



Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Your Song! Your Voice!®

Shout Down Drugs® New Jersey

CONTEST RULES



Please adhere to all school, local and state guidelines and precautions during in-person group interactions

ENTRY DEADLINE: Sunday MARCH 24 2024 (by 11:59 pm)

•Registration Required on ShoutDownDrugs.com •Song and Video, Soundtrack/Instrumental, Photo, Lyrics must be uploaded when registering

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST:

- be a **High School Student**, in Grades 9 through 12, in good standing with their school. (For students enrolled in a NJ high school equivalency program, please contact the program coordinator for eligibility.)
- be a **resident of New Jersey**.
- Contestants can enter as an **individual or a group** [Groups cannot exceed six (6) students]

ALL SONGS MUST:

- be **completely original music and lyrics** with **no copyright infringement** violations.
- be **no more than 3 (THREE) minutes in length**.
- contain a **strong prevention message**.

For copyright-protected songs: Please carefully read Paragraph 5 of the Copyright License, Assignment & Talent Release before entering the contest.

*All music genres are welcomed – Rock, jazz, R&B, hip hop, gospel, etc.

MUSIC/LYRICS/PHOTO/VIDEO

Below is what must be uploaded when registering:

- **TWO VERSIONS** of your song must be submitted: **Must be in MP3 format**.
One version must contain **music and all vocals**.
One version must contain **music only** (your soundtrack or instrumental) include background vocals, if any.
 - **TYPED LYRICS** with a song title, must be copied and pasted into designated lyric field on the upload site.
 - **PHOTO:** NO IMAGES PERMITTED IN PLACE OF YOUR PHOTO. Be as creative as you like, but you must follow copyright rules. (Groups: one group photo only). PDFNJ reserves the right to reject any inappropriate images.
 - **PERFORMANCE VIDEOS** are encouraged but not mandatory. **Must be in MP4 format**. If you choose not to submit a video, if you are a finalist, your recorded song and photo will be used for the Virtual Prevention Concert.
- *If you have technical problems, please contact the program coordinator for help – Diane@DrugFreeNJ.org, or 973-275-7985.

REGISTRATION

Step 1: Registration must be completed and submitted at ShoutDownDrugs.com/register.

GROUPS: All group members must register. Only Group Leader should upload music and video files.

If under the age of 18, registration must be submitted by parent or legal guardian. If **over the age of 18** proof of age must be submitted to Diane@DrugfreeNJ.org (copy of **birth certificate** or **driver's license**).

Step 2: Recorded Song, Soundtrack/Instrumental, Photo, Lyrics and Video must be uploaded at the time of registering.

CONCERT

The May 8, 2024 PREVENTION CONCERT will be a pre-recorded virtual event, featuring the contest finalists' music videos (or a recording of the song if video is not submitted). The First, Second and Third Place Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the event.

Groups: No substitutions are allowed for any group member who withdraws from the contest, but remaining group members may continue with the contest but must contact the program coordinator first for permission.

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JUDGING

- Independent panels of judges will select Finalists and First, Second and Third Place Winners. Finalists will be featured in the Virtual Prevention Concert. First, Second and Third Place Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the Concert.
- Judges will select County Finalists from each of New Jersey's 21 participating counties; however, PDFNJ reserves the right to select additional "Wildcard" Finalists.
- Participants will represent the county where they reside, not where they attend school. (*For group entries, the group leader's residing county is the group's official county of entry.*)
- **Online Voting:**
 - During the voting period, songs (meeting the contest criteria) will be featured on ShoutDownDrugs.com.
 - Contestants' total online votes will be combined with Judges' scores to help select Winners.
 - Contestant with most online votes will receive a cash prize and special recognition.

• WINNERS

Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the May 8, 2024 Prevention Concert live on air on 95.9-FM WRAT Radio and WRAT.com.

All decisions are final.

JUDGING CRITERIA ~ *Emphasis will be placed on your Prevention Message ~*

1. Prevention Message/Lyrics:

- Is the message clear?
- Does the song inform peers about the dangers of substance use?

2. Originality:

- Does the song motivate and inspire peers to be drug-free?
- Does it connect teens to the message of the dangers of substance use?

PRIZES

First Place Winner (*individual or group*)

- will be awarded a \$5,000 "Music Contract"
- will be required to perform their winning song at three (3) separate events*, which shall be determined at a future date. These may include virtual events. Prize will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the music contract and contingent on performance at scheduled PDFNJ events.

Second Place Winner (*individual or group*)

- will be awarded a \$3,000 "Music Contract"
- will be required to perform their winning song at two (2) separate events*, which shall be determined at a future date. These may include virtual events. Prize will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the music contract and contingent on performance at scheduled PDFNJ events.

Third Place Winner (*individual or group*)

- will be awarded a \$2,000 "Music Contract"
- will be required to perform their winning song at one (1) event*, which shall be determined at a future date. This may be a virtual event. Prize will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the music contract and contingent on performance at a scheduled PDFNJ event.

*Winners are responsible for their own transportation to any in-person event and minors must be accompanied by a chaperone 21 or older.

IF A GROUP IS CHOSEN AS A WINNER, the prize money will be divided equally among group members.

EXCLUSIONS

Contest is not open to previous winners of Your Song! Your Voice!® Shout Down Drugs® NJ but other past contestants and finalists may enter. Contest is not open to employees or immediate family members of PDFNJ or any Sponsor of this contest. PDFNJ reserves the right to reject any entry that goes against its mission.

~ End of Rules ~