



Country Star Search

RULES

NECMO
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Qualifications

1. Performers must be at least three years old, and a member of the New England Country Music Organization.
2. Competition is open to amateur and professional performers who are not signed to a major label or do not make their living full time as a performer, songwriter, or dancer in the music industry.
3. A parent or legal guardian must accompany all performers under the age of eighteen.

Performance Guidelines

1. You will have eight minutes to perform. At seven minutes and thirty seconds, a warning light will flash. Points will be deducted after eight minutes as follows: 6 seconds over = 2 points, 7 seconds over = 3 points, 8 seconds over = 4 points, etc..
2. You may bring a backup band or recorded music on CD. CD's must be clearly marked as to the song(s) to be played for your performance, and must not have lead vocals on the track(s).
3. If you bring a backup band for your performance, you must be able to stand alone as a vocalist, entertainer, or dancer without any interaction with the band. You will be judged as an individual performer as the band is not really there in the eyes of the judges. In order for a band to be judged, they must enter as a band. This will keep the playing field level for all contestants.
4. All entries are final when the NECMO office receives your entry form. Once the scheduling of contestants has been set, there will be no opportunity for changes.
5. You must perform in one or more of the country, gospel, or bluegrass genres. Your music may be originals or cover songs. You must use careful discretion in determining your style of music, or risk penalty. If you choose songs outside of these styles, you will be penalized.

Dancer/Dance Team

1. You will have eight minutes to perform. At seven minutes and thirty seconds, a warning light will flash. Points will be deducted after eight minutes as follows: 6 seconds over = 2 points, 7 seconds over = 3 points, 8 seconds over = 4 points, etc..
2. You may bring music on CD. CD's must be clearly marked as to the song(s) to be played for your performance.
3. You must perform a country dance (clogging, square dance, line dance, couples country, or buck dance). No interpretative dance or sign language dance.
4. All entries are final when the NECMO office receives your entry form. Once the scheduling of contestants has been set, there will be no opportunity for changes.

Judges

1. Judges will be chosen from music professions.
2. Judges must not be a Board Member or Officer of the New England Country Music Organization.
3. The decision of the judges will be final.
4. Any judge who is affiliated with a contestant will not be allowed to judge that category.
5. Judges will score each contestant on Quality of Performance, Originality of Performance/Arrangement, Star Quality Performance, Tightness of Performance, Stage Presence, and how well the material reflects Country, Gospel, or Bluegrass.
6. The judges scoring system will be as follows:
 - a. 6 points = Outstanding
 - b. 5 points = Excellent
 - c. 4 points = Very Good
 - d. 3 points = Good
 - e. 2 points = Average
 - f. 1 point = Below Average

CD/Video

1. CD/video must be country, gospel, or bluegrass.
2. CD must contain at least three songs.

Songwriters

1. You may enter as many songs as desired. Songs must be country, gospel, or bluegrass.
2. You must submit your entry form, an anonymous lyric sheet with lyrics neatly written or typed, and your CD.
3. Your identity will be unknown to the judges who will listen and judge each entry played. You will not be performing your song during the Country Star Search.
4. If your song has been co-written, you must include the co-writer's name and entry fee.

Awards

1. Awards will be presented to top performers in each category provided they achieve 75% of the total available point score. Winner, Most Promising, Horizon, and Rising Star Awards will be presented to those who qualify. In the case of group competitors, each member of the group will be presented with an award. Awards will be presented at the NECMO Awards show on June 24. If you are unable to attend the awards show to accept your award, please request mailing of your award and send a check made out to NECMO for \$25 within 30 days.
 - ❖ "Category" of the Year: This award will be presented to the top performer in the category. This award recipient will represent NECMO at the Northeast Invitational Country Showdown in Maine in October, and the North America Country Music Association,

Int'l. Country Music Week in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in March 2013. This winner is also eligible to compete in NECMO ENCORE for the \$500 prize.

- ❖ Most Promising Award: This award will be presented to those who display special and promising ability to become a top contender in their category. This award recipient will represent NECMO at the North America Country Music Association, Int'l. Country Music Week in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in March 2013. This award recipient is also eligible to compete in NECMO ENCORE for the \$500 prize.
- ❖ Horizon Award: This award will be presented to those who display special creative growth potential in their category.
- ❖ Rising Star Award: This award will be presented to those having a special presentation and overall ability in their category.
- ❖ Future Star Award: This award will be presented to those youth who the judges have noted as showing future potential in their category.