

# Rhodes Mountain Family Music Festival

## Fiddle Contest Rules

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

All contestants must be registered before the contest begins. Judges will be pleased to answer any questions prior to the contest. Judges' decisions are final. Anything not covered in the rules will be decided by the judges. Emcee will introduce the fiddler and accompanist. Contestants are asked to conduct themselves with common courtesy and a spirit of fair play. Contestants exhibiting inappropriate behavior toward the audience, other contestants, officials, or sponsors may be excluded from future contests.

### **DIVISIONS AND ORDER OF PLAY**

There are two divisions for this competition, Open Division (anyone can enter) and Junior Division (open only to ages 15 and under). The contest begins at 11 am. Order of play will be determined by drawing numbers and will be announced at 10:30 am. Contestants must be present to draw his/her number. Contestants not backstage within 10 minutes of his/her spot will be disqualified & the next contestant will be called.

### **FIDDLERS**

Fiddlers will play a hoedown (reel/breakdown) and a tune of choice (other than a hoedown) for a total of two tunes. No show tunes (Orange Blossom Special, Mockingbird, Lee Highway Blues, etc.). All styles of old time fiddle are welcome. Contestants may restart in the event of a broken string or other unavoidable situation. Contestants must play by ear or from memory, no sheet music will be allowed on stage. Contestants must have their instruments tuned before going on stage, otherwise points will be deducted. A four minute playing time will be strictly adhered to.

### **BACK-UP**

Contestants may have two accompanists, you may bring your own or they will be provided. Any suitable acoustic instrument is welcome, for example, guitar, mandolin, banjo, or bass. Contestants may not have a second fiddle as a backup. Solo fiddling is welcome.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

Sample score sheets are available. Performance will be judged using traditional, old time fiddling criteria including, intonation, skill, timing, control, rhythm, suitability for selected tune, and overallability. Judging criteria include appropriateness of accompaniment. In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. While not required, contestants are encouraged to have additional selections prepared in the event of a fiddle off.

**Suggestions for improving the contest are most welcome and may be sent to:  
The Punches RMFMF PO Box 345 Fredericktown, MO 63645**