

January 22, 2010

Dear Talent Show Coordinators:

We are already making plans for our 2010 Iowa State Fair. We are looking forward to working with you on the 51st Iowa State Fair Bill Riley Talent Search!

Please find enclosed the rules for the Talent Search. There are two different sets. One is designed for the coordinators and one for the contestants in the show. Please read both sets of rules very carefully, there are some changes from 2009.

The "List" (location of local shows) is put together from the application sheet included with this letter. We need all information from this sheet to put our list together. This may seem early, but we get calls daily for a list of shows. **Please return by April 15, 2010. If I do not receive a show application, your show will not be put on the list, and will not be an official qualifying talent show.** This list will be posted on the website by April 30, 2010.

Please encourage contestants who are qualifying for the Bill Riley Talent Search to keep dates of August 12-22 open. We strongly discourage making schedule changes once contestants have received a performance date. We need to keep our show fresh with a variety of acts on each day and changes make this impossible. Absolutely no changes can be made when you win at the State Fair and advance to the Semi-finals.

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 is the final day for qualifying for the Iowa State Fair Talent Search. Winners of the August shows will be scheduled to appear on August 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Please inform contestants of this.

Thank you for being a coordinator for the Bill Riley Talent show. Without your show we would not be able to hold our State Fair Talent Search at the Iowa State Fair. Please feel free to contact Bill Riley, Jr. or myself if we can help you with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tonya Cook  
Special Events Director  
(515) 262-3111 ext. 215  
E-mail [tcook@iowastatefair.org](mailto:tcook@iowastatefair.org)  
E-mail [rileystage@gmail.com](mailto:rileystage@gmail.com) (Bill Riley, Jr.)

## 2010 Bill Riley's Iowa State Fair Talent Search Show Coordinator Rules

Dear Show Coordinators,

Thank you for participating in the Bill Riley Talent Search. Please read the following information carefully. Please take note that we have made two important changes this year. We have added 6 year-olds to the Sprout division. In addition, we have decided to have the Sprouts be in competition at the local level. It is your responsibility as the coordinator to be well informed on the rules, and to make sure that the judges and participants are as well. All participants can review the rules on the Iowa State Fair website, [www.iowastatefair.org](http://www.iowastatefair.org). We suggest you have a copy of the rules on hand the day of the show for information and reference. Please check to see if any parents or acts have any questions about the show or the rules during check-in. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at [rileystage@gmail.com](mailto:rileystage@gmail.com). Again, thank you very much for helping make the Bill Riley Talent Search a huge success. This show would not be possible without people like you. See you at the Fair!

Sincerely,  
Bill Riley Jr.

1. The program is best presented as a "Free Admission" event for a local celebration or county fair. Young people cannot be charged a fee for participation in the talent show. All participants must be legal residents of Iowa.
2. The Talent Show is a state wide program. We encourage competition in your local show to be open to anyone in Iowa. We ask that you not limit the competition to a specific county or area. Winners from earlier shows around the state can compete in any subsequent local shows to get as much experience as possible. If such an act in your show is an earlier winner at another show and is already qualified for State Fair competition, and that act wins first place in your show, they receive the cash award. The second place act will advance, unless they have already qualified at an earlier show, then the third place act will advance, and so on. The Master of Ceremonies must ask the acts if they have already qualified for the State Fair Talent Show.
3. Judges: A minimum of three judges are required, and up to five is advised. The Talent Show can be broken down into three basic areas; Dance, Vocal and Instrumental. We strongly advise judges with a background in these areas. Please access music, dance, and vocal teachers from the area. College students may be used, if need be, but they must have a declared major in one of the areas. No parents, teachers, high school students, or family members are allowed to judge. There will be competition in the Sprout, Junior and Senior categories with the First place act in each group advancing to the Iowa State Fair. Only one act may advance in each category. **NO ties are permitted.** Upon completion of your program it is your responsibility of the contact person to let Tonya Cook know ALL information regarding your winners. You may call the results in to Tonya at (515) 262-3111, ext. 215, fax them to her at (515) 262-6906, or email them to [tcook@iowastatefair.org](mailto:tcook@iowastatefair.org).

