



Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

2020 NEW JERSEY SHOUT DOWN DRUGS!®

FAQs (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)



Question 1: What format should I submit my music files in?

Answer: Songs must be submitted electronically in an **MP3 file** (If your music files are in any other format, they will not upload.) See www.ShoutDownDrugs.com/register for uploading instructions. Please contact the program coordinator for assistance if you cannot meet this requirement (Diane@DrugFreeNJ.org, or call 973-467-2100, ext. 19). You must also mail your Entry Forms by the January 10, 2020 deadline.

ONLY RECORDINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED; VIDEOS WILL BE REJECTED.

Question 2: Can my song go over the 3 minute-limit?

Answer: **NOOOO!** Songs **MUST** comply with the 3 minute limit. Your song and/or soundtrack will be rejected if either recording is over 3 minutes in length.

Question 3: For groups - do all members of a group have to attend the same high school?

Answer: No, but they all must live in New Jersey.

Question 4: I attend a New Jersey high school, but I am not a New Jersey resident. Can I still participate?

Answer: No, this contest is only open to high school students who reside in New Jersey.

Question 5: Do all members of a group have to be in high school during the 2019-2020 school year?

Answer: Yes, you must be in high school during the 2019-2020 school year and be a New Jersey resident to be eligible to enter the contest.

Question 6: Can I have someone accompany me with music or vocals in my recorded song?

Answer: Yes; however, any background musician or vocalist who is NOT a high school student and resident of New Jersey cannot be part of your live performance on April 3, should you be chosen as a finalist. In this instance, you must add their vocals and/or their instrumental to your recorded soundtrack and perform at the concert to your recorded soundtrack with the background vocals and/or instrumental(s). Please also remember to adhere to copyright rules. If you would like your background vocalist(s) to perform with you, they **MUST** be eligible for the contest and include an Entry Form with your form and sign the Release. If they do not submit the entry forms, they cannot perform with you.

Question 7: I participated in the contest before. Can I participate again - even if I was a finalist?

Answer: Yes, you may. Only past winners cannot re-enter. However, you must submit a new, original song.

Question 8: If one member of a group cannot perform at the Prevention Concert, can we substitute that member with another person?

Answer: No. If you are chosen as a finalist to perform at the Prevention Concert, and one of your group members is unable to perform in the concert, **NO** substitutions are allowed. However, the remaining members of the group may still perform if they wish to do so, **BUT** they must contact the program coordinator first to receive permission.

Question 9: Is an entry disqualified if the student has signed a professional contract?

Answer: No. However, if the student's contract does not allow her/him to adhere to the "Contest Rules" or to assign and give PDFNJ exclusive rights to their song (if they win the contest) in accordance with the "Copyright License, Copyright Assignment and Talent Release" agreement, that entry will be disqualified.

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Question 10: Can I submit my song if it has been copyright protected?

Answer: *If the song you are entering is the subject of a copyright registration or pending copyright application, and you are a Winner in the NJSDD contest, you must re-assign all rights for the song to PDFNJ, via a form that will be provided to you by PDFNJ. If you win the contest and choose not to assign ownership to PDFNJ, your Winner status will become nullified and you will be ineligible to collect any benefits as a Winner of the Competition, including but not limited to monetary prizes and media promotion. See Paragraph 5 of the Copyright License, Assignment & Talent Release. (This Rule has been revised from previous years.)*

Question 11: Why must I assign/reassign all rights of my song to PDFNJ if I win the contest?

Answer: *This initiative was created by PDFNJ to allow New Jersey teens to use the power of music to encourage their peers to live a life free from substance abuse and misuse. Since the winning songs are representative of our organization and our mission to prevent substance abuse, it is necessary for PDFNJ to take ownership to protect the song from ever being altered. We do gladly encourage winners to continue to perform and share their songs with the hopes of reaching even more with their powerful messages. PDFNJ is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and does not receive any profit or royalties from any of its statewide programs, including NJ Shout Down Drugs music. If your song is the subject of a copyright registration and you are not comfortable with this rule, we suggest you reconsider entering the contest.*

Question 12: Can I enter more than one song in the contest in the same year?

Answer: *No; only one song entry is permitted per person per contest year.*

Question 13: Can I participate in more than one group entry?

Answer: *No, you are only permitted to participate in one entry - group or individual performance.*

Question 14: Should I “announce” myself on my recording?

Answer: *No. You should not speak or otherwise identify yourself on your recording.*

Question 15: What if I am having trouble meeting the deadline?

Answer: *If you are having trouble with any part of your entry, contact the program coordinator well in advance of the deadline for assistance. **We will gladly assist you!** Also, many high schools are willing to assist their students with their entry, including SACs, music teachers, guidance counselors, etc.*

IF YOUR QUESTION STILL HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
Diane@DrugFreeNJ.org, or call 973-467-2100, x19.

~ END of FAQs~