

***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 September 2024
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 through fourth place bands from the North, Central and South district competitions will compete in the state preliminaries on the Tuesday before the state convention. The top four bands determined at the preliminary, regardless of district, will compete in the 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.

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 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

- 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.

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 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 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.

Revised August 2013

[Back of Score Sheet]

EXPLANATION OF SCORE CARD POINTS

1. 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.

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

1. Official score sheets should be used in judging each contest.
2. Three (3) 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 at the front of the room in which the contest is held, where all band members can be seen.
4. Contestants shall draw for places on the program.
5. Each selection should be scored separately and recorded on the score sheet.
6. 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.
7. 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.

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**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.] | | | | | | | |

