

***QUARTET 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 September 2024
Quartet Contest

QUARTET CONTEST

PURPOSE

The purpose of this contest is to develop musical ability and leadership characteristics through member participation in musical activities.

ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

This contest is open to all junior and senior high school students 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 bona fide FFA members.

Each quartet must consist of four different parts in harmony.

Each quartet may be accompanied by no more than one musical instrument of their choosing. If a musical instrument is used for either one, two, or all three selections, the same instrument must be used. The accompanist is not required to be an FFA member. Any quartet having an accompanist playing an instrument other than a piano must provide their own amplifier. If an electronic synthesizer is used, it must be set to duplicate only one instrument.

Each quartet will sing three selections of their choice. Either spiritual, gospel, country-western, and/or folk music may be used. All singers will use the PA system provided at all venues both district and state.

Area and/or district eliminations will be held prior to the state finals. The first and second place quartets from the North, Central and South district competitions will compete in the state finals during the Alabama FFA State Convention. Winning quartets that are unable to compete in the next highest contest should notify the District Advisor in time for the runner-up to compete. There will not be a preliminary event at the state level. The district event will serve as the qualifier.

A representative must meet with the contest officials backstage of the venue 30 minutes prior to the start of the contest to draw for performance order. Failure to have a representative present will result in disqualification from the TDE.

Entries should be submitted to the County Chairman by February 1.

DISCLAIMER

If 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.

GUIDE FOR JUDGING QUARTET CONTEST

1. Official score sheets should be used in judging each contest.
2. Three competent and impartial persons should be selected to judge the contest.
3. At the time of the contest, the judges should seat themselves apart from one another in different locations of the room in which the contest is held, where all quartet members can be seen.
4. Contestants shall draw for places on the program.
5. Each selection will be scored separately and recorded on the score sheet.
6. When all quartets have finished, the judges will retire and make their placings (1, 2, 3, etc.) without any discussion. The judges' rankings of each quartet then shall be added, and the winner will be the quartet 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 quartets involved. Judges will be welcomed to make comments and suggestions for each quartet to help enhance their performance as well as stage presence.
7. 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.

SCORING

1. Each judge will score the three selections performed by a quartet using a 100 point per selection basis. Each selection will be scored on the following items:
 - a. Harmony (40 points)
 - b. Rendition (15 points)
 - c. Appropriateness and Variation in Types of Songs (15 points)
 - d. Stage Presence (20 points)
 - e. Official Dress (10 points)
2. Each judge will add the score given to each of the three selections for a quartet to obtain the Total Score for that quartet. The Total Score given by the judge for each quartet in the contest will be used to rank the quartets 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. Harmony

Quality of voices
Distinctness of each part
Way in which voices blend

2. Rendition

Pronunciation
Conveyance of thought and meaning
Technique of individuals taking lead
Ability to change tempo

3. Appropriateness and Variation in Types of Songs

4. Stage Presence

Poise and confidence
Ease and relaxation
Ability to start, stop, and stay together
Ability to sing without written lyrics

5. Official Dress

- An official FFA jacket zipped to the top.
- Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons.
- White collared blouse or white collared shirt.
- Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf.
- Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.

Cowboy boots may be considered as dress shoes. Members should use good judgment to ensure boots and shoes are clean.

(Front of Score Sheet)

SCORE SHEET FOR JUDGING FFA QUARTET CONTEST

ITEMS TO BE SCORED	POINTS ALLOWED EACH SELECTION	Name of Quartet and Points Awarded Per Selection																				
		Quartet 1			Quartet 2			Quartet 3			Quartet 4			Quartet 5			Quartet 6			Quartet 7		
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1. Harmony	40																					
2. Rendition	15																					
3. Appropriateness and Variation in Types of Song	15																					
4. Stage Presence	20																					
5. Official Dress	10																					
TOTAL FOR EACH SELECTION	100																					
TOTAL SCORE [1 + 2 + 3] (300 points possible/Quartet)																						
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 quartet to obtain the Total Score for that quartet. The Total Score given by the judge for each quartet in the contest will be used to rank the quartets 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 ITEMS TO BE SCORED

1. Harmony

Quality of voices
Distinctness of each part
Way in which voices blend (four part harmony)

2. Rendition

Pronunciation
Conveyance of thought and meaning
Technique of individuals taking lead
Ability to change tempo

3. Stage Presence

Poise and confidence
Ease and relaxation
Ability to start, stop, and stay together
Ability to sing without written lyrics

4. Official Dress

- An official FFA jacket zipped to the top.
- Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons.
- White collared blouse or white collared shirt.
- Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf.
- Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.

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3. Appropriateness and Variation in Types of Songs

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7. The Summary Sheet should be checked and doubled-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.

QUARTET CONTEST SUMMARY SHEET

When all quartets have finished, the judges will retire and make their placings (1, 2, 3, etc.) without any discussion. The judges' rankings of each quartet then shall be added, and the winner will be the quartet 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 quartets involved. Judges will be welcomed to make comments and suggestions for each quartet 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.

Judges	Names of Quartets and Placing of Quartets by Judges (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.)						
	Quartet 1	Quartet 2	Quartet 3	Quartet 4	Quartet 5	Quartet 6	Quartet 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.]							

***TOTAL SCORE:** The Total Score is the sum of the placing given to a quartet by each of the three judges. The low score wins.
Revised August 2016