



#### OFFICIAL RULES

**THE CONTEST:** True Country 1510 AM and The Van Zandt County Fair are conducting a musical talent search to be held Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7pm.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, residing in Van Zandt County are eligible to enter the contest. They will be grouped into three categories. They are “K-5 Elementary”, “Junior High”, and “High School”. No professional singers or musicians are allowed to enter. If you have performed for payment in the past year, or are signed to a recording contract, you are considered a “professional” and should not enter.

**PERFORMANCE:** This is a musical talent search. Entrants may sing, play an instrument, or participate as a group (a music group will count as ONE entry). CD Players will be provided for those performing with a soundtrack. ONLY CD's will be used. NO CASSETTES. Instruments requiring special amplification need to be cleared at least one week prior to the contest. A representative of the contest will contact each entrant to inquire about sound requirements. The Van Zandt County Fair will provide a sound system and (4) microphones.

**HOW TO ENTER:** All contestants must completely fill out an official entry form and send it in, along with an entry fee of \$15.00, and a CD, Cassette, Videotape, or DVD or your performance to:

**TRUE COUNTRY/VZC FAIR TALENT SEARCH**  
**1351 South HWY 19, Suite 104**  
**Canton, Texas 75103**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: “Van Zandt County Fair Association”**  
**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

If a contestant fails to include the entry fee, or to completely fill out the entry form, their submission will not be considered. Any questions should be referred to (903) 567-5566.

**SCHEDULE:** You will be contacted the week of the show. At that time you will be given the schedule of the show. We will also arrange your sound system needs at that time. Do not call to inquire about your performance time. Everyone will be required to be at the Todd Berry Building by no later than 5:30 on the day of the show. During that time you will meet with the Sound Technician to discuss your needs. **All contestants must be in the audience for the entire show, except during your performance. Leaving early or arriving late could lead to disqualification.** The show will begin promptly at 6:30pm. The Elementary Division will perform first, then Junior High, then High School. EACH PERFORMER IS GIVEN A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) MINUTES TO PERFORM. After the final performances, there will be an intermission during which the judges scores will be tallied. After that, the contestants will gather on stage and the winners of each division will be announced.

**PRIZES:** Each division will have a Grand Prize Winner and a Runner Up. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a Prize valued at \$100.00. The Runner-Up will receive a prize

Valued at \$50.00. The Grand Prize Winner from each category will be invited to perform on the “True Country 1510 AM – Morning Round-up” radio show. Also, the Grand Prize Winner of the High School Division will be invited to perform a one song opener for the Knowles Brothers band, Saturday night of the Fair.

**JUDGING and METHODOLOGY:** The judges will be local celebrities and community leaders. Judges will be screened prior to the contest to be sure that none of them have any relationship to any of the contestants. Contestants will be judged based on three criteria.

1. Ability to perform chosen talent – how well you sing or play.
2. Stage Presence – how well you work the stage and crowd in relation to age.
3. Audience response – how well (loudly) the audience responds to your show!

Judges will award a score of 1 to 10 (10 being the “perfect”) in each of the three areas of your performance, so it is important to excel in each. For example, if you sing well, but do not handle yourself well on stage, you may not get a perfect score. Audience response is 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the score. Contestants are encouraged to promote their performance and urge their “fans” to attend!! At the end of each performance, the judges will individually total your score. They will then combine their scores to give you a final score. Each judge can individually give a maximum score of 30 points to a performer. There will be 3 judges, so that means the maximum score for any performer will be 90 points. The performer with the highest score in their division will be that division’s winner. In the event of a tie, the contestant with the highest score in CATEGORY #1 will win. If CATEGORY #1 is also a tie, then #2 will be used, and so forth. In the extremely rare event that the total and all three categories are exactly tied, then the performers who tied will be asked to perform again and be re-judged. All decisions by the judges, Fair Association, and True Country 1510 AM are final. For more information, call 903-567-5566.