

Season 11 Teen Idol Finalist Information

Congratulations on becoming a finalist in one of the most comprehensive teen programs and contests in the Northwest. Most contests locally end with a top 3, congrats and see ya later. We're one of the only programs to have a tour outside of national competitions and the only program we know of that also has Spanish let alone a Volunteer Team and Alumni Association.

If you compete at the finale, you become part of the Teen Idol family that permits you the opportunity to participate in open events, free ticket to every future competitive event and the chance to help out & perform.

Being a finalist is the ultimate responsible rank with the program. With it comes a new level of expectations that focus on the responsibilities of representing the organization while in public, even when not at an official function. What you do in your personal time impacts us and vice versa. You can tell everyone, put it on your resume and, per the contract, should share events with your family & friends to expand the popularity of the program.

We're nonprofit meaning we don't make money from the activities we run or participate in. Even when we get paid for performing or ticket sales, that money goes to pay for venues, supplies, marketing and awards. Sometimes, like this last weekend, we also shared the payment with the finalists that followed through and performed as they committed to.

Essentially, we want to help you become not only comfortable, but skilled at performing – not just at singing. Speaking to a crowd, promoting yourself & the program and becoming a leader in both the teen and the performing arts arenas will improve your confidence and make things easier as you go out into the world.

First, you need to create a Facebook fan page. It's not a Teen Idol centric one, it's for you as an artist. See the instructions on the document "S11 Teen Idol - Creating a Fan Page and Suggestions" that will be posted by Tuesday night. You can deactivate it after next year's finale when your tour is over if you want.

Next, post on Facebook and, if you have it, LinkedIn, Twitter and whatever social networks you belong to, that you made it to the final round of competition in the program. When we send you the promo pics, post them on Instagram, facebook etc. At the same time, ask your friends and family to support you by going and getting tickets for the finale – even if they can't come, buying a ticket will help you get your quota. Even grandparents in New Jersey can get tickets to help.

What does selling tickets have to do with singing? As a performer, you have to do many things. One of them is fill the seats for your shows. Ask anyone that performs for a living, regardless of what talent or type of performance, if it is important to have people support them. They will no doubt tell you that it's all about the fans. American Idol is worldwide show, but only because there is a lot of money, press and exposure for it. No fans, no show.

They have millions of dollars and teams of people filling seats, people getting sponsors because the celebrity talent and staff need to be paid. At a local level, even people that had been on American Idol like Lovey James (top 24 and Season 5 Teen Idol finalist) and Aubrey Cleland (11th place and S3 Teen Idol Runner up) still have to post on their sites, social media and directly connect with supporters to have them come to their concerts and generally have to do it on their own or help from their fan base.

You will be having a lot of fun, after a lot of hard work.

What to expect:

The finale is only 4 weeks away on June 24th. For the finale, you will be singing a group number and 2 individual songs. There will also be several rehearsals, some that are mandatory to work on the group number.

You will have until midnight on Thursday June 1st days to get us the following:

- URL for your Facebook Fan Page
- Get us your song lists
- Confirmation that you shared about your progress to the finals on facebook.
- Get us your suggested song for the finale group number.

Instructions for creating a Fan page, as noted above, can be found under “Round 3 Finale” at www.TeenIdol.org like all documents we send you (available by Tuesday).

For songs, same instructions as was used for the Semi-Finals except you need to come up with two lists of songs. Reason for two is, if you plan to sing one type of song for the first one and another type for the second, you won’t end up getting two of the same kind. See the Songs instructions on the “Round 3 Finale” page.

We will also be giving you a survey of things you may want to do this summer that are not necessarily all related to Teen Idol official concerts, but fun that we can all have as a group. Example writing a song, going to the beach, having a picnic, hiking, movies, going to a water park etc. But, the team needs to work hard to sell the 350 tickets (or \$3500) to pay for the cost of the finale venue, the food, programs and placement awards. We will put forth the effort to create fun things if we aren’t having to raise money to pay for the finale.

Some additional notes:

This and all documents we send you are available at www.TeenIdol.org under “Round 3 Finale”

LOCATION: Saturday, June 24th at Reynolds High School (where we had the Semi-Finals).

Students need to arrive **no later than 10:30 am** We will have pictures and rehearsals before doors.

Food will be provided and doors will not be open for parents/friends until 4 pm so your ride/parents will have to come back.

You will not do your hair or makeup. We will do it for you. Come clean and undone. No makeup at all.

Do not wear what you will be wearing on stage. Wear something comfortable, sweats, jeans or whatever to the venue as you will change into your outfits.

Bring 4 full outfits. 2 for consideration of song 1, 2 for consideration of song 2. All need to be clean and ironed. If your family does not have an iron to press them, contact Krystal to get an exception. Get a 4 garment bags from dollar tree with felt hangers and put the shoes and accessories with each outfit. This allows for the stylist team to help make sure you look the best.

Your first song will be your group attire and your portfolio picture. Make sure you consider that when deciding what to wear as you may be seeing that picture for a while and it will be the only picture we use to promote you and the program with for the next year, with press releases and media content so make it the best one.

