

# THIRTIETH ANNUAL Laura Ingalls Wilder Days September 10 & 11, 2022 Fiddle Contest Rules



The Fiddle Contest begins at **2:45 P.M.** on Saturday, September 10th on the Main Stage. Registration is from Noon until 2:30 P.M. Pre-registration or early registration is appreciated! **A printable (PDF) form is available on our website OR you can now register directly online.**

The order of performance will be: Ages 9 & under; Ages 10-15; Ages 16-29; Ages 30 & up  
Categories are: Trick, Fancy, & Pa's Fiddle. Categories may be combined if we don't have enough contestants.  
Order of appearance will be available at the Main Stage at 2:30 P.M.

## Age Categories:

- **9 & under contestants** should prepare one tune of choice to perform (either fast tune or a waltz).
- **All other-age contestants** shall come prepared to play a waltz (3/4 time) and a fast tune of choice.

## Specialty Categories

- **Trick** – Any one tune that is not otherwise allowed in competition. Judging criteria will be the same as the age categories.
- **Fancy** – Anything goes! Tell a story, play a tune while doing jumping jacks, involve your friends - just include your fiddle in your presentation. This is judged on creativity.
- **“Pa's Fiddle”** – Play one tune that “Pa” (Charles Ingalls) might have played, either from the book or a tune that would have been in the area in the 1860's-1880's. Player needs to introduce the tune and talk about why Pa might have played it. Judging will be on the historical presentation as well as the quality of fiddling.

## For all Categories:

- Fiddles are to be played under the chin, no cross tuning & no singing, no medleys except in Trick or Fancy.
- Tunes such as *Orange Blossom Special*, *Lee Highway Blues*, *Black Mountain Rag*, and *Listen to the Mockingbird* are not allowed as contest tunes **except** in the Trick or Fancy portion of the contest.
- Trick fiddling is only allowed in the Trick or Fancy Division.
- Contestants may choose the order in which they play the tunes. Tunes should be memorized.
- A contestant shall play no tune more than once during all appearances in the contest.
- Contestants may play alone or with their own accompanist. **We will provide an accompanist if you need one.** Accompanists may not play a bowed instrument. No amplified instruments may be used.
- Contestants should be ready to play when their turn comes.
- Time limit is 5 minutes. **Judges may limit the number of tunes based on the number of contestants.**
- Judging will be scored on the basis of intonation, timing, and execution, for each age category.
- Judges will be asked to break any ties. Traditional fiddle-style playing is expected. This is a “fiddle” contest. Alternative styles may be used in either the Trick or Fancy divisions.
- Prize money – over \$800 for seven divisions.
- There are carved wooden trophies for division winners (except for *Specialty Divisions* and *Ages 30 & up*). **Most of all, come and have some fun playing live music in front of an appreciative audience!**

**Thank you for considering our contest.**

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