

**2026 49<sup>th</sup> Worthen Memorial Contest Rules and Entry Form**  
**ENTRY FORMS AND FEES can be MAILED IN or SUBMITTED ONSITE**  
**Prior to your Division Competition**  
**FIDDLERS' & JUDGES' MEETING @ 8:40 AM SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

1. Entry fees and applications are due the day of your division competition, by 8:30am. The order of division competitions is listed on the Registration Form.
2. Contestants shall draw numbers for initial order of appearance in each division entered. Order of play will then be posted after registration is complete. Contestants who are not ready when called to play may be disqualified.
3. Contestants are **strongly encouraged** to attend the fiddler and judges' meetings. Any rule changes, clarifications and/or answers to questions will be provided at that time. Failure to attend will NOT be reason for not knowing about any such changes presented there.
4. **All fiddler age divisions** except Small Fry, Jr. Jr. and Novice: each contestant shall play **two rounds** consisting of a **hoedown, waltz and tune of their choice (not a waltz or hoedown)**.
5. **Small Fry, Junior/Junior** and **Novice** divisions will play **one round** consisting of a hoedown, waltz and tune of their choice (not a waltz or hoedown).
6. **Novice** division accepts beginning level fiddlers of any age, who have not competed in a contest previously. Participation in the Novice division is in lieu of entering an age group category.
7. **Accompanists** will play **one round** of two (2) tunes, a fast and a slow in any order. There will be a **four (4) minute time limit**. (Accompanist competitors must accompany at least once during the contest)
8. **Other stringed instruments** - (Viola, Cello, Banjo, Mandolin, Guitar (picking), Dulcimers, etc.) will play **one round** of two (2) tunes - a fast and a slow – in any order. **Time limit is (4) minutes**.
9. **Vocal division** will perform **one round** of one (1) tune. Tunes are accepted from the country, bluegrass, old time, swing, Appalachian or Celtic styles. There will be a **three (3) minute time limit**. Performer may have up to 3 accompanists. Vocal division will have separate judges.
10. **Twin Fiddle** – will play **two rounds** of two (2) tunes, a fast and a slow in any order. There will be a **four (4) minute time limit**.
11. **Trick and/or Fancy** fiddling (cross tuning, hokum bowing, plucking, etc) is permitted only in the **Trick and Fancy** division, and not in the age divisions or championship division. There will be **two rounds** with one tune played in each round. There will be a **four (4) minute time limit**.
12. No tune may be played more than once by the same contestant during all divisions of the fiddle contest or band competition, if applicable. Repeating tunes may result in disqualification.
13. There is a **five (5) minute time limit** across all fiddler age divisions. Other divisions as listed. 10 points will be deducted from the total score for each 30-second interval over, **no grace period**. (If the time limit is 5 minutes, a 10-point deduction is assessed at 5 minutes 1 second, another 10 points will be deducted at 5 minutes 31 seconds, and so on at each subsequent 30-second interval thereafter.)
14. **NO MEDLEYS** may be played in any category.