Tickets: Each person has an obligation, as any performer does, to get friends, family and classmates to come to the show just like in the Semi-Finals. We are expecting a minimum of 20 tickets sold or \$200 value this time. Still a small amount but with 15 people doing it, that is 300 seats. Still a relatively small amount of commitment as the venue is \$150/hour to rent so your sales are to pay for the venue, food, judge gifts, paper programs, rehearsal space and the cash awards. If you need help or want suggestions, ask.

If you don't get 20 people to buy tickets in your name, there will be points not given that can impact your placement (when people get tickets, they put your name as who they are there to support when they check out).

Tickets are \$10 plus convenience fee (charged by ticketing company, we don't get it) and people can get close row tickets and can make donations in your name too. Tickets are available now via www.TeenIdol.org. Although we are not providing free tickets, if your immediate family can't afford to come, please contact Dennis and he will figure something out. If your family wants to "donate" tickets to families in need, contact Dennis.

Rank and placement:

We select a top 5 to determine who will have priority during the tour. The highest ranking students will always get the chance to sing the most songs with the winner obligated to always sing 2. For example, if there are 8 people at a performance and the 3rd place person is the highest rank, they will get 2.

If you don't make top 5, you are the rank of "Finalist" or "Top 15" for official purposes. Although all top 15 are technically finalists, we typically identify for the purposes of introductions as Winner (1st), Runner Up (2nd), 2nd Runner up (3rd), 3rd Runner up (4th) and 4th Runner up (5th).

In the event that a member of the top 5 are terminated for no shows, not willing to fulfill tour commitments, being arrested, doing drugs, drinking alcohol, fighting, or poor attitude/disruptive behavior, we will re-evaluate the scores and of those that fell in our internal 6th through 8th positions, will determine who will be promoted. We do not determine 9th through 15th positions.

From a fair weight stand point, there are the Winners, and Finalists. 2nd through 5th are only used for rank but the value of participation for 2nd and 15th are weighted the same. There are several reasons for this. One is, we have had some very low ranking students that have stepped up and became MVP's of the season and there are some high ranked students that completed their contract but didn't provide much more value to the program as a whole other than the bare minimal amount.

Tour Obligations and understanding Seasons:

As a finalist, you are required to perform 4 public concerts and sing the National Anthem to complete your contract as you applied for. Unless circumstances are present, they must be completed by the end of the summer. All finalists also are expected to try to be available to perform at the 2018 Finale.

The season has three (3) parts. Competition, Summer Tour & Season Tour. Competition phase starts at the beginning of auditions and ends at the finale (June 24th). Summer Tour starts when the competition phase ends and goes through Labor Day. Season Tour starts the day after Labor Day and ends at the Season 12 Finale.

Letter from the Producer;

Congrats on making it to the finals. For some of you, this may have been years in progress as you work, get cut, work and get cut again but persisted and are now going to the big show. I'm open minded and fair but will push you to be better during rehearsals to ensure you are truly at your best.

For me, it's so satisfying to see you make it, while still very sad for those that didn't, especially those that are now seniors and won't have a shot at it next year. As part of the Teen Idol family, we will spend a lot of time together over the next year as I try to make every performance and attend every event/activity that I can.

Those that know me will tell you, I have high expectations and demand you do your best, follow through with your commitments and learn all you can from your own experiences and from others.

There are very few successful people in this world that have gotten to where they are by being lazy, selfish and closed minded. I am hoping you all will understand that life is not like school. Those around you are here to support you and make your life better and you should be open to helping others and getting feedback.

This next week will be slow as we nail down song selections and get the logics and minor things out of the way but starting in early June, we will be sending out press releases and having rehearsals that we hope everyone of you will try your hardest to attend. Get there, we may be able to get you home, but don't use a ride as an excuse to not come. In the real world, your work only cares that you show up on time, not how you get there.

2/3rds of you will not place in the top 5 at the finale. That is a certainty. But from my perspective, you have all, already won. You get to go on tour. Feel good knowing you were one of the best of all the students that tried out and that your skills, leadership and attitude landed you here. You're a winner, even if you don't end up first.

It's anyone's game. In the last 6 years I tried to guess the top 5 and was wrong every time. In fact, the last 3 years I have been completely wrong because I went by how Round 1 and Round 2 had gone. So no matter how you did at the Semi-Finals, you can win, or be in the top 5 if you work really hard for the short time we have.

Even if you don't make the top 5, take it in stride. Doing the finale over again, changing songs, increasing/decreasing amount of sleep or practicing will result in a different outcome every time and again, you have already won a chance to go tour so don't sweat it. There are no more cuts. Relax, have fun and work hard.

I hope everyone of you take the time to talk to those friends you have made who were cut. Let them know that you still support them and encourage them to come to the finale. Those that do, will be given the chance to perform 1 time during the tour. We aren't going to tell them and don't want you to tell them either, let them decide on their own to come. Those that are serious about making it through next year will come.

Whether they come or not, encourage them to come back next season. More than 1/2 of all Semi-Finalists that comeback, make it the second time.

Good Luck to all!

Dennis C. Gleason, Teen Idol Producer

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