

# 2017 Contest Schedule and Rules

**SIGN-UP FOR A CONTEST IS FREE; EACH CONTESTANT MUST HAVE A FESTIVAL PASS**

**ONLINE SIGNUP: SWP WEBSITE -- 8 AM SEPTEMBER 1 UNTIL MIDNIGHT SEPT 12, 2017**

**IF YOU SIGN UP ONLINE YOU MUST CHECK IN WITH THE CONTEST TABLE AT THE LOCATION OF THE CONTEST (COMMUNITY HOUSE OR PIONEER STAGE) AT LEAST 90 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE CONTEST OR YOU MAY BE DROPPED FROM THE CONTEST**

**ANY CONTEST SPOTS NOT FILLED ONLINE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR IN PERSON SIGNUP AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE – SIGNUP ENDS 1 HOUR BEFORE EACH SATURDAY CONTEST; BAND SCRAMBLE AND SUNDAY BG/OT BAND CONTEST SIGNUP ENDS AT 4 PM SATURDAY**

**SIGN UP HOURS (and early CHECK IN if you signed up ONLINE):**

**FRIDAY 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

**CONTEST Schedule and locations: (Contests occur between band/group performances on Saturday)**

SATURDAY	COMMUNITY HOUSE		PIONEER STAGE @Ski Hill	PRIZES: 1 <sup>ST</sup> /2 <sup>ND</sup> /3 <sup>RD</sup>
		10:00 - 10:45	Vocal Duo Contest	\$200 / \$100 / \$50
10:30-11:15	Banjo BG / OT			\$100 / \$50 / \$25
12:30- 1:15	Fiddle BG /OT			\$100 / \$50 / \$25
2:30- 3:15	Flatpick Guitar			\$100 / \$50 / \$25
4:30- 5:15	Song Writing			\$100 / \$50 / \$25

**BG/OT BAND CONTESTANT LINEUP FOR SUNDAY WILL BE POSTED ON SATURDAY EVENING AS SOON AS COMPLETED!**

SUNDAY	PIONEER STAGE @ Ski Hill	PRIZES: 1 <sup>ST</sup> /2 <sup>ND</sup> /3 <sup>RD</sup>
10:30	Band Lists for Band Scramble Posted	
1:00	Band Scramble	RIBBONS ONLY
	BG and OT Band Contest	\$500 **/ \$ 250 / \$125

**\*\* BG/OT BAND WINNER INVITED TO PERFORM ON MAIN STAGE AT 2018 FESTIVAL**

**RULES:**

**BAND SCRAMBLE SHALL AWARD ONLY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, AND 3<sup>RD</sup> RIBBONS – NO CASH;**

**ALL CONTESTS WITH CASH PRIZES REQUIRE AT LEAST 4 ENTRANTS OR NO CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN THAT CONTEST.**

**BG/OT BAND CONTEST MAY HAVE UP TO 12 BANDS (8 MIN. PERFORMANCE PER BAND)**

**ALL OTHER CONTESTS LIMITED TO 7 ENTRANTS (6 MIN. PERFORMANCE PER ENTRANT)**

The purpose of each contest is the staging of Old Time and Bluegrass music in a fun setting for both contestants and audience. **Time limitations require that entrants playing Bluegrass and/or Old Time styles compete against each other in each contest -- Each contest will be judged as fairly as possible by volunteer judges.**

Contestants may enter and place in an unrestricted number of contests. Contests are open to anyone having a current day festival ticket, except those who are *performing as a paid entertainer* at the 2017 Festival (**Showcase Band members may enter as individuals and Showcase bands may enter the OT/BG Band Contest, however, priority will be given to bands which have not had the opportunity to perform at the Festival in a Showcase slot.**

**No one** who was a First Place winner in a contest in 2016 may enter the SAME contest (with the exception of the Band Scramble). Previous winners may enter any contest category which they did not win in 2016. **Note:** Individuals who were members of a first place winning band in 2016, may individually enter with a different band in the 2017 band contest. Bands shall contain **no more than one** 2016 first place winning band member.

