

General Contest Rules:

- Contest registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning for all contests.
- Contest(s) entry is free with paid admission to the festival. Please have your entry wristband with you when you register.
- The discussions of the judges and the scoring sheets will not be shared with contestants or the audience.
- Entering any contest grants consent for the festival to record your performance. The Morehead Old Time Music Festival retains exclusive rights to reproduce any music played during the contests.
- Contestants should take note that all contest performances will be scored higher if old time tunes are played in a traditional style that is consistent with the tunes and style of the region.
- Registration for a contest will continue until the contest begins. Once a contest begins, registration for that particular contest will close.

Rules/Judging Criteria:

- All contests will be judged on a 100 point scale, with four 25 point categories.
- For the fiddle and banjo contests, contestants will play two tunes, **no longer than four minutes** each, **no medleys**. A contestant may play alone or with one accompanist. Only acoustic instruments are permitted. If a contestant breaks a string, he/she may pause to replace the string and continue with the performance, or forfeit the contest.
- Dulcimer contestants will play one tune, **no longer than four minutes**. They may play alone or with one accompanist playing an acoustic instrument.
- Fiddle/Banjo/Dulcimer will be judged in the four categories of rhythm, intonation, technique, and tune selection (tunes that reflect the tradition of the region).
- Singers will sing one song, **no longer than four minutes**. They may have one accompanist and/or may accompany their own performance with an acoustic instrument.
- Singing will be judged in the four categories of feeling, intonation, vocal technique, and song selection (songs that reflect the traditions of the region).
- Bands will play two tunes/songs, **no longer than four minutes each**, with **no medleys**. There will be a play-off between the top three bands later in the evening. All bands must have a fiddler. Bands should consist of instruments typical of traditional music of the region. Lyrics should be appropriate for a family audience.

- Bands will be judged in the four categories of timing, tuning, dynamics, and overall performance.
- Dancers will dance to one tune played two times through. They will be scored on a 100 point scale in the four categories of technique, rhythm, style/creativity, and overall performance. No taps will be permitted on shoes. Dancers will be expected to dance traditional clogging, flat-foot, and/or buck dance styles consistent with the tradition of the region.

Prizes:

Youth Banjo, Youth Fiddle, Youth Dance

1st - \$50

2nd - \$35

3rd - \$25

Adult Dulcimer, Adult Dance, Singing

1st - \$100

2nd - \$75

3rd - \$50

Adult Banjo, Adult Fiddle

1st - \$250

2nd - \$150

3rd - \$75

Youth String Band

1st - \$100

2nd - \$65

3rd - \$35

Adult String Band

1st - \$500

2nd - \$300

3rd - \$150