

Snake River Strings Co. 2026 Spring Festival Competition

Rules and Info

- Overall info
 - Saturday May 2, 2026
 - Snake River High School
 - 922 ID-39, Blackfoot, ID 83221
 - Choir & band/orchestra room, plus cafeteria & auditorium.
 - All locations will participate in this event. We decided that ammon, rexburg, and pocatello locations will combine with this as well as this is a bigger costing event with judges, prize money, venue rental, etc. It'll be tons of fun! And we hire some great judges.
 - We will be offering an online recital again in June to offer students that can't make it to this, another awesome opportunity to perform what they have been working on!
 - Anyone that can't make it in person that day can send in a video of their performance to be played for a judge. Still register as normal, but submit your video to snakeriverstringsco@gmail.com by the Friday before the event, and we will play your video for the judge during what would have been your playing time.
- Registration & preliminary song submission
 - Registration will open the first week in April and close on April 25th!. make sure to keep an eye out for our email! Registration will cost \$10 for each entry.
 - When we close registration, we will put together an exact schedule and email it out a few days before the competition so that you will have a 10-20 minute window of when you will perform on stage.
 - We will not be doing a preliminary song submission this year, just registration to help simplify things.
- Tentative schedule...
 - Rock (in the auditorium)
 - Beginner 9-10:45 AM (20 entries)
 - Intermediate 11-12 (12 entries)
 - Advanced 12-12:30 (6 entries)
 - Adult 12:30-1 (6 entries)
 - Awards at 1:05
 - Folk (in the cafeteria)
 - Beginner 9-10:45 AM (20 entries)
 - Intermediate 11-12 (12 entries)
 - Advanced 12-12:30 (6 entries)
 - Adult 12:30-1 (6 entries)
 - Awards at 1:05
 - Elective Divisions (in the Auditorium)
 - Ensemble 1:30-2:00 (6 entries)
 - Entertainment 2:00-3:15 (15 entries)
 - Awards at 3:20

- Classical
 - Beginner 1:30-3:15 in the cafeteria (20 entries)
 - Intermediate 3:20-4:20 in the Auditorium (12 entries)
 - Advanced 4:20-4:50 in the Auditorium (6 entries)
 - Adult 4:55-5:15 in the auditorium (5 entries)
 - Awards at 5:15
- WE WILL SEND A DETAILED SCHEDULE AFTER THE REGISTRATION WINDOW CLOSES
- Awards will follow after each division
 - You do not have to be present to accept your award. We will do the awards on FB live, and will also collect any score cards and/or trophies/certificates and bring them to your teacher to give you at your next lesson.
 - Make sure to collect your judges comment cards after awards! These contain great feedback for what you did well on, and how you can continue to improve your playing. So even if you dont place, you still leave with some great feedback and can set some more goals for improvement!
- Reasons to participate
 - Great opportunity to work on solo repertoire!
 - It's good to have a deadline to meet and goals to set!
 - Meet other students and musicians
 - A good push to memorize songs
 - Everyone will leave with something! We are hiring some amazing outside judges to write comments and detailed score cards for each performer! So no matter what you'll leave with some great motivation, encouragement, and know what you can work on.
- Prizes & Sponsorship
 - We will have cash prize money for the top 3 in each division & category. Last year we gave out over \$2000 in prize money!
 - The more sponsorship we can collect, the more prize money we can give out.
 - We will also have a trophy for all first placers, certificates for 2-5th place.
 - Lots of local businesses sponsor this event and we love to recognize them at the event! If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring please let us know! We have venmo where you can donate
 - <https://venmo.com/u/snakeriverstringsco> (last 4 is 7739)
 - We have an award for the student that collects the most sponsorship, and they earn a free month of lessons as well!
 - 100% of Donations go towards the event: hiring judges, judges lunch, venue rental, trophies, and prize money.
- Divisions, Categories, & Rules
 - We have 3 "solo" based divisions!
 - Folk
 - Rock
 - Classical

- We have 2 “fun” divisions
 - Ensemble
 - Entertainment
- I encourage my students to enter at least 1 “solo-based” division to get that extra push! And anything else they’d like to enter can be more for enjoyment!
- Within each of those divisions we have 4 “categories” students will be divided into.
 - Beginner
 - If it’s your first time performing or entering, playing beginner songs.
 - Have never placed in a our festival competition before
 - Intermediate
 - If you’ve entered something similar before, had a type of performance before, but haven’t placed/won. Playing intermediate songs.
 - Advanced
 - If you’ve entered before and are playing advanced songs/high school level.
 - Adult
 - Anyone over 18 can enter!
 - This is a great opportunity for our adult beginner students to enter with less pressure!
- Rules
 - Memorization: we encourage it! But not required.
 - You can enter as many divisions as you would like! It’s not limited by instrument.
 - Solo-based divisions: Folk, Rock/Pop, Classical
 - You only need to play two songs for the “solo-based” division (folk, classical, & pop/rock). We recommend two contrasting songs, like a slow one and a fast one.
 - Try to keep your whole performance under 4 minutes in length.
 - Judging criteria: technique, tone, rhythm, difficulty, execution, etc.
 - Ensemble
 - The ensemble division you only have to play one song! Only rule is that it can’t be by yourself, you need to play with someone else! Duet, quartet, trio, band, etc.
 - Judging criteria: balance & blend, communication with bandmates, togetherness, difficulty, tone, rhythm, etc.
 - Entertainment
 - The entertainment division is a variety talent show! You have 5 minutes to do whatever you want! Tell a joke, do a skit, dress up...people get super creative! We have an award for judges choice, and audience vote! So make sure to invite your family out!

- Last year we had: pirate playing wellerman, princess playing taylor swift, family of fishermen playing crawdad song, singing and playing a song she wrote, etc.
 - We do limit this to 15 entries so that the show doesn't go too late into the evening. This is always such a fun show! So make sure to register as soon as it opens to ensure your spot.
 - Judging criteria: stage presence, creativity, audience participation
- TIME LIMIT
 - All performances must stay under 3 minutes in total.
 - If they are performing with a backing track, you must cut, or make the arrangement to include the important parts within the time limit (verse chorus for example)
 - Excessive repetition is not encouraged, the judges appreciate when the idea has been stated.
- Accompanists
 - You can choose to play with or without an accompanist. Many SRSC teachers will be there to accompany students for free (tips welcome!). In general, the classical division usually has a piano accompanist, the folk division usually has a guitar accompanist, and the rock division usually plays along with a drum or backing track.
 - It is your responsibility to find an accompanist!
 - If you need help finding an accompanist just let us know!
- Sound Equipment
 - We will provide sound equipment at the event with 3 microphones and bluetooth capability.
 - If you require a particular amp or pedal sound, please bring that.
 - If you need to use the bluetooth for a backing track, please make sure your backing track is downloaded (so no ads play), and is ready to play over the speaker. It is your responsibility to bring your backing track.
- What to wear? You can wear whatever you'd like!