

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Show Off Your Talent!** **Join the Fun and Audition for the** **Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest** ***Registration is now open; Auditions begin July 22***

June 20, 2024

St. Paul, Minn. – Calling all amateur singers, dancers, musicians, jugglers, acrobats and talented people of all ages and abilities: Registration is now open to audition for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest. Auditions run Monday, July 22, through Sunday, July 28, at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell on the fairgrounds. Registration is available online at <https://www.mnstatefair.org/competitions/amateur-talent-contests/>. The deadline to register for auditions is 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 24. Everyone who auditions receives a commemorative MSF Amateur Talent Contest T-shirt.

From the summer auditions, semifinalists are selected to perform during the first 10 days of this year's Minnesota State Fair on the Leinie Lodge Bandshell stage, sponsored by Leinenkugel Brewing Co. Winners from the semifinals then compete in the finals on Sunday, Sept. 1, on the Grandstand stage. In total, nearly \$20,000 in prize money is awarded to the first- through third-place winners in three divisions: Open Division (any age), Teen Division (ages 13-18) and Preteen Division (ages 12 and under).

Over the past five decades, more than 17,000 acts have auditioned for the MSF Amateur Talent Contest, with more than 5,600 qualifying for semifinal competition. More than \$250,000 in prize money has been awarded to top finishers. Past winners include Nashville-based country music singer-songwriter Caitlyn Smith, local theater actor Max Wojtanowicz, beatbox artist DJ Snuggles, piano prodigies Emma and Jacob Taggart, and Minneapolis' first family of soul The Steeles.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. The State Fair is financially self-supporting and does not receive government appropriation. Follow along on Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round updates. The 2024 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 22 through Labor Day, Sept. 2. Visit [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org) for more information.

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