



# Appalachian String Band Music Festival

## Music Contest Rules

**CONTESTANTS MUST REGISTER AT DESIGNATED TIMES AT THE INFORMATION TENT.**

**REGISTRATION:** All contestants must report to the information booth during the registration time for their contest. Contestants must be backstage and ready to perform when their number is called. If not present, they will be disqualified. All contests will run in numerical order.

**CONTEST CATEGORIES:** Contestants are invited to enter all individual categories, but **are NOT allowed to play in more than one band. Bands may enter one category only** — either traditional **or** neo-traditional.

**TUNES:** Contestants and bands need to be prepared to play one tune/song in the preliminaries and two additional pieces should they be selected as a finalist. Medley-style selections will not be judged. Tunes should be kept under 3 minutes. No electrical instruments, devices or DIs.

**ACCOMPANISTS:** Contestants entering old-time fiddle and old-time banjo categories may have no more than two accompanists.

**INSTRUMENTATION:** To be judged, contestants in the band contests must consist of at least three but not more than seven members. Bands competing in the traditional band contest should use instruments normally found in old-time bands. Bands competing in the neo-traditional band contest may use instruments not usually associated with old-time music.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Contestants in all **traditional categories** will be judged on rhythm/timing, tonal qualities, expression/soul, difficulty, and old-time style (20% each), with highest scores going to traditional old-time tunes/songs played in a traditional old-time style. Contestants in the **neo-traditional band contest** will be judged on intonation (20%), timing (20%), difficulty (20%), and creativity and versatility (40%), with highest scores going to bands that

creatively and skillfully combine fundamental elements of traditional old-time music (e.g., repertoire, style/spirit, instrumentation) with alternative techniques and various musical styles in their presentation. Ribbons for **best new original compositions** (tune and song) played during the preliminary round of the neo-traditional band contest will not be based on quality of performance, but will rather be based on the composition's demonstration of mastery of the old-time aesthetic (40%), artistic merit (40%), and originality and innovation (20%). The composer (or co-composer) of the tune or song must play an instrument or sing in the band.

**Youth Bands: All band members in the youth category of traditional band and neo-traditional band must be 18 years old or under.**

**WINNERS:** Any contestant winning first place in fiddle or banjo cannot compete next year in that particular category. This does not apply to seniors or youth unless they also win the overall contest. **Social Security numbers are mandatory to claim prizes. To receive payment, contest winners' financial paperwork must be completed and submitted by the end of the festival.**

**LYRICS:** Contestants must keep lyrics appropriate for family audiences.

**ACCIDENTS:** Accidents beyond the control of the contestant (e.g. broken strings) may result in a replay if the judges so merit.

**FINALITY:** Decisions by the judges will be final and score sheets will not be shared with contestants or made public.

**RECORDING:** On the years that the festival will be recorded, bands and individuals that are in the finals will be asked to sign a performance release form.

## Flatfoot Dance Contest Rules

1. To register, all contestants must report to the Information Tent at the time specified. All contestants will register and pick a number at the same time. Contestants will dance in numerical order.

2. There are four age categories.

- 15 and under
- 16 - 40
- 41 - 59
- 60 and over

3. Judging will be based on:

- Difficulty and variety of steps
- Keeping feet close to the floor
- Natural, comfortable dance presentation

- Timing
- Smooth old-time style

4. Adults are encouraged to participate in the flatfoot dance workshop for tips on what the judges will be looking for.

5. Judges will be instructed to give higher points to those who dance in an accepted old-time style.

6. Decisions by the judges will be final.

7. No taps

8. **There will be a dance off of the first-place winners in each age category for the Grand Champion award.**

9. Social Security numbers are mandatory to claim prizes.



# Appalachian String Band Music Festival

## Music/Dance Contests and Prizes

**Contestants must register at the Information Tent.**

**Outdoors  
if weather permits**

The festival features three old-time "traditional" contests—fiddle, banjo and string band—plus one "neo-traditional" string band contest. **Bands may not enter both categories. Band members may not play in more than one band.** Top-scoring senior/youth (60 and over/15 and under) fiddle and banjo competitors are considered for additional honors. Contestants who win first place in fiddle or banjo may not compete the following year in that particular category. The neo-traditional band contest will award ribbons for best new composition tune and song. Traditional band and neo-traditional band first-place youth award will be given for bands with all members 18 and under.

The old-time flatfoot style dance contest has four age categories: 15 and under, 16-40, 41-59, and 60 and over. The top three contestants in each category receive prizes.

**ALL CONTEST WINNERS WILL BE PAID BY CHECK. Award checks will be mailed to winners within three weeks.**

**THURSDAY - Outdoor Stage**  
**BANJO AND FIDDLE CONTESTS**

- 9 - 10:30 a.m. .... Banjo Contest Registration and Number Pick
- 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. .... **Banjo Contest**
- 1 - 3 p.m. .... Fiddle Contest Registration and Number Pick
- 3:30 - 8 p.m. .... **Fiddle Contest**
- 8:30 p.m. .... **Banjo and Fiddle Finals and Awards**

**FRIDAY - Outdoor Stage**  
**NEO-TRADITIONAL BAND CONTEST**

- 9 - 11 a.m. .... Neo-Traditional Band Contest Registration and Number Pick
- Noon - 6 p.m. .... **Neo-Traditional Band Contest**
- 8:15 p.m. .... **Neo-Traditional Band Finals and Awards**

**SATURDAY - Outdoor Stage**  
**TRADITIONAL BAND AND FLATFOOT DANCE CONTESTS**

- 9 - 10:30 a.m. .... Traditional Band Contest Registration and Number Pick
- Noon - 5 p.m. .... **Traditional Band Contest**
- 4 - 5:30 p.m. .... Flatfoot Dance Contest Registration and Number Pick
- 6 - 7:30 p.m. .... **Flatfoot Dance Contest followed by Dance Contest Awards and Grand Champion Dance off**
- 9:30 p.m. .... **Traditional Band Finals and Awards**

**Prizes**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Traditional Band	\$700	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
Neo-Traditional Band	\$700	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
Youth Band 18 and under	\$300				
Ribbon Only	<b>New Composition - Tune and Song</b>				
Fiddle	\$400	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50
Banjo	\$400	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50
Senior Honors	\$200	\$100	\$50		
Youth Honors	\$100	\$50	\$25		
Flatfoot Dance (four categories)	\$75	\$50	\$25 (each category)		
Grand Champion Dancer	\$100				

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR RULES FOR MUSIC AND FLATFOOT DANCE CONTESTS.**