

9TH ANNUAL MELA

INDIA FESTIVAL USA

Bridging Cultures, Generations & Communities

YOU'VE GOT TALENT! Competition Guidelines and Regulations

Thank you for your interest in performing at the India Festival USA. We know our community in the NEO & Greater Cleveland region abounds in talent and we thought it fit to showcase the best in a competitive format. We also believe that the audience should get an opportunity to rate the performances and hence our competition guidelines reflect an interactive format.

If selected for the main auditorium, contestants will be performing in front of a live audience and a panel of judges. This is a one-of-a-kind competitive talent show organized by and for Greater Cleveland residents. Based upon your submitted performance sample, the talent committee will select the best entries for the main auditorium. Other participants may be given an opportunity to perform during a cultural segments of the festival.

Committee reserves the right to reject any entry to preserve the entertainment value of the attending guests and ensure family-friendliness of each item. Please adhere to the following guidelines and regulations:

1. You can take part **only in one item** in the competition, whether solo or in a group.
2. The competition is open to all and has FOUR categories (Minor, Junior, Senior & Adult). **(Time limit – Max. 5 Minutes)**
Minor age group is between 5 and 10.
Junior age group is between 11 and 17.
Senior age group is between 18 and 30.
Adult age group is 30+.
New: Solo / Group Professional Performance during Evening Gala Event **(Time limit – Max. 10 Minutes)**
(Professional Performer(s) may be rewarded based on committee approval.)
Registration has to be completed online at www.indiafestusa.com
3. For group participants, select senior if at least one member of the group is age 18 or over.
4. Please provide a sample of your performance as part of the registration by including an online link (FB, Youtube video etc.)**
5. Registration will not be complete unless the registration fee is received (online or check). Registration fee is \$15 per participant. For group performance the fee will be \$15 times number of members in the group.
6. Each participant will receive on the Festival day one Participant Trophy, one Taste of India food coupon, reserved seating for auditorium events.
7. The registration fee will be refunded only if you are not selected. Refund will be issued within 30 days of conclusion of the festival.
8. All correspondence will be with the group leader as nominated in the registration form.
9. If selected and notified to perform in the Festival, you will have to submit any background music (dance track, karaoke track etc.) that you require to be played during your performance. Submission details will be included in the notification email.
10. **Performance MUST NOT exceed 5 minutes.** Judges will impose **negative marks** for exceeding this duration.
11. Judges follow a rubric to evaluate the performance. A sample rubric may be provided to selected contestants. Typically, performances are judged on choreography, costume, quality of voice, song selection, entertainment value etc. as may be applicable.
12. Any attempt to communicate with or influence any judge will disqualify the participant.
13. Committee/Judges reserve the right to reject/stop any entry/performance to preserve the entertainment value for the attending guests and ensure family-friendliness of each item.
14. Winners will be announced during the Evening Award Ceremony.
15. Winning Entry participant(s) must be present. If not present, next in-line will be declared a winner.
16. Audience Vote Counts and Judges' decisions are final.
17. All participants must report at the festival between 11:00 am and 12:00 noon. Detailed instructions will be emailed before the festival.

Sincerely,
India Festival USA Committee

** India Festival USA reserves the right to pre-screen performances and/or assign performance time slots at their sole discretion. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.