



CALLING ALL SUPERSTARS!

Rising Star

2025 Rising Star Junior Grand Champion,
Josiah Hibbs



**Calling all Superstars
ages 6 to 21 years:**

Singers • Dancers • Instrumentalists
Actors • Magicians • Comedians & more!
Performing Solo or as a Group

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
AUG 21 TO SEPT 7 | 2026
LET'S GO TO THE EX!  **THEEX.COM**

Toronto, Ontario

Audition deadline is May 24, 2026

To Learn More, Call: 416.263.3807 or visit TheEx.com
Apply Now at: www.TheEx.com/contests/rising-star/

Canadian National Exhibition: August 21 - September 7, 2026



Rising Star

If you are a singer, dancer, actor, musician, magician, or comedian, performing solo or as a group, you are invited to audition for the annual Rising Star competition at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). Selected competitors will perform at the 2026 CNE.

DIVISIONS

There are two age divisions in the competition:

- 1. Junior Rising Star:** 6 to 12 years of age
- 2. Youth Rising Star:** 13 to 21 years of age

HOW TO ENTER

1. Complete an entry form online at www.theex.com/risingstar. Entry forms must be received by the CNE no later than 5:00 pm, Sunday, May 24, 2026. The administrator in its sole discretion may accept or refuse to accept entry forms that are late, incomplete or illegible.
2. Along with your entry form, a YouTube video link must be submitted at the same time or before the deadline. All audition material must have been recorded within the last 12 months. Only one performance is permitted per YouTube submission. When preparing your YouTube video, make sure to list your full name in the title of the video, if possible. Videos not properly labelled may not be considered.
3. Contestants acknowledge that the CNE is not affiliated in any way with YouTube and a submission made by a contestant via YouTube is the sole responsibility of the contestant, including the ability of the CNE to access the

submission. Any YouTube submissions that cannot be accessed by the CNE for any reason whatsoever will be deemed not to have been received. Contestants are responsible for compliance with YouTube's Terms of Use.

4. The judges will consist of a panel appointed by the administrator. The judges will review all video entries and score them according to our judging criteria.

SHOW DATES

The contest, which consists of preliminaries, semi-finals and finals, will run during the CNE, August 21 to September 7, 2026.

Junior Preliminaries Tues Sept 1 - Wed Sept 2

Junior Semi-Finals Thur Sept 3 & Fri Sept 4

Junior Finals Sat Sept 5

Youth Preliminaries Wed Sept 2 - Fri Sept 4

Youth Semi-Finals Thur Sept 3 - Sat Sept 5

Youth Finals Sun Sept 6

All shows start at 7:00 PM.

*****PLEASE NOTE NEW START TIME*****

JUDGING

1. Contestants are judged by a panel based on the following criteria:

Natural Ability	20%
Stage Presence / Showmanship	20%
Audience Appeal	20%
Quality of Performance	40%

2. All contestants including last year's finalists, must have an audition with the Canadian National Exhibition's production staff to be eligible to compete in the talent competition. Decisions made by CNE staff and judges are final. No discussion shall be entered into by the contestants and the judges or CNE staff regarding contest decisions. Matters not covered by the stated rules are resolved at the sole discretion of the CNE staff.

PRIZES

The **Junior Grand Champion** receives \$1,000 and the first runner up, \$750. Second through fifth runners-up receive \$500, \$300, \$200 and \$100 respectively.

The **Youth Grand Champion** receives \$2,500 and the first runner up, \$1,500. Second through fifth runners-up receive \$700, \$500, \$300 and \$200 respectively.

NOTE: All participants are awarded souvenirs of the contest as they advance through the preliminaries, semi-finals and finals.

The structure of the competition may change without notice.

Please Read Carefully - Rules & Regulations

1. This competition is open to legal residents of Ontario **only**. You can only enter **once**.
2. Junior Rising Star: All contestants must be at least 6 years of age and not older than 12 by September 5, 2026.
3. Youth Rising Star: All contestants must be at least 13 years of age and not older than 21 by September 6, 2026.
4. The age divisions of contestants in duet or groups will be determined by average age.
5. An act must be no more than 4 minutes 30 seconds in duration. Any act running over this time will be disqualified. Timing begins with the first word, note, or action.
6. Acts using machetes, knives, baton weapons and rigging (circus acts) cannot enter. Fire and/or pyrotechnics are not allowed on stage at any time. Profane language, swearing or suggestive lyrics or actions that are not suitable for a family audience (as determined by the administrator or the judge) will not be accepted. The administrator or the judge may refuse to accept an entry containing any of the aforesaid.
7. Once again, the competition will be held on a stage indoors. Therefore, sound level restrictions will be in effect.
8. An individual may not enter the competition if they are: 1) a CNE full-time or contract employee; 2) a member of the CNEA Membership or Board of Directors; 3) a contractor and/or agent of the CNE directly involved in the competition; 4) any other persons directly associated with the competition; 5) a member of the immediate families of any of the aforesaid persons or any other person residing in the same household.
9. Contestants who do not appear one half-hour prior to the competition or fail to remain until the end of the show, will be disqualified.
10. A vocalist, must sing the same song throughout the competition as it is a new set of judges at each level. If two contestants are singing the same song in the Finals, both may be asked to change their song to ensure that there is no duplication in the repertoire presented onstage. It is suggested that a vocal contestant have a song as a back up, should this occur.
11. Contestants selected to advance to the preliminaries will be notified around the end of June.
12. As a condition of the contestant being permitted to compete in the Rising Star Competition, each contestant (A) grants permission to the CNE to use, without compensation of any kind, any photograph, audio, or video tapes or other audio or visual images or recordings, including digital recordings, in such manner as the CNE may determine including any promotions or advertising, and (B) waives any right to any fee or compensation for any of the aforesaid and (C) releases the CNE from any loss, damage, injury or expense, which the contestant may suffer or incur as a result of his or her participation in the event, however caused.
13. A previous Junior Grand Champion can enter the Youth competition once they reach the age of 13. A previous Youth Grand Champion cannot enter again.
14. All audition videos must be a live recording. Videos that have a voice dubbed in will not be accepted. Audition video must represent how you would be performing in the competition. Videos should have a clean sound, no reverberation.

Personal information collected will be used for the administration of the CNE Rising Star Talent Competition only.

Questions about the collection of this information should be directed to: Corporate Secretariat, Canadian National Exhibition, 210 Princes' Blvd, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON, M6K 3C3