



Fourth District Talent Hunt Guidelines 2018

The following guidelines include the information you need in order to have your chapter represented in the 77th Fourth District Conference Talent Hunt Competition, scheduled for **Saturday**, April 7, 2018, in Akron, OH.

The following attachments are provided for your use:

- Ω Writable PDF International Talent Hunt Contestant Application
- Ω Writable PDF Parental Release and Consent Form
- Ω 4th District Chapter Talent Hunt Chairman Information Form (**Complete & return via e-mail ASAP!**)
- Ω Talent Hunt Adjudicator Forms 2018
- Ω International Talent Hunt Guidelines Revised January 2018 (Word Format)
- Ω International Talent Hunt Guidelines Revised January 2018 (PDF Format)

Please read the entire packet carefully, as there are important date changes, etc.

Chapter Eligibility Requirements:

Each Chapter wishing to enter contestants for the 77th Fourth District Conference Talent Hunt Competition must:

- Ω Have their College Endowment Fund and Insurance assessments (and any other outstanding debts) paid in order to enter contestants.
- Ω Have a *registered* delegate to the conference.
- Ω Your chapter must have a local competition in order to enter a contestant at the district level. Talent Hunt competition, including competitions with more than one chapter participating, may send only one performing applicant to the District Competition. (Note: In competitions with more than one chapter participating, the winning contestant will represent all chapters, which were involved.)
- Ω Ensure that all required materials for their winning contestants are complete, legible, clear, and submitted to the Fourth District Talent Hunt chairman (see mailing address on page 4 of this document) in a timely manner. **THE DEADLINE IS March 7, 2018! Send ALL materials electronically!**
- Ω **Use the forms approved by the International Talent Hunt Committee. This includes the adjudication forms.**
- Ω Ensure that their contestants (and chaperones) have hotel accommodations if necessary.

- Ω Ensure that their entrants can be present to perform at the 4th District Talent Hunt Competition. Contestants must be present to win!
- Ω Ensure that their contestants (and chaperones) know when and where the Talent Hunt Competition will be held; **what time the contestant is to report (i.e., 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2018);** and how their contestants (and chaperones) are traveling to and from the site of the competition.
- Ω Bear all costs associated with the production of their local Talent Hunt Competitions, and the travel, meals, and lodging for their contestants (and chaperones) for the Fourth District Talent Hunt Competition. The Fourth District Talent Hunt Committee (and conference planning committee where appropriate) will bear the costs of the production of the Fourth District Talent Hunt Competition, as well as the monetary awards, trophies and medallions.
- Ω **Send the name, address, telephone number, and email address for their Talent Hunt chairman, and date, place and time of their local Talent Hunt Competitions to the Fourth District Chairman ASAP!**

Contestant Eligibility Requirements:

Students wishing to be contestants in the 77th Fourth District Conference Talent Hunt Competition must:

- Ω Be in high school, grades 9 – 12. No students in grade 8 or below are eligible even if they attend a high school that has those grades! Age is not a factor!
- Ω Be present for the competition in order to win.
- Ω Participate as soloists. No group performances are allowed! One accompanist is allowed for each vocal or instrumental performance. **Vocalists and instrumentalists may use pre-recorded music on CD. However, pre-recorded music may not contain any lead or background vocals or lead instruments!!**
- Ω All contestants must enter to compete in only one of the following categories: Music: Vocal, instrumental or piano (classical; semi-classical, gospel and jazz); Interpretive Movement to Music (ballet, modern dance and tap) – no krumpin', poppin' or hip-hop; Speech (poetry, orations, monologues, etc.) and Visual Art (painting, drawing, sculpture, and photography). **No contestant may be adjudicated in more than one category!**
- Ω Submit required materials by established deadline.
- Ω **Memorize their performances and refrain from using profanity or vulgar language or derogatory words, etc.!**
- Ω Provide their instruments (except for piano which will be provided by the 4th District) and any props needed for their performances. Easels and tables will be provided for visual artists to display their pieces. Other equipment and supplies must be provided by the contestants.
- Ω Submit at least 3 – 5 pieces to be adjudicated if entering the Visual Arts category. It is suggested that each piece be labeled with the artist's name, title of piece, medium used for the piece, and date the piece was constructed.
- Ω Dress appropriately: Females – dress/gown and Males – dark suits with shirt and tie. NO JEANS OR SNEAKERS! Contestants in the dance or dramatic interpretation categories may dress according to their presentations.
- Ω All contestants must adhere to the performance time limits. All performers will have a **maximum of 6 minutes**. **Contestants will be penalized if they exceed the time limits.**

