

North Dakota State Fair
presents





Rules and Guidelines 2024

Entry Fees: No entry fees.

Deadline: Application and audition must be submitted by **May 31, 2024 at 11:59 PM.** (See Below for Details.)

Eligibility: This competition is sanctioned by the North Dakota State Fair and is open to non-signed competitors who wish to showcase their musical talents. Only musical talent will be considered. Participants may have an agent; however, they will be disqualified if they have a record deal.

Guidelines: A maximum of five people per band will perform with the equipment the NDSF provides. Equipment includes drums, amps, and microphones. You must bring your own guitars and keyboard if needed. **No one but band members will be allowed backstage. (Up to 5 band members only.)** All finalists will need to pay their own gate admission. All finalists will receive 15 complimentary tickets to the Wednesday night grandstand show.

Timeline: The NDSF Talent Judging Team will review the video once submitted. You will receive confirmation if you made it into the top 3 finalists by Friday, June 14. A runner-up will be selected to perform in case of an immediate dropout by a finalist. From there, **ALL FINALISTS** must get ready to perform on the biggest stage in North Dakota as the opening Grandstand acts on Wednesday, July 24. Once all finalists have performed, the NDSF Talent Judging Team will immediately choose a winner who will receive \$2,000.

How to submit an audition: Competitors submit their application and YouTube video audition through the ndsf@minot.com e-mail OR by filling out the online application located at ndstatefair.com/hometown-sound/

Singing must be done either acapella or with live accompaniment; backtracks may be used if recorded directly by the musician. **NO KARAOKE TRACKS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

- Group videos must be the group performing one song, with an optional introduction of the song – no other talking.
- Singing must be live. No filters. Videos must be a continuous shot and unedited. Videos should not be paused or spliced together.
- Competitors may wear the attire of their choice; however, all attire must be appropriate.
- An excellent stage performance is often an advantage to a competitor and they will be judged on this



Please submit a complete song, not just clips or clips of pieces of songs.

- Complete all information fields in the entry form with details about the competitor, not the parent or guardian. If you are entering as a group, please put the primary contact person for the group in the information fields.
- You may submit your video via YouTube link, Jump Drive (drop off at the NDSF office), or Google Drive link.
- Please ensure that your settings are public on all platforms so we can view them.
- Each competitor may submit only one audition video. Submitting more than one audition may result in the competitor's disqualification.
- Selection of the Final THREE will take place from June 1 – June 14, 2024.
- **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- The Final Round of judging the top three finalists will be held on the North Dakota State Fair Grandstand Stage as the opening act on July 24.
- The winner's announcement will occur on the Grandstand Stage before the headlining artist takes the stage. We will ask all three finalists to come on stage for the announcement.
- A \$2,000 check will be handed to the winner.

****One Entry per person. ALL COMPETITORS** submitting online entries for the Audition agree to the terms of the North Dakota State Fair Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement. The North Dakota State Fair will receive all rights to all videos submitted.

Final Round of Judging: The top three performers, as determined by the North Dakota State Fair Talent Judging Team, will advance to the final round of judging.

- The final round of judging will be held Wednesday, July 24, at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds as the opening act of the headlining show.
- All competitors must purchase gate admission to the North Dakota State Fair.
- All competitors requiring sound check must be at the Grandstand by 2:00 PM on Wednesday, July 24.
- All competitors must report backstage of the Grandstand for the show by 6:00 PM.
- No one but band members will be allowed backstage. (maximum of 5 band members.)
- All competitors who advance to the final round must provide a W-9 and social security number. The cash award will be made out to the primary contact. The group is responsible for the equitable distribution of the cash award amongst its members.
- Each competitor will get 15 minutes on stage to perform for the final round of judging.
- Judges will individually score each competitor based on performance, crowd engagement, and music selection.

Music Selection and Equipment:

- Competitors may perform a song from the genre of their choice. One song must be a cover, and each must not be longer than 4 minutes. Remember, competitors are being judged on crowd engagement and music selection.
- Contestants should be prepared to perform acapella in case of technical difficulties.
- Backline will be provided for individuals or groups who wish to use instruments during their performance.
- The show reserved the right to end any performance it deems inappropriate.

Performance: An excellent stage performance will be a part of the judging. However, all performances must be appropriate for a family show. The show reserves the right to cancel the performance of any competitor



performing in an excessively suggestive or inappropriate manner.

