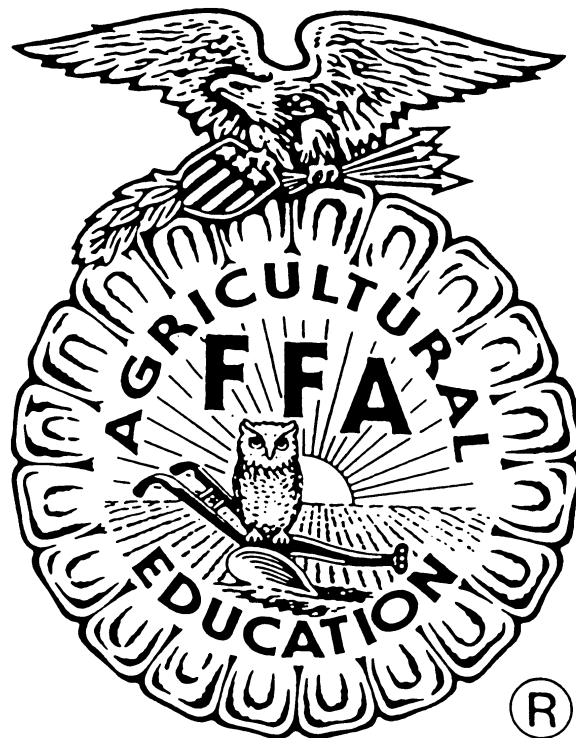


STRING BAND CONTEST

RULES AND REGULATIONS



ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

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No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.

Revised February 2009
String Band Contest

STRING BAND CONTEST

PURPOSE

The purpose of this contest is to stimulate interest in appreciation of country and western music, provide wholesome recreation, promote leadership, assist in radio and television broadcasting, promote group participation, and develop musical talent.

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.

All persons on the stage are considered to be band members. A majority of the instrumentalist must play string instruments.

Each band will play three numbers of its own selection. All numbers should be country/western music. This includes bluegrass music. Each band will perform two vocal numbers and one instrumental.

All string instruments must be used. 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 and second place winners from the North, Central and South districts will compete in the state finals. 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.

STATE AWARDS/SPONSOR(S):

Refer to Alabama FFA Contests and Awards Booklet at:
http://www.alabamaffa.org/forms_applications.htm

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 at the front of 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 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.

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

Male Members

Black slacks, white shirt, official FFA tie, black shoes, black socks, and the official jacket zipped to the top

Female Members

Black skirt, white blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black shoes and the official jacket zipped to the top

2. Introduction and Vocals

**Effectiveness of group spokesman
Lead vocal strong, harmony vocals blending with lead vocal where harmony vocals are present.**

3. Stage Presence of Entire Band

**Poise and confidence
Ease and relaxation
Ability to perform skillfully as a group
Projecting a pleasing sound to the audience**

4. Variety and Blending of Instruments Including Lead Instrument

**Diversity of instruments
Use of different instruments to produce a blended sound that is pleasant and musically correct
Producing a sound that is clear and that has tonal quality at both high and low volume levels
Each lead instrument (lead guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, dobro, harmonica, piano/keyboard) should take lead break in the instrumental number**

5. Appropriate Volume Level

Appropriate volume is used for selections performed

6. Timing and Smoothness of Rhythm

**Observe the basic music rudiments of time and rhythm
Ability to start, stop, and stay together**

7. Instrumental and/or Vocal Arrangement

Best use of instruments and vocals in the rendition of the selections

8. Appropriateness of Selections

The use of musical selections that are commonly considered to be country-western, or bluegrass

[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 & Vocals	15																					
3. Stage Presence of Entire Band	15																					
4. Variety and Blending of Instruments Including Lead Instrument	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.

[Back of Score Sheet]

EXPLANATION OF SCORE CARD POINTS

1. Official Dress

Male Members - black slacks, white shirt, official FFA tie, black shoes, black socks, and the official jacket zipped to the top.

Female Members - black skirt, white blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black shoes and the official jacket zipped to the top.

2. Introduction and Vocals

Effectiveness of group spokesman

Lead vocal strong, harmony vocals blending with lead vocal where harmony vocals are present.

3. Stage Presence of Entire Band

Poise and confidence

Ease and relaxation

Ability to perform skillfully as a group

Projecting a pleasing sound to the audience

4. Variety and Blending of Instruments

Including Lead Instrument

Diversity of instruments

Use of different instruments to produce a blended sound that is pleasant and musically correct

Producing a sound that is clear and has tonal quality at both high and low volume levels

Each lead instrument (lead guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, dobro, harmonica, piano/keyboard) should take lead break in the instrumental number

5. Appropriate Volume Level

Appropriate volume is used for selections performed

6. Timing and Smoothness of Rhythm

Observe the basic music rudiments of time and rhythm

Ability to start, stop, and stay together

7. Instrumental and/or Vocal Arrangement

Best use of instruments and vocals in the rendition of the selections

8. Appropriateness of Selections

The use of musical selections that are commonly considered to be country-western, or bluegrass

GUIDE FOR JUDGING FFA STRING BAND CONTESTS

- Official score sheets should be used in judging each contest.
- Three (3) 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 at the front of 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 should 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 enhance their performance as well as stage presence.
- Summary Sheet should be checked and double-checked before 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.

**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.]							