

The Next Stage Youth Band Showcase

Guidelines

1. Bands

Bands may have 2–7 members and only acoustic instruments will be allowed. (Acoustic bass instruments will be available to borrow, otherwise an electric bass is acceptable.)

Band members must not be older than 18 years. Bands can have one supporting member older than 18 as long as that older member is not singing lead vocals or taking an instrumental lead. Individual band members can play in more than one band.

For the 2026 Festival, admission is free for those 18 years and younger.

2. Important Times

- **Pre-registration:** Registration can be completed online at santafetradfest.org to reserve a spot. No more than 8 bands will be able to participate.
- **6:00 PM on contest day:** At least one band member must be at the contest to sign in and all band members must sign the photo/video/recording release.
- **6:30 PM:** Bands that have registered but have not signed in by 6:30 PM may forfeit their spot.

3. Performance

Friday, August 28, 2026, 6:30 – 8:30 PM on the Paige Stage in the lodge.

4. Amplification

A basic sound system will be provided and set up on stage. Modifications to the sound system for individual bands will not be available.

5. Styles

The music should be consistent with the purpose of the Santa Fe Friends of Traditional Music, including Bluegrass, Old-time, Hispanic, Native American, African American, Cajun, Celtic, or other traditional music and dance of other cultures.

6. Selections

Bands are required to perform two songs.

7. Time Limit

Bands should limit their time onstage to 10 minutes.

8. Prizes

Prizes will be awarded by a panel of judges based on the band's musicianship, originality, stage presence, cohesion, and technical challenge of material. It is our goal to support each band's journey in musical artistry and inspiration in a fun and meaningful way, and prizes are chosen with that purpose in mind. Prize details for 2026 will be announced soon. Past prizes have included gift certificates, TradFest merchandise, and studio recording time.