Drama Division Rules

VA Staff: Keep track of all Veterans who compete/enter through your VA facility and enter their information into **Local Level Participation form on page 15 of the handbook. Send this form to** [**Arts4Vets@va.gov**](mailto:Arts4Vets@va.gov) **when your local competition has ended.**

All gold medal winners in the dance, drama and music divisions at the national level of competition will be invited to attend and participate as chorus members in the live stage show performance at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Note: Not all first-place winners will be asked to perform their entry in the show. Due to time constraints, the Festival show directors will choose approximately 25 dance, drama, and music gold medal entries to perform. The remaining gold medalists will be invited to make up the Festival chorus.

Veterans who wish to have their original work judged by **performance criteria** (stage presence, expressiveness and interpretation) should submit the entry into the **DRAMA** division in one of the categories below that best fits the entry. Veterans who wish to have their **original work** judged by criteria based upon the **merit of the composition** (creative content, message clarity, use of language, and originality of topic or idea) should submit the entry into the **CREATIVE WRITING** division.

1. First-place ties in a category at the local competition MUST be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.
2. All entries in the dance, drama and music divisions must be recorded after April 1, 2020.
3. Suggested length of performance - no longer than three minutes.
4. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
5. The **addition of staff, volunteer(s), and/or Veterans who are not eligible Veterans to any entry will result in disqualification.** However, if a drama entry requires a female character and no eligible female Veterans are available, the part may be read by a female volunteer or staff member. *It should be noted that although the National Veterans Creative Arts Program recognizes the therapeutic value of participation of staff, volunteers and ineligible Veterans in groups, it is essential in keeping with the fairness of the competition that* ***only eligible Veterans*** *are competing against each other.*
6. All Veterans must contribute significantly to the presentation in a dramatic way **and be seen on the video** for an entry to be submitted into a group category.
7. TITLE PAGE – Each entry must have a title page displayed prior to the entry being shown. The title page should include the Category and the Title of the Entry. The title page can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping. It is acceptable to hold up a handwritten sign that states the category and title of piece.

*Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the competition results.*

Tips for Taking Better Video Recordings

Please take a few extra minutes preparing a video correctly to give your Veteran the best chance possible during the judging process and to save hours of time with the judging process for our judges who donate their time.

* **Be sure to check that all videos play with video and audio before submission.**
* **Focus on the performer**, not the accompanists. Avoid taping from the back of the room. Stage presence cannot be judged if you cannot clearly see the performer.
* When video recording dance acts, it is necessary to include the whole-body in the entire recording, including the feet.
* **Sound control** is important! Clear audio makes a performance much easier (and enjoyable) to judge. Make sure your sound is good and balanced. Be aware of the background/accompaniment being too loud. Oftentimes we see/hear the speaker/player is next to the video camera and it is difficult to hear the performer.
* Consider holding your local competition and then video recording ONLY the first-place acts that will be sent forward for national judging.
* **Dance, drama, and music entries** will be accepted digitally (MP4, WMV, MOV) through the Arts4Vets App or via CDs. **If submitting entries on CDs, A SEPARATE CD MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH ENTRY IN EACH CATEGORY.** **More than one entry on a CD will not be accepted.**
* TITLE PAGE – Each entry must have a title page displayed prior to the entry being shown. The title page should include the Category and the Title of the Entry. The title page can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping. It is acceptable to hold up a handwritten sign that states the category and title of piece.
* Label your CDs with the **city and state of your VA facility**. Also include the **division entering and category number**.
* Be sure to make a copy of your final CDs for your own file/library in the event of lost or damage. **CDs will be destroyed post-judging and will not be returned.**

Drama Categories

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1. **Dramatic Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry). For example: a reading or excerpt from a speech.
2. **Patriotic Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that relates to American patriotism.

*New*

1. **Inspirational Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that is of spiritual nature.
2. **Comedy Prose** - Solo or group. Any drama of light and amusing character.
3. **Dramatic Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition.

*New*

1. **Patriotic Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition with content that relates to American patriotism.
2. **Inspirational Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition with content that is of an inspirational nature.
3. **Comedy Poetry -** Solo or group. A verse composition of light and amusing character.
4. **Interpretive Performance-Dramatic** - Solo or group. A presentation that involves acting, movement, and props.
5. **Interpretive Performance-Novelty** - Solo or group. A presentation that is of light and amusing character involving acting, movement and props. Mime, juggling, magic, puppetry and ventriloquism should be submitted into this category.