- 1. Online registrants must check in at the appropriate contest table at least 90-minutes before their contest. If registering in person, you must have your registration completed at least 60-minutes before the entered contest is scheduled to begin.** Performance order will be assigned and announced approx. 30 min before the start of each contest. Festival Officials will limit competition to the first 7 entries in each contest except BG/OT Band contest (12 entrants). **Entrants are to perform in the order assigned and may be disqualified by the MC and/or Judges if they are not available when called. Entrants are discouraged from entering overlapping contests; you must be available when called or you will be disqualified, as we cannot disrupt the overall schedule.** Entrants are encouraged to remain in the immediate area during their contest.
- 2. Each contestant will be timed; Participants exceeding the contest time limit (see 3 below) will be penalized in point total and may be disqualified.**
- 3. In each contest (EXCEPT SONGWRITING-one song only), entrants must choose and play two tunes/songs. Except for BG/OT Band contest (see 7 below), total performance time per contestant should be limited to 6 min or less not including MC introduction. Except for SONGWRITING, all Contestants **Please have a 3<sup>rd</sup> tune/song selected for use as a runoff number in the event of a tie.** After being introduced by the MC, the contestant or accompanist may introduce the names/history of their selections. All dialogue by contestants will be included in the contest time allowed.**
- 4. For the Songwriting contest the composer is expected to perform the song (sing and accompany self, if author is only singing then one addition accompanist is allowed, and if author is singing and accompanying self, then an additional accompanist is also allowed for a total of two performers); if a collaboration of two or more, then one of these should perform the song; please provide 3 copies of the words (lyrics) of the song to the contest table– these will be provided to the judges; Each song will be judged on lyrics, tune (melody) and arrangement including intro, verses, breaks and outro; to the best of their ability the judges will not downgrade the contestant score based on performance errors or vocal quality. **Instruments and selected tunes/songs** should be appropriate to the Bluegrass and Old Time objectives of this Festival. Instrument contestants may use a maximum of one accompanist per tune/song (a contestant may switch accompanists, but change out time will be included in their **time limit!**). In instrument contests (banjo, fiddle, flatpick guitar), accompanists may **NOT** take a lead break and violation of this rule will result in disqualification. The only acceptable electric instrument is the bass guitar or Uke Bass; all others must be acoustic. Harmonicas are OK; Kazoos, trombones, trumpets, bagpipes etc are not.**
- 5. The "Entertainment Duo/Vocal" contest is for two performers playing and/or singing two songs/tunes in a 6 minute set not including MC introduction in any music arrangement of their choice (in this contest, either and/or both performers **ARE allowed** to take a lead break) and may perform cover tunes or original material appropriate to Bluegrass or Old Time.**

6. **Groups of three or more instrument playing or vocal performers are considered a ‘band’ and must enter the BG/OT Band contest.** BG/OT Band entrants have **8 min** not including MC introduction for performing 2 songs/tunes; all members of a Band may take ‘breaks’ and may include verbal patter. Band contests will be conducted using a single vocal mic and a single instrument mic. Performance material must be appropriate for either Bluegrass and/or Old Time genres. NOTE: ALL entered Bands will compete against each other and be judged based on their performance quality appropriate to the material they present regardless of whether the material is Old Time or Bluegrass.
7. Instrument contestants (banjo, fiddle, flatpick guitar) may choose two tunes in Bluegrass or Oldtime style (or one of each) to perform and will compete against each other and be judged based on their performance quality appropriate to the material (Old Time or Bluegrass) they present.
8. For the Band Scramble contest participation by all members of the scramble band shall be a factor and will be conducted using a single vocal mic and a single instrument mic.

Judges will determine whether instruments used or material presented is appropriate for Bluegrass or Old Time. Judges will score contestants on the basis of their individual performance in that contest only. Judges will disregard any prior performances or reputation of the contestant. Judges must choose 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category and may request a runoff tune/song at their discretion. All judging decisions are **final**. The contest organizers (SWT&BMA), set the above rules and instruct judges to maintain objectivity, but rating musical performances is inherently subjective. All contests will utilize a "standard" judging approach with changes as appropriate to each contest.

See the judging forms at the contest table to see the factors involved in each contest. Judging is based on a 1 (low) to 10 (high) point system in each of several equally weighted factors SUCH AS : rhythm, intonation and execution, difficulty, appropriateness to BG (or OT); stage presence shall be a factor for performance contests (bands and entertainment duo/vocal).

**WAIVER--**The Southwest Traditional & Bluegrass Music Association, a New Mexico non-profit corporation, expressly retains all rights to the performances of all contestants (including all electronic or video media), all reproduction rights, and the right to tape, video record and/or photograph each contestant. Your registration for any of the Festival contests shall constitute your acceptance of the foregoing.