

Fiddle Contest Rules and Prizes: November 2007

- **Age:** Contestants must be aged 6 through 18.
- **Entry fee:** There will be a \$5 entry fee for each contestant. Soloists may also register for the accompanist and band divisions for an additional registration fee. A \$10 fee is required for each band.
- **Cash Prizes:**

Junior Division:	1 st Place \$30, 2 nd Place \$20, 3 rd Place \$10
Middle Division:	1 st Place \$50, 2 nd Place \$25, 3 rd Place \$50
Senior Division:	1 st Place \$75, 2 nd Place \$50, 3 rd Place \$25
Senior Accompanist Division:	1 st Place \$75, 2 nd Place \$50, 3 rd Place \$25
Non-traditional Fiddle Band:	1 st Place \$75, 2 nd Place \$50, 3 rd Place \$25 [for each winning band entry]

All winners are **required** to provide their Social Security number to the contest director prior to the receipt of their cash award. **No prize** will be awarded without this information.

- **Accompanists:** No contestant may have more than 3 accompanists. One is sufficient, or you may perform without accompaniment. You may provide your own accompanist, or a staff accompanist will be available for an extra fee of \$15. The accompanist will rehearse with you at a mutually agreed-upon time, and perform with you. Contestants who live in Champaign-Urbana should plan to meet with their accompanist one or two weeks before the date of the contest.
- **Divisions:** You must play in the division appropriate for your age and/or skill level. Please see below for specifics. Violas and cellos will be judged separately from violins. There will be winners in each division.
 - **Junior Division: 1 hoedown required:** Contestants should be aged 6-8 years or have 1-2 years of playing experience.
 - **Middle Division: 1 hoedown plus 1 waltz required:** Contestants should be aged 9-13 or have 2-4 years of playing experience.
 - **Senior Division: 1 hoedown plus 1 waltz required:** Contestants should be aged 14-18 or have 5 or more years of playing experience.
 - **Senior Accompanist Division: 1 hoedown plus 1 waltz required:** Contestants, aged 14-18 or have 5 or more years of playing experience, should be prepared to accompany 2 tunes selected from the suggested competition play list by the staff musician. Open to all traditional string band instruments. **No piano.**
 - **Traditional and/or Non-traditional String Band: 2 pieces of different styles:** Bands limited to 3-6 members. All contestants must be aged 6-18 and perform on acoustic instruments. **No** electronic instruments. All performances cannot exceed 5 minutes of playing time.

What if you don't fit in a division exactly? Contestants may have the option of moving up or down one division if their circumstances make it appropriate. For example, a 12-year old who has been playing for 9 years should participate in the senior division, while a 12-year old who has played for only 1 year may opt for the junior division. The idea is to make the divisions fair, so please use your own best judgment. People who intentionally register for the wrong division to gain advantage may be disqualified. If you still have questions about which division is right for you, please send your question to robin.k@Bow-DaciousStringBand.com

- **Tune Selection:** Contestants must perform pieces appropriate for their division and this venue. A list of suggested pieces, along with additional guidelines, is posted on the following website: <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/sousa/> Sheet music may also be downloaded from this site.
- **Preparation:** Pieces must be performed from memory. Contestants are permitted to get help from teachers, parents, or other coaches in preparing their tunes. Pointers on how to prepare for the contest and make up your own variations on tunes may be found on this website: <http://www.bow-daciousstringband.com/>
- **Judges:** Winners will be decided solely by the judges, who will grade each contestant using the following criteria:
 1. Intonation: Do you play in tune?
 2. Tone: Is your tone as good as you can make it?
 3. Rhythm/pulse/groove: Do you keep a steady tempo?
 4. Style: Do you add details like articulations, bowings, slides, etc?
 5. Presentation: including but not limited to general posture, facial expression, announcing your name and song clearly, bowing for applause, dressing appropriately.
- **Etiquette:** This is a judged event, but sort of like a recital too. You should arrive on time and support the other contestants by listening while they perform. It's a friendly competition; it's good form to applaud the efforts of your peers. You are encouraged to invite family and friends to come and root for you.
- **Registration:** For further information call 217-384-2946 or e-mail robin.k@Bow-DaciousStringBand.com.