

Podunk Band Competition

The goal of the competition is to give bands looking to make the jump from a local or regional band to one of national recognition. It gives groups an opportunity to present to a wider audience and establish themselves as a band to be “watched and heard.” We believe that the winning band will be able to use the title of “Winner Podunk Band Competition” as a marketing tool for the band. The judges will spend ten minutes with each band at the conclusion of the competition to discuss strengths, weaknesses and areas needing improvement in a frank but supporting manner. We will accept only 4 bands to compete in the competition. You may register by sending a demo, performance schedule for past 6 months, picture of the band and bio to Podunk Band Competition, 73 Thomas Dr, Manchester, CT 06040.

Rules and Regulations

1. Each band will have a 30 minute time slot. That includes setup, performance time and equipment tear down. Each bands allowed time starts on the hour or half hour.
2. Each band will be responsible for keeping track of their allowed time. Points will be deducted for being on stage over the assigned time limit.
3. Please respect the fact that Podunk is a bluegrass festival and our main stage is a reflection of that tradition of music. Bands need to adhere to the bluegrass theme and style of music.
4. Recommended time limit: 3-5 minutes per song. You may perform as many songs as you like during your allotted time slot.
5. To showcase each bands range and abilities three style of song selections are required. 1. A slow (ballad) vocal song, 2. An instrumental song, 3. A fast vocal song. Bands will also be required to perform the winning song from the previous year’s songwriters’ competition as part of the set. This will be sent electronically for all bands to learn. Interpretation of the song is up to each band.
6. All instruments used must be acoustical. Electrical amplification of instruments is prohibited except for bass.
7. No drum sets or standing percussion is allowed.
8. Appropriate sound will be provided to each participating band.
9. Any band member who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance will result in band disqualification.
10. After you have been notified of your acceptance, Podunk must be notified in advance of any personnel changes.
11. Bands entering the contest may not have any common members in the same year.
12. Bands may consist of 3-7 members.
13. The band competition is on the Thursday of the Festival. Bands may setup for merchandise sales in an area where tables are provided under cover.
14. Each band participating in the band competition receives \$400 and the winning band selected by our judges receives product from Telefunken Microphone located in South Windsor, CT. Their website is <http://www.telefunken-elektroakustik.com/>.
15. Bands wishing to perform on the Showcase stage on Friday or Saturday may inquire about availability.
16. The Podunk Band Competition is more than just another performance. Many of the bands participating have maintained long term relationships with the festival and have realized new opportunities for the advancement of the band.

Grand Prize

In addition to prize money, the Champion band will receive a pair of Telefunken M60 FET acoustic instrument microphones (or similar) valued at \$1,200 and a spot on the Main Stage on Friday or Saturday at next year's Podunk Bluegrass Festival.

Prize Money: All bands will receive a \$400 cash prize

Fan Favorite

Audience members will vote for their favorite band. Votes are \$1.00 a piece and the band that receives the most audience votes wins bragging rights as fan favorite. Fan favorite is separate from the contest winner selected by our judges. Proceeds will go towards the Podunk Kids' Academy which provides free music instruction to kids during the festival.

Judging

We will have a qualified panel of judges. Each band will be provided feedback by the judges on their performance.

Judging will be based on the following categories:

1. Content - Appearance, Use of time, appropriate material.
2. Originality - Original material or interpretation of the works of others.
3. Musical Ability - Vocal/instrumental ability, tone, intonation and difficulty.
4. Stage Presence - Group communication, fluidity, audience appeal and entertainment value.
5. Overall Impression

Where to Park or Camp?

All performing band members will be allowed to park on the grounds by entering the main gate of the Goshen Fairgrounds on Thursday. Camping will also be available for performing band members in tent or RV parking without hookups for those wishing to come early and stay on the festival grounds. Guests of band members will be allowed to park or camp at regular ticket prices. Spouses or significant others may camp for \$50 for the weekend.

Need More Information?

Complete festival information may be found here at our web site
<http://www.podunkbluegrass.com> or by emailing podunkbluegrassfestival@gmail.com.

Updated 2/24/2020

Podunk Bluegrass Band Competition Informational Sheet

Please return this form to Podunk Band Contest at 73 Thomas Dr, Manchester, CT 06040 or via e-mail at jamesmperry@cox.net.

Group Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Address to send pre-festival material: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number at festival time: _____ E-mail: _____

Group Website: _____

Number of members in the band: _____

How long has this configuration of the band been playing together publicly? _____

We would like to camp on the festival grounds if selected: Yes _____ No _____

We would like a performance spot on our Workshop Stage if selected Yes _____ No _____

Please print a list of band members.

I hereby submit our application to the Podunk Band Competition on behalf of the band listed above. I and the band members agree to adhere to the rules outlined. Please provide a picture of the band with the application.

Signature

Date