4. **Semi-Finalists:** Semi-Finalists from last year's Iowa State Fair Talent Search are encouraged to compete at local shows. By making the Semi-Finals at the Iowa State Fair, they are prequalified for the next year's State Fair competition. They do not have to re-qualify for next year's show, but can compete at a local show. If that act wins, they are to receive the prize money, but the next place winner will advance to compete at the Iowa State Fair.
5. **Birthdays and Semi-Finalists:** If a "Junior" act makes the semi-finals at the age of 14, they pre-qualify for the next year. If they turn 15 prior to the start of the Iowa State Fair they would be competing in the "Senior" division. If the birthday falls during the Iowa State Fair they will stay in the "Junior" division.
6. **Junior Division Championship:** There will be 6 finalists competing in the Championship Show. First, second, and third place winners in the Junior division must sit out one year of competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 14 years old or less.
7. **Senior Division Championship:** There will be 9 finalists competing in the Championship show. All finalists in the Senior Division must sit out one year. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 21 years old or less. The "Grand Champion" of the Senior division is no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Talent Search.
8. In addition to the Junior and Senior competition, Sprout acts will be chosen to be showcased and perform as "Stars of Tomorrow" in the Championship show, but will not be judged.
9. The only exception to the one-year absence will be for Junior division champions who were 14 years old when they won. They do not have to sit out a year and are automatically qualified for the next State Fair. They will, however, be competing in the Senior division. It is highly recommended that they compete at the local level as a Senior to get a feel for the older division.
10. **Seniors and Juniors must qualify within the age requirement. For example, if you are 21 and don't qualify before you are 22 you are ineligible, or if you are a Junior and don't qualify before you are 14 you will compete in the Senior division.**

**Age Groups:** Sprouts: 2 through 6 years. Juniors: 7 through 14 years. Seniors: 15 through 21. All divisions are in competition. A person's age for the Iowa State Fair competition is determined at the time they win at a local show. If a 6, 14, 21 year-old has a birthday after qualifying for the State Fair competition, they will compete in the division they were in when they qualified.

11. Acts with multiple performers will be placed in competition by adding the ages of members, and dividing by the number of members. The average age for that group dictates what division they compete in.
12. **Winners:** Only one winner from your show is permitted to advance to the Iowa State Fair from each division (Sprout, Junior and Senior.) **NO TIES** are permitted in all placing.

13. The local sponsoring group is expected to provide prizes, which may include ribbons or trophies. The suggested range is:  
    SPROUTS: Ribbons or trophies  
    JUNIORS: Low range: \$15, \$10 & \$5 High Range: \$50, \$25, & \$20.  
    SENIORS: Low range: \$25, \$15, \$10 High Range: \$100, \$50 & \$25.
14. The stage should measure 16' by 32' or larger to accommodate acrobatic dance acts, and it should have a smooth surface. This is very important to the dancers. Please provide them with a quality stage area. Provide a well-tuned piano with a full keyboard. Please provide an excellent public address system, with a competent sound engineer. You must also provide a CD player that will play through the PA system and try to be prepared for any digital playback from I-pod and other digital devices.
15. To help us schedule the acts as they advance to the Iowa State Fair, please categorize as follows:
- Vocalists: classical, country, or contemporary areas.
  - Dancers: tap, jazz, ballet, pointe, acrobatic, or baton.
  - Instrumental: classical or contemporary categories.
16. **Check In:** Acts should meet with your Master of Ceremonies one half hour prior to the show to get checked in. The Sprout division performs first followed by the Junior and then the Senior division. Judging is to be done between each division in order to give the judges plenty of time for their decision. Awards to follow each division.
17. There must be four acts signed up ahead of time in each division to qualify as an Iowa State Fair sanctioned show. We suggest no more than fifteen acts in each division. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. Accompanists are not considered part of the act and can be of any age. Please limit the number of accompanists to three.
18. **Timing Acts.** Acts must attempt to keep the performance as close to three minutes as possible. Acts running considerably past three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction. Five - Ten seconds over would be a starting point to begin deductions, with twenty - thirty seconds well within your right as a judge for disqualification. This is at the judges' discretion and should be monitored closely. Set up time is not included. Please try to limit set up time to one minute.
19. Contestants may appear only once in any one show (not in a multiple and also as a single act at one show.)
20. Professionals are NOT permitted to compete. This includes Union musicians and anyone whose principle source of income is from their talent. Compensation for performing at weddings, etc. does not constitute principle source of income.
21. You will need name, complete address, birth date, age, social security number, phone number (include area code), and type of talent. Multiple member acts need one of the group members to act as a contact person with all information going through them. Additional members of the act need only birth date, age and town.