Required Materials due electronically by March 7, 2018, to 4th District Talent Hunt Chairman:

- Ω **Email Address:** mcs35789@sbcglobal.net ;
- Ω **Telephone:** 614-531-7748;
- Ω Writable PDF International Talent Hunt Contestant Application for each contestant.
- Ω Writable PDF Parent Release and Consent Form
- Ω 4" x 6" photograph of each entry **(high resolution bust shot photo 300 dpi or higher) - No cell phone, I-pad or scanned photos;**
- Ω Biography of no more than 100 words for each entry;
- Ω CD track (MP3) and/or sheet music for each entrant, as appropriate;
- Ω Copy of local Talent Hunt Competition program/booklet

Additional Alerts, Suggestions, & Tips:

- Ω Process the Omega Special Events Checklist for insurance at least 45 days before your local Talent Hunt, as the forms must first be sent to our District Counselor and from him to the paralegal at International Headquarters!
- Ω Send the required materials as soon as your local Talent Hunt winner(s) has been selected. It doesn't matter how early you send them!
- Ω Keep in mind that there has been an SAT test given on Saturdays during the months of September – June for the past 10+ years. Be sure that your contestant(s) can participate in the District Talent Hunt before they enter your local competition.
- Ω Make every effort to hold your local Talent Hunt in a theatre, auditorium, etc. that is conducive for performing artists. **Having the proper flooring for dancers is extremely important to avoid injury!**
- Ω Secure a grand or baby grand piano for use by contestants or their accompanists. Many of our contestants who play piano have performed in some of the finest venues in our country and even abroad. Treat them as professionals! An upright piano is inappropriate. There is a different sound, and protocol dictates that you have a grand or baby grand piano!
- Ω Select arts professionals other than Omega Men to serve as judges! NO BROTHERS should be used as judges! Using brothers can be construed as a conflict of interest and can potentially be a problem that we do not need.
- Ω Select judges that have expertise in one or more of the seven categories in order to serve as adjudicators. A music critic who doesn't or hasn't played, acted, danced, sung, etc. is going on his/her emotions. While our contestants are extremely talented, they are considered amateurs!
- Ω Use the official adjudication forms and rubrics that have been approved by the International Talent Hunt Committee.
- Ω Consider soliciting sponsors to defray the costs of your local Talent Hunt.
- Ω Develop and implement marketing strategies to get your contestant application out to as many young people as possible through churches, schools, community centers, other Greek organizations, etc. and to advertise your Talent Hunt, using a variety of media, to enhance attendance and to get as much positive exposure as possible.
- Ω Secure a photographer and/or a videographer to record your Talent Hunt.
- Ω Consider writing an article with picture and submitting it to your District PR Director for inclusion in District publications (and possibly the Oracle).

*****ANY STUDENT WHO MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER IN YOUR LOCAL TALENT HUNT MUST BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE, EVEN IF THAT STUDENT WAS A PREVIOUS WINNER! JUDGES MUST EVALUATE A STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE BASED ON THE STUDENT'S PRESENTATION ON THE DATE OF YOUR COMPETITION! PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW A PREVIOUS WINNER, WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE, TO BE ELIMINATED BECAUSE A JUDGE DECIDES THAT HE/SHE WON THE PREVIOUS YEAR! A STUDENT CAN WIN IN MULTIPLE YEARS IF HIS/HER PERFORMANCE DICTATES THAT HE/SHE IS THE BEST!**