

“BATTLE OF THE BANDS” RULES & REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES:

- All bands must contain a minimum of three (3) members with at least two (2) providing live instrumentation.
- Any band utilizing members under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver prior to Smith Mountain Good Neighbors Event (but not needed for initial entry)
- Selected bands may bring one assistant to help with set-up and break-down. Only these people will be allowed on stage.
- On day of performance, band members must be dressed in clothing free from obscenities and questionable phrases or products. This is a family-oriented event and therefore only activities and apparel suitable for families will be permitted.
- Band name and lyrics of performance songs should not contain any obscenities if possible. Judges can deduct points for any use of obscenities not deemed necessary.
- The entire performance must be violence-free and suitable for families.
- IF the band incites moshing or any other sort of violence in the crowd, the band will be immediately disqualified and the performance will be stopped.
- The use of an illegal substances will not be tolerated. If any band member is suspected to be under the influence of an illegal substance, the entire band will be disqualified and the proper authorities will be notified.
- In addition, any band member under the age of 21 who is suspected of alcohol use will also be grounds for disqualification.
- All band members are required to be present at least 30 minutes prior to performance time to check in with the coordinator. If the band members are not present and ready to setup for performance 15 minutes before going on stage, the band will be disqualified.
- All participants are required to be courteous and respectful toward other participating musicians.
- The Smith Mountain Lake Good Neighbors reserves the right to postpone or cancel Battle of the Bands at any time, with or without notice for any reason.

EQUIPMENT AND ONSTAGE RULES:

- Smith Mountain Lake Good Neighbors will provide basic backline to make your load-in and load-out times minimal. Specific equipment and models to be determined but we will provide the following for use:
 - PA System
 - Bass amp
 - Keyboard amp
 - Drums
 - Three vocal mics

- All bands will be responsible for instruments (guitars, basses, keyboards, horns, etc) as well as all pedals and effects needed. No outside bass amps or drums.
- Soundchecks are limited to time outside performance windows.
- Band members are responsible for the security of their equipment.
- Each band will be given the opportunity to play no more than nine songs in the allotted time of 45 minutes or less.
- Songs must include at least one original written by one or more band members. Other material may include originals and covers.
- While one band is playing, the next band may start getting ready to set up on the side. However, please do not be disruptive so that the band in stage can be the focus of the crowd.
- Aside from sampling, bands may not use pre-recorded sound material including vocals.
- There is a \$500 cash prize for the winning band, provided by the Smith Mountain Lake Good Neighbors Organization. Additional prizes are not guaranteed.

JUDGING SYSTEM:

- The judging system is designed to keep the contest open to all skill levels and song choices while keeping the event fair and competitive.
- Judges will be instructed to ignore “gender bias”....not to reward a band for playing a type/style of music that the judge personally likes and conversely, not to penalize a band simply because the music isn’t agreeable with the judge’s personal taste.
- There are five categories on which each band will be judged.
- Each category is worth 20 points.

- At the end of each performance, the total number of points a band receives from each judge will be added together with the other judges to reach the band's final score.
- Each judge will be given a scoring sheet for the band. There will be a place for the judge to write comments. Once the competition is over, band will have the opportunity to obtain scoring points from the event coordinator.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- **PLANNING/PREPAREDNESS:**
 - Evidence of performance planning: i.e. choreography, demonstration of the musical/movement or program dynamics, etc.
 - Instruments and equipment must be made ready prior to performance, start on time, stay within time limits for set-up and break-down.
 - Evidence of rehearsal, bands know the lyrics, bands appear ready and prepared to play.
- **ORIGINALITY:**
 - Do the songs fit the genre, how unique do the songs sound, do the songs fit the set?
 - Is the band's appearance original, does the band look original, does the band stand out?
 - Does the band demonstrate any level of original improvisational skill? For example, "jam out" or vocal through an instrument change, repair or equipment failure.
- **INTERFACE WITH THE AUDIENCE OR OTHER MEMBERS:**
 - Did the band interact with the audience?
 - Did the members interact during the performance?
- **QUALITY OR PERFORMANCE:**
 - How was the band's competence and confidence?
 - Did they look at ease while playing?
 - Did they appear to be able to do what they wanted to do?

- o How was the band's stage presence? Did they use the stage effectively?
 - o Does the band's attitude appear suitable to their genre?

- AUDIENCE REACTION:
 - o Was the audience engaged and appreciative?

PEOPLE'S CHOICE:

- After each band performs, the audience will "vote" for that band by making a donation to SML Good Neighbors. The band who received the most "votes" (monetary donations) will win the People's Choice Award.