Judging:

- Judges will be selected to judge both the auditions and the final round of the competition.
- Judge's decisions are final.
- Winners will be announced immediately following the Final Round of Judging, and winners will be recognized on stage.
- Results will be published on the North Dakota State Fair website at ndstatefair.com

Awards: The competition winners will receive \$2,000 to be presented immediately following the judging on Wednesday, July 24.

Contacts:

NDSF Marketing Director
701-857-7620 or ndsf@minot.com

Dean Clott – Owner of DC Entertainment - **Backline Questions Only**
701-240-7148 or dean@dcentconcerts.com

**Attached Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement Attached
Application for Competition**





APPLICATION

Deadline: The application and audition must be submitted to ndsf@minot.com by May 31, 2024, at 11:59 PM. **This form MUST be submitted with the audition video by the deadline.**

Eligibility: This competition is sanctioned by the North Dakota State Fair and open to non-professional competitors who wish to showcase their musical talents. Only musical talent will be considered. Individuals and groups practicing professionals or engaging in this work for a livelihood are **not** eligible for this competition. This includes any person who might have a manager, music recording contract, agreement relating to the use of their name/likeness, or other entertainment contract. **Ages 16+ may apply (all band members must be at least 16+ by May 19, 2024, proof of age will be required).** Applicant **MUST be from North Dakota and hold a North Dakota address.**

Timeline: The NDSF Talent Judging Team will review the video once it is submitted. You will receive confirmation if you made it into the top 3 finalists **by Wednesday, June 14. A runner-up will be selected to perform in case of an immediate dropout by a finalist.** From there, ALL FINALISTS must get ready to perform on the biggest stage in North Dakota as the opening Grandstand acts on Wednesday, July 24, for artist Sawyer Brown. Once all finalists have performed, The NDSF Talent Judging Team will immediately choose a winner who will receive \$2,000.

For Additional Information – Please see the Rules and Guidelines attached to this application.

Name/Names (all band members if applicable): _____

Name of primary contact: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Group Name (if applicable): _____

Birthday/Birthdays (**must be 16+ by May, 31, 2024**) _____

Song performed in audition video _____

How will you be submitting your audition video: _____

(YouTube link, jump drive, Google Drive link)

Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement for Hometown Sound Contest Applicants

I. Introduction

This Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by the undersigned participant ("Participant") of the Hometown Sound Contest ("Contest") organized in connection with the 2024 North Dakota State Fair ("Event"). The final three contestants of the Contest will have the opportunity to perform as the opening act for Sawyer Brown on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. By signing this Agreement, the Participant acknowledges and agrees to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

II. Acknowledgment of Risks

The Participant acknowledges that participation in the Contest and any associated events, including the performance as an opening act, involves inherent risks and dangers, including but not limited to the risk of physical injury, emotional stress, and property damage. The Participant voluntarily assumes all such risks, known and unknown, arising from or related to their participation in the Contest and any associated events.

III. Release of Liability

The Participant, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, hereby releases, waives, discharges, and covenants not to sue the North Dakota State Fair, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, sponsors, and affiliates (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death that may be sustained by the Participant, or any property belonging to the Participant, while participating in the Contest, or while on the premises where the Event is being conducted, under any theory of liability.

IV. Indemnity

The Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all liabilities, claims, damages, expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees), and losses arising out of or in any way connected with the Participant's participation in the Contest and/or performance at the Event, including, without limitation, any claims for personal injury, death, or damage to property.

V. Medical Treatment

In the event of a medical emergency, the Participant authorizes and consents to any necessary medical treatment or care deemed advisable by authorized personnel or medical professionals. The Participant agrees to be fully responsible for any and all costs associated with such medical treatment or medical transportation.

VI. Media Release

The Participant grants permission to the North Dakota State Fair and its agents and licensees to use any photographs, video recordings, or any other visual or audio portrayals of the Participant or their performance at the Event, in any medium or context for any purpose, including promotional, advertising, or commercial purposes, without compensation to the Participant.

VII. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Dakota, without regard to its conflict of law principles.

VIII. Acknowledgment

The Participant acknowledges that they have read this Agreement, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms. The Participant further acknowledges that this Agreement represents the entire understanding between the Participant and the North Dakota State Fair concerning the Participant's participation in the Contest and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous negotiations or agreements, whether written or oral.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Participant's Name (Print)

Participant's Signature

Date

If the Participant is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also sign.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) (If applicable)

Parent/Guardian's Signature (If applicable)

Date