*New*

1. **Multimedia Video** - Solo or group. An artistic presentation of a theme or topic approximately three minutes in length that is created, directed and edited completely by an eligible Veteran or Veterans. The video must contain a combination of ***three*** or more of the following: photography (original images only), graphics, videography, music, sound effects, animation, spoken dialog and/or narration. Judging criteria for this category includes: Structure and Organization; Originality and Creativity; Total Presentation.
2. **Special Recognition** - Solo or group. Existing or original. **All specific category rules still apply when entering the special recognition category.** Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of drama while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. ***Multimedia entries are not allowed in this category.***

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

* **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.**
* Consent form 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

Sample Drama Judging Criteria

**Sample Drama Judging Score Sheet**

| Category Number: | Category Name: |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Entry: | |

**CRITERIA POINTS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stage Presence** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| **Expressiveness** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| **Creativity** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| **Interpretation** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Multimedia Video**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Structure & Organization** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| **Originality & Creativity** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| **Total Presentation** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: References to diagnosis and explanations of emotional or personal content related to the entry or Veteran will not be read or communicated to the national judges. The exception to this rule is an entry submitted into a category that require a write-up.

How to Submit Entries to the National Competition

## National Competition Entry Submission Process – New Arts4Vets App

**New for 2021** – Entries will be submitted **only by VA staff** to the national level of the competition using a newly designed Arts4Vets App. The app is still in the design phase. Live training sessions will be offered to VA staff and step by step instructional handouts will be distributed in advance.

Non-VA Staff from other government Veteran medical facilities unfortunately will not have upload access to the Arts4Vets App and may continue to submit entries in other ways. Please reach out to the National Director or division chairpersons to coordinate.

Veterans will not be able to submit their own entries through to the national level of competition or directly into the Arts4Vets App. They must work with the VA facility where they are enrolled and meet the local competition deadline dates.

Drama Division Entry Form

**Multimedia Video entries must use the entry form on page 53.**

**VA Staff:** Obtain additional Veteran contact information to notify Veteran(s) of the competition results.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category Number and Name: |  |
| Title of Entry: |  |
| Was the entry written by the Veteran? | **YES or NO** |

**Solo Entry**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Veteran Name: |  |
| Veteran E-mail: |  |

**Group Entry**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Group Name: |  |
| Number of Veterans in Group: |  |

**Group Members**

**First Name Last Name**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**File Name:** Files uploaded to the new Arts4Vets App will automatically be renamed to coordinate with the entry data. For local competition purposes, it is suggested to name the files in a way that works best for the local staff contact person(s). Suggestion: Division-Cat.#-Title of piece-vet initials

**Veterans: By submitting entries into the competition, you are confirming the following statement is true:**

I/we have read all the rules for the division in which I/we am/are entering. If my/our entry places first at the national level, I/we understand that I/we will be invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. It is required that I/we attend and participate in rehearsals for the entire Festival week concluding with the stage show performance.

**VA Staff Checklist:**

* Veteran meets the competition eligibility criteria
* Veteran is approved to enter the NVCA Competition as a representative of this VA facility
* Veteran has signed the necessary consent forms (10-3203 and if necessary, 10-5345)

Drama Division - Multimedia Video Entry Form

**VA Staff:** Obtain additional Veteran contact information to notify Veteran(s) of the competition results.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category Number and Name: | **11-MULTIMEDIA VIDEO** |
| Title of Entry: |  |

**Solo Entry**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Veteran Name: |  |
| Veteran E-mail: |  |
| Veteran Date of Birth: |  |

**Group Entry**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Group Name: |  |
| Number of Veterans in Group: |  |
| Indicate Veteran First and Last Name: | |

| **Identify the various tasks the Veteran(s) was/were responsible for in creating this entry:** | |
| --- | --- |
| Photographed: | Videotaped: |
| Graphics: | Acted/Spoke: |
| Selected Music: | Wrote Narration: |
| Edited Video: | Sang/Played Instrument(s): |
| Other (please describe): | |

**VIDEO CONTENT**

If using photos or video in the multimedia presentation, they must be original photos and original videos taken by the Veteran(s) or public domain. If the source is public domain, cite the source:

Public domain sources:

|  |
| --- |

**File Name:** Files uploaded to the new Arts4Vets App will automatically be renamed to coordinate with the entry data. For local competition purposes, it is suggested to name the files in a way that works best for the local staff contact person(s). (Example: Division and Category Number)

**Veterans - By submitting entries into the competition, you are confirming the following statement is true:** I/we have read all the rules for the division in which I/we am/are entering. If my/our entry places first at the national level, I/we understand that I/we will be invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. It is required that I/we attend and participate in rehearsals for the entire Festival week concluding with the stage show performance.

