. The judges' rankings of each string band then shall be added, and the winner will be the string band whose total score (ranking score) is the lowest. This is the low point score method of selection. The person in charge will assist by recording the final placings of each judge on the Summary Sheet to determine the winners. In case of a tie the judges should vote by secret ballot on the two string bands involved. Judges will be welcomed to make comments and suggestions for each string band to enhance their performance as well as stage presence.
- Summary Sheet should be checked and double-checked before the judges leave and the winners are announced. The chairman of the judges should then announce the winners. **The decision announced by the judges is final!** The individual score sheets should be destroyed immediately by the judges; no one else will be allowed to see the score sheets or the summary sheet.

**String Band Contest
Summary Sheet**

When all string bands have finished, the judges will retire and make their placings (1, 2, 3, etc.) without any discussion. The judges' rankings of each string band then shall be added, and the winner will be the string band whose total score is the lowest. This is the low point score method of selection.

The person in charge will assist by recording the final placings of each judge on the Summary Sheet to determine the winners. In case of a tie, the judges should vote by secret ballot on the two string bands involved. Judges will be welcomed to make comments and suggestions for each string band to help enhance their performance as well as stage presence.

The Summary Sheet should be checked and double-checked before the winners are announced. The decision announced is final! The individual score sheets should be destroyed immediately by the judges; no one else will be allowed to see the score sheets or the summary sheet.

JUDGES	Name of Band and Placing of Bands by the Judges (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.)						
	String Band 1	String Band 2	String Band 3	String Band 4	String Band 5	String Band 6	String Band 7
Judge 1							
Judge 2							
Judge 3							
TOTAL SCORE/BAND [Judge 1+2+3] (Add up the judges' placings for each band)							
FINAL PLACING [1 ST , 2 ND , 3 RD , 4 TH , ETC.] [Lowest TOTAL SCORE/BAND is 1 st Place, etc.]							