

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Your Song! Your Voice!

NJ SHOUT DOWN DRUGS!® 2021

FAQs (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

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.

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

Answer: *MP3 files are preferred. However, if you are unable to submit your music files in this format or have any other technical issues, please contact the program coordinator for assistance: Diane@DrugFreeNJ.org, or call 973-275-7985, ext. 19. You must also electronically submit your two Entry Forms by the February 1, 2021 deadline. If you have any problems with your entry, we will work with you to get your entry to us.*

Question 2: What if I don't play an instrument, or, I am going to school remotely and don't have access to instruments at my school?

Answer: *If you haven't done so yet, check out some of the amazing FREE apps where you can download music and beats and create your own soundtrack (please make sure not to use any copyrighted music). There are several free good apps: GarageBand, Groovebox, Figure, Bandlab, Suggester. On your phone you can use GooglePlay, Voice Recorder.*

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

Answer: *NOOOO! Songs MUST comply with the 3-minute limit.*

Question 4: 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 5: 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 6: Do all members of a group have to be in high school during the 2020-2021 school year?

Answer: *Yes, you must be in high school during the 2020-2021 school year and be a New Jersey resident to be eligible to enter the contest.*

Question 7: Can I have someone accompany me with music or vocals in my recorded song?

If any accompanying vocalist or musician is not a high school student and New Jersey resident, they cannot be a part of this contest and cannot perform with you during any contest-related performances, virtual or otherwise, and would not be a part of any winnings you might receive. However, you may include them in your soundtrack recording as backup instrumentals or vocals. Please also remember to adhere to copyright rules.

Question 8: 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 9: If one member of a group drops out of the contest, can we substitute that member with another person?

Answer: No. *However*, the remaining members of the group might still be able to continue in the contest. They must contact the program coordinator first to receive permission.

Question 10: 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" their entry will be disqualified.

Question 11: 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 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 be 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, Copyright Assignment & Talent Release.*

Question 12: 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 their 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 winning 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 Your Song! Your Voice! NJ Shout Down Drugs music. If your song is the subject of a copyright registration and you are not comfortable with this rule, we respectfully suggest you reconsider entering the contest.*

Question 13: 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 14: 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 15: Should I "announce" myself on my recording?

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

Question 16: 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 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 973-275-7985**

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