***EVERY VETERAN MUST SIGN FORM 10-3203 TO COMPETE IN THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITIONS.*** *The signed form should not be submitted to the Arts4Vets App for national competition judging. The signed form must be safeguarded at the Veteran’s VA facility.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| **CONSENT FOR PRODUCTION AND USE OF VERBAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS,**  **DIGITAL IMAGES, AND/OR VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS BY VA** | |
| **Name of individual whose statement,**  **likeness, or voice is requested:** |  |
| **NOTE:** The execution of this form does not authorize production or use of materials except as specified below. The specified material may be produced and used by VA for authorized purposes identified below, such as education of VA personnel, research activities, or promotional efforts. It may also be disclosed outside VA as permitted by law and as noted below. If the material is part of a VA system of records, it may be disclosed outside VA as stated in the “Routine Uses” in the "VA Privacy Act Systems of Records" published in the Federal Register.  The purpose of this form is to document your consent to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) request to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement or a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording containing your likeness or voice. By signing this form, you are authorizing the production or use only as specified below.  You are NOT REQUIRED TO CONSENT TO VA's REQUEST to obtain, produce, and/or use your statement, likeness, or voice. Your decision to consent or refuse will not affect your access to any present or future VA benefits for which you are eligible.  You may rescind your consent at any time prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, or before or during your provision of a verbal or written statement. You may rescind your consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs and the ease of compliance of the number of parties involved and **the Veteran’s** **VA facility and the** **Dept. of VA Office of National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events.** | |
| The photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording will be produced while I am (describe the activity or situation) (***To Be Completed by the Department of Veteran Affairs, if applicable)***  A participant in an adaptive sport or creative arts therapy program sponsored by the Veteran’s VA facility and the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events (NVSP&SE) and the American Legion Auxiliary. | |
| **Check at least one of the following (to be completed by VA)**  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran’s VA facility to produce a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording of me (or of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE  and the Veteran’s VA facility to obtain or use a verbal or written statement from me (or the of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent). | |

**VA FORM 10-3203**

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I consent to allowing VA to record and use a verbal or written statement, or produce and use photographs, digital images, and video or audio recording for the purpose(s) identified below:  This product will be used: (NOTE: At least one of these boxes must be checked as well as a purpose described below) (to be completed by VA)  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Internally (stay within VA) C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Externally (shared outside VA) | | |
| **Please check the applicable purpose(s) (to be completed by VA)**  **Promotional Efforts:**  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Internal Publication (only VA) C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png External publication (publicly available)  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Other (Specify): Newspapers, radio stations, television stations, participant profiles, souvenir program booklet and DVD, and other media outlets. In addition, VA may release this information to sponsor organizations of the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events in the form of other media products to promote the positive aspects of creative arts therapy.  **Research Activities:** C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Study  **Education Purposes:**  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Presentation C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Conference C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Publication in a Journal C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png Training  Other (Specify):  **VA ONLY Use:**  Performance Improvement Quality Improvement Health Care Operations  Other (Specify):  C:\Users\VHASTCKimblA\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FIEL9CYX\☒.svg[1].png All of the Above  **NOTE:** Do not sign this form unless one or more of the boxes above has been checked. | | |
| I have read and understand the foregoing, and I consent to the use of a verbal or written statement from me, and/or of my likeness and/or voice as specified for the above-described purpose(s). I understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation of any kind will be made to me by the United States for such use. I understand that consent to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, and video or audio recording containing my likeness or voice is voluntary, and my refusal will not adversely affect my access to any present or future VA benefits for which I am eligible. I further understand that I may, at any time, rescind my consent prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording. I also understand that I may rescind my consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs, the ease of compliance, and the number of parties involved. | | |
| **Print Veteran Full Name (First and Last Name)** | **Veteran Signature** | **Date** |
| *Permission Obtained By (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)*  **Print VA Employee Full Name** | **Title** | **Date** |
| *Signature of Person Obtaining Consent (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)*  **Print VA Employee Full Name** | **VA Employee Signature** | **Date** |

**IMPORTANT:** If VA is providing or releasing any patient health or demographic information with the verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, VA Form 10-5345, Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information, is required prior to the release of such data to any source outside VA.

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