15. Each contestant may have no more than three accompanists, no amplified or electrical instruments allowed.\*\* Accompanists must have an instrument type OTHER than the category (i.e. a fiddle cannot have another fiddle accompany them in a fiddle division).
16. There will be three judges. Decisions of the judges will be final.
17. Contestants will be judged on tone, rhythm, intonation, technique and old time style. Score sheets will be available upon completion of the contest. Competitors may not use sheet music on stage.
18. Scores will be posted after the first round of play. Grand Champion scores will not be posted.
19. Division tiebreakers will be played at the end of each division with one hoedown being played.
20. The **Grand Champion** division will be **one round** held on Sunday after all other divisions have played. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners of each age division of fiddlers are automatically entered into this category and there is no entry fee. Winners are welcome (and encouraged) to attend on Sunday afternoon to play in this division.
21. **Grand Champion** division is **certified** for the National OTF contest in Weiser, ID. Contestants will play one round consisting of a **hoedown, a waltz and a tune of their choice (not a waltz or hoedown)** with a **five (5) minute limit**. Numbers will be drawn right before the division play begins.
22. If a string breaks, the fiddler may continue or stop. If the tune is complete, it will be judged as played. If the fiddler stops, he/she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete his/her program. The time limit will be appropriately adjusted to the start of that time.
23. Any performer winning first place in *any* division three years in succession must lay out for one year before competing again in the division in which they won first place, though they may compete in other categories for which they would otherwise be eligible. *Contact contest chair for options.*
24. Disputes will be submitted to the judges and contest committee at the time of the event and a decision rendered at that time. The decision of the judges and committee on the problem presented will be final.
25. Any person hired by the contest (i.e. judges and hired accompanists) may not compete in the contest.
26. Any questions on rules may be submitted before or during the Judges meeting and will be considered by the judges and/or committee as deemed appropriate by the committee. Answers and clarifications will be provided at the judges meeting on the Saturday and Sunday of the event.
27. Sales of CDs/recordings will be handled by AOTFA, details and check in at the event.
28. Everyone have a GOOD TIME!

#### RULES FOR JUDGES:

- \*Scoring will range from 80 to 100, with 90 being the median. Please initial your score sheets.
- \*Score on tone, rhythm, intonation, technique and old time style
- \*Mark off points if contestant loses tune, stops or starts over, or plays the wrong type of tune.
- \*No talking or discussion of contestants while contest is in progress.
- \*Do NOT total any scores or mark off for over time. Tabulation and overtime deductions done by office.

Official Entry Form  
The Silver Spur Rodeo, Inc. and  
The Territorial Chapter of the AZ Old Time Fiddlers Association  
Present  
**The 48<sup>th</sup> Worthen Memorial Old Time Fiddle Contest**  
January 10 & 11, 2026

NAME (PLEASE Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMPANIST (IF KNOWN) \_\_\_\_\_

Division & Entry fee:

<p><u>Day 1:</u></p> <p>____ Young Adult (18-39) \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Adult (40-65) \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Senior (66-79) \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Senior /Senior(80 and over)\$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Novice – No Entry Fee</p> <p>____ Twin Fiddle \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Accompanist (18 and over) \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Vocal (18 and over) \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Band Scramble No Entry Fee</p>
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<p><u>Day 2:</u></p> <p>____ Junior (13-17) \$ ____ 5.00</p> <p>____ Trick and Fancy \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Other Stringed Instruments \$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Small Fry (8 and under) No Entry Fee</p> <p>____ Junior/Junior (9-12) No Entry Fee</p> <p>____ Jr. Accompanist (17 and under)\$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Jr. Vocal (17 and under)\$ ____ 10.00</p> <p>____ Grand Champion* (Open to 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> place winners of all fiddle age divisions) - No Entry Fee</p> <p>*Grand Champion category is <b>Certified</b> for entry to the National Contest in <b>Weiser, Idaho</b></p>
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**CONTEST WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 a.m. each day after 8:40 Judges' Meeting. Play to proceed in above listed order.**

Please make checks payable to Silver Spur Rodeo, Inc. Registrations may be completed in advance and mailed by Dec. 31, 2025 to:

Silver Spur Rodeo, Inc.  
PO Box 2797 Yuma, AZ 85366.

## **Awards:**

Small Fry - \$35/25/10/15/5

Junior/Junior - \$50/35/25/15/10

Junior \$75/50/30/20/10

Young Adult \$100/75/50/30/15

Adult \$100/75/50/30/15

Senior \$100/75/50/30/15

Senior/Senior \$100/75/50/30/15

Novice \$25/15/10

Jr. Vocal \$50/30/25

Vocal \$50/30/25

Jr. Accompanist \$50/30/25

Accompanist \$50/30/25

Band Scramble – Audience recognition

Other stringed instruments - (Viola, Cello, Banjo, Mando, Dulcimers, etc.) \$50/\$30/\$25

Twin Fiddle \$60/40/30

Trick and Fancy \$60/40/30

Grand Champion - \$150/125/100/75/50