**Vocalists are strongly encouraged to practice and perform with the assistance of a vocal coach and/or a live accompanist. We understand that live accompanists are expensive, and sometimes very difficult to obtain for some performers. We will allow prerecorded accompaniment as long as it is a single instrument. Any prerecorded tape with backing vocals, multiple instrumentation or orchestration is not allowed, and the act will be disqualified. Coordinators and Judges, please pay close attention to this!**

**For more information contact:**

Tonya Cook: Phone: (515) 262-3111, Ext. 215

E-mail: [tcook@iowastatefair.org](mailto:tcook@iowastatefair.org)

Bill Riley Jr.: Phone: (515) 202-6232

E-mail: [rileystage@gmail.com](mailto:rileystage@gmail.com)

## **2010 Bill Riley's Iowa State Fair Talent Search** **Contestant Rules**

Dear Talent Search Contestants,

Thank you for participating in the Bill Riley Talent Search. Please read the rule sheet carefully and take note of two changes this season. The first is the age groups. We have included 6 year-olds in the Sprout division, so that age group is now 2 years through 6 years old. In addition we have returned to allowing the Sprout division to be in competition. These changes are our continued effort to improve the show, both for you, the contestants, and for the audience. Feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions, my email address is rileystage@gmail.com. Thanks again, and best of luck.

Sincerely,  
Bill Riley Jr.

1. Show is open to legal residents of the state of Iowa only. Acts must appear in a locally sponsored show somewhere in the state of Iowa and win to be eligible to compete at the Iowa State Fair. Judges decisions are final.
2. Sprouts: 2 through 6 years  
Juniors: 7 through 14 years  
Seniors: 15 through 21 years  
A person's age for the Iowa State Fair competition is determined at the time they win a local show. A 14 year old (or 21 year old) could turn 15 (or 22) by State Fair and still be eligible in the Junior (or Senior) division, as they met age requirements at the time of qualification.
3. Acts with multiple performers will be placed in competition by adding the ages of members, and dividing by the number of members. The average age for that group dictates what division they compete in. We understand that some acts may have members that are in other age divisions, but try to keep the ages as close as possible to your division.
4. Acts must attempt to keep the performance as close to three minutes as possible. Acts running longer than three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction. This will be at the judge's discretion. Keep the act at three minutes please. Set-up time is not included. Please try to limit set-up time to one minute.

5. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. Piano accompanist is NOT included in an act and may be any age. No more than three accompanists permitted per act. Drums, amps, etc. are discouraged due to the one-minute set-up time. No combos, rock bands or similar musical group permitted.
6. Acts are asked to not dance onto or off the stage. After introductions, you may take any position you wish to begin your performance.
7. **Vocalists are strongly encouraged to practice and perform with the assistance of a vocal coach and/or a live accompanist. We understand that live accompanists are expensive, and sometimes very difficult to obtain for some performers. We will allow prerecorded accompaniment as long as it is a single instrument. Any prerecorded tape with backing vocals, multiple instrumentation or orchestration is not allowed, and the act will be disqualified.**
8. Contestants may only appear once in any given show. They may not perform “solo” and then return in the same show in a duet or trio. Contestants are allowed to perform in different acts in different shows, but they may only qualify for the State Fair Show with one act.
9. Professionals are NOT permitted to compete. This includes Union musicians and anyone whose principle source of income is from their talent. Compensation for performing at weddings, etc. does not constitute principle source of income.

### **Competition at the Iowa State Fair:**

- Preliminary rounds: First 7 days
- Semi finals: Days 8, 9, and 10
- Championship show: Day 11

**Semi-Finalists:** Semi-finalists from last year’s Iowa State Fair Talent Search are automatically qualified for the next State fair competition. You do not have to re-qualify for next year’s show by winning a local level show, but are encouraged to compete at local shows. If you win a local level show, you are entitled to the prize money, but you must inform the Master of Ceremonies that you have already qualified for the State Fair. The second place winner will then be able to advance to the State Fair competition. Remember you are entitled to the first place prize money.

**Birthdays and Semi-Finalists:** Semi-finalists returning the following year will perform in the division for their current age. Example, if a 14 year old makes the semi-finals in the Junior division, and they turn 15 by the next State Fair they will be placed in the Senior division.

**Sprout Division:** Sprout acts will be chosen to showcase as “Stars of Tomorrow” in the Championship Show, but will not be competing when at the Iowa State Fair.

**Junior Division Championship:** There will be 6 finalists competing in the Championship Show. First, second, and third place winners in the Junior division must sit out one year of competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 14 years old or less.

**Senior Division Championship:** There will be 9 finalists in competition. All finalists in the Senior division must sit out one year. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 21 years old or less. The “Grand Champion” of the Senior division is no longer allowed to compete at the State Fair Talent Show.

“The only exception to the one-year absence will be for Junior division champions who were 14 year old when they won. They do not have to sit out a year and are automatically qualified for the next State Fair. They will however be competing in the Senior division. It is highly recommended that they compete at the local level as a Senior to get a feel for the older division.”

**All divisions** must qualify within the age requirement. For example, if you are 21 and don’t qualify before you are 22 you are ineligible, or if you are a Junior and don’t qualify before you are 15 you will compete in the Senior division.

10. You will need name, complete address, birth date, age, social security number, phone number (include area code), and type of talent. Multiple acts need one member to act as a contact person with all information going through them. Additional members of the act need only birth date, age, and town.

**For more information contact:**

Tonya Cook: Phone: (515) 262-3111, Ext. 215

E-mail: [tcook@iowastatefair.org](mailto:tcook@iowastatefair.org)

Bill Riley Jr.: Phone: (515) 202-6232

E-mail: [rileystage@gmail.com](mailto:rileystage@gmail.com)

# 2010 Bill Riley Talent Search Show Application

**Please return by April 15, 2010**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
(Show date) (Location of show)

In conjunction with \_\_\_\_\_  
(County fair, fun days, etc.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Contact person coordinating contest)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, box)

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECK OPTIONS APPLYING TO YOUR SHOW:

Do not contact before a certain date \_\_\_\_\_

Former coordinator whose name should be removed from mailing list:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No show this year; remove my name from mailing list.

\_\_\_\_\_ No show this year; leave on mailing list for next year.

For your show to be placed on "The List" which will be posted on [www.iowastatefair.org](http://www.iowastatefair.org), you **MUST** return the above application by **April 15, 2010**.

Return to:

Tonya Cook  
Iowa State Fair  
PO Box 57130  
Des Moines, IA 50317-0003

Fax No: (515) 262-6906  
E-mail: [tcook@iowastatefair.org](mailto:tcook@iowastatefair.org)