



Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Your Song! Your Voice!™

Shout Down Drugs New Jersey®

2021 CONTEST RULES



COVID-19 REVISED RULES

Due to the urgent need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey will NOT accept any duet or group entries from students who have gathered together in the same room to create or record their music entry. Although it is challenging, duets and groups must create their original song while working together remotely only. Anyone who does not adhere to this 2021 Rule, will be disqualified from the Contest.

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] ***SEE COVID-19 RULES ABOVE**

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

MUSIC/LYRICS/PHOTO

Must be submitted electronically (if a group, group leader only submits).

Follow uploading instructions on ShoutDownDrugs.com/register.

***If you have trouble please contact the program coordinator for help – diane@DrugFreeNJ.org, or 973-275-7985.**

- **Two versions** of your song must be submitted:
 - One version must contain **music and all vocals**. (*This recording will be used for the Online Voting)
 - One version must contain **music only** (soundtrack or instrumental, with background vocals if any).
- **Typed lyrics**, with a song title, must be copied and pasted into designated lyric field on the upload site.
- **PHOTO:** Be as creative as you like, but you must follow copyright rules. (Groups: one photo only; **your individual photos can be combined into one photo**). PDFNJ reserves the right to reject any inappropriate images.

ENTRY FORMS

Must be completed and submitted electronically. See "ShoutDownDrugs.com/join/."

GROUPS; each group member must submit their own individual electronic form.

****If under the age of 18**, entry forms 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**).

CONCERT

The 2021 PREVENTION CONCERT will be a pre-recorded virtual event on Friday, May 7, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The event will conclude with a LIVE announcement of the winners on 95.9FM WRAT Radio and WRAT.com.

Groups: No substitutions are allowed for any group member who withdraws from the contest, but remaining group members may continue with the contest.

ALL FINALIST SONGS WILL BE FEATURED ON THE MAY 7th VIRTUAL PREVENTION CONCERT. FINALISTS WILL BE INVITED TO SUBMIT A VIDEO PERFORMING THEIR SONG FOR THE CONCERT, ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT BE MANDATORY.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021 (by 11:59 pm):

- Song, Soundtrack/Instrumental, Photo and Lyrics must be uploaded on www.ShoutDownDrugs.com/register.
- Entry Forms (see above) must be submitted electronically.

JUDGING

- Independent panels of judges will select County Finalists and First, Second and Third Place Winners. Finalists will be featured during the May 7, 2021 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 Dates:**
All Entries selected by judges posted: 2/12/21–2/26/21 → Contestant with most online votes becomes **Automatic Finalist!**
Finalists posted: 3/1/21–5/6/21 → Finalists' total online votes will be combined with Judges' scores to help select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners.

Finalists Will Be Announced Mon., March 1, 2021, at 3:00 PM on ShoutDownDrugs.com and DrugFreeNJ.org:

- Each Finalist will be featured on the May 7th Virtual Prevention Concert, beginning at 7:30 pm.
- First, Second and Third Place Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the Virtual Prevention Concert, live on air on 95.9FM 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 misuse and abuse?

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 misuse and abuse?

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. PLEASE NOTE, if a group is chosen as the 1st, 2nd or 3rd Place Winner, the prize money will be divided equally among group members.**

EXCLUSIONS

Contest is **not open to past New Jersey Shout Down Drugs® Winners** but other past contestants may enter. Contest is not open to employees and immediate family members of PDFNJ, nor any Sponsor of this contest. PDFNJ reserves the right to reject any entry that goes against its mission.