



SINGING APPLICATION

2023-2024 Minnesota Hmong New Year

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- *Application Launch: Monday Oct 10, 2023
- *Application due: Monday Nov 6, 2023
- *Competition Days: Sat Nov 11/25/2023 & Sun 11/26/2023
- *Award Day: Sunday 11/26/2023

❖ Checks will be ready 15 business days after the Event.

REGISTRATION FEES AND PRIZES:

	Singing
Registration Fee:	150.00
First Place:	\$1,500.00
Second Place:	\$1,000.00
Third Place:	\$500.00

Name of Individual:	
Application Submitted By:	

***** OFFICE USE ONLY *****

TENDER RECEIVED: (Please Mark One)	Cashier's Check		Money Order		Cash	
Received by MN HNY Staff:				Date:		
Verified by (Staff Name):				Date:		

The United Hmong Family, Inc.
40 Arlington Ave E #17278
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Competition Invitation Letter

Dear Contestant(s),

We are pleased to inform you that the **Singing Competition** will be held on **Saturday, November 25, 2023 and November 26, 2023 at the River Centre** during the 2023-2024 Minnesota Hmong New Year. We will announce first, second, and third place winners on **Sunday, November 26, 2023**.

Anyone who wishes to compete in the Singing Competition must complete the entire application, provide all the information, and read and understand all the necessary forms for the competition. **All forms must be turned in by Monday November 6, 2023 @10PM along with the registration fee of \$150.00.**

The necessary forms must be included for this application to be valid:

- General Rules and Information (Initialed, bottom right)
- Signed Competition Agreement, Team Leader/Individual Responsibility Agreement **AND** Singing Contract
- Team Roster Management Form (if applicable)
- \$150 Registration Fee

If there is more than one contestant in a team (i.e., group), **ALL** contestant names, ages, genders and birthdates of your team must be correct (with proof of ID) on **Team Roster Management Form**.

For the competition to take place, **there is a required minimum of 8 competing individuals and/or teams TOTAL**. If we do not have the required minimum number of contestants, the competition will be canceled. Contestants will be informed, and registration fees will be returned to the appropriate address provided by the contestant. **Registration fee are NOT REFUNDABLE and will not be returned once the application is turn in fully completed.** The Registration fee acts as a security deposit. **If you DO NOT show up on the days of the competition to compete, you will be disqualified.**

Our mission is to create an atmosphere that is professional, educational, and positive while incorporating fun to all participants and spectators alike. At MN HNY, we strive to achieve the most out of each individual competing in your performances and expect professionalism and collaboration always.

Our goal is to be able to offer more than just a singing competition by preserving a rich tradition for many more generations to come. In this packet, you will find all the general information and answers to many frequently asked questions. If you have any additional questions, please contact Pa Dao Ostman PH# 763-273-0951.

Sincerely,
2023-2024 MN HNY Committee

The United Hmong Family, Inc.
40 Arlington Ave E #17278
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Singing Competition General Rules and Regulations

MINNESOTA'S HMONG NEW YEAR SINGING COMPETITION is a competitive event during the MN Hmong New Year celebration that provides performers with opportunities to showcase each contestant's skills in singing for media exposure and championship titles. The most captivating singing routines contain a variety of sound, creativity, and authenticity.

WHAT CONTESTANTS NEED TO KNOW

1. Entry Criteria

- Anyone who wishes to compete in the Singing competition must complete the application.
- There is **NO AGE LIMIT**.
- Solos, duets, and teams may enter the competition.

2. Application

- All contestants will be randomly drawn to compete.
- **No application will be processed or considered registered until all applications are initialed and signed, with a completed Team Roster (if applicable) and a full registration fee has been received.**
- **Applications are not accepted by phone, email, or fax.**
- **ALL Applications MUST be dropped off or schedule an appointment with the coordinator.**
- **Deadline for submitting applications is Monday November 6th, 2023.**

Note: UHF & MN HNY Committee reserves the right to extend the deadline if we are not able to reach our minimum requirement with or without the contestants' knowledge.

3. Registration fee

- \$150.00
- All cashier's check, money order, cash payable to The United Hmong Family. No personal checks are accepted.
- Credit card are accepted with a 3.5% charge.

4. Performance Requirements

- Any style of Singing is allowed.
- Must have a different Singing style and song for **each** competition day.

5. Music Requirement

A. Audio

Each contestant or Team is responsible for working with the Singing Competition Coordinator to confirm that connections and instruments are ready to go before their stage performance. Points may be deducted if the contestant or team needs more time during the time of competition to get everything in place.

It is encouraged for contestants and/or Team Leaders to bring extra backup instrumental equipment, or CD (if necessary) to keep in their possession during the competition. The New Year Committee's sound technician will not adjust the speed of the music or make edits in the music. Please collect all music after the competition. UHF & the New Year Committee are not responsible for any music left behind after the event. UHF is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken equipment.

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Any casings and/or equipment must be **clearly labeled** with the following:

- “Singing” (Please write legibly)
- Your Competition Order (#)
- Contestant or Team Name
- Team Leader Name (if applicable)
- Title & Artist of the track - Exactly as Registered

B. Routines/Length

All contestants are given a maximum performance time of six (6) minutes. Points may be deducted from each judge for exceeding the time limit.

6. Props

General props accepted; however, it must be freestanding. Scenery or backdrops requiring the use of theater fly bars may not be used. No dangerous or oversized props. No air horns or similar devices are allowed. Special fog or smoke is not permitted unless specifically approved by MN HNY Committee. Safety is always our main priority. Where there is a safety concern, please speak to a MN HNY Committee Staff when submitting your application.

7. Judging and Scores

There will be a panel of judges who are well versed in all categories. The judges will evaluate each performance in the areas of lyrics, song, execution, style, and overall sound and appearance. All judges’ decisions are final.

Note: If there shall be any request of scores, 15 days after the competition date the scores will be available upon request. ONLY the contestant and/or Team Leader has the right to request to view their team/individual scores at the end of the competition with a UHF/MN HNY staff.

8. Criticism

In this competition, as in any other type of competition, criticism is evident and crucial. You agree to remain open minded about any comments, judgments and criticism about your physical appearance, choice of costume apparel and/or speech. You have the right to share and discuss your opinions, concerns, and feelings with us. You are not required to respond to criticism from other contestants and/or from third-party observers to avoid any conflicts. Moreover, keep in mind that all the criticism and suggestions are made to better your performance as we want you to bring out your best.

9. Bribery

You agree to abstain from bribery in any form, whether monetary, valuable goods or services to anyone in the Hmong community, whether family/clan related. You shall not participate in any bribery to increase your chances of winning the Singing Competition. You are not restricted from obtaining any support and donation during this competition; however, you cannot engage in any form of monetary/soliciting bribery.

If you are suspected of bribery in any form, the MN HNY committee will investigate the issue where you will be required to provide a testimony of the turn of events, and offer additional information, as needed to complete the review of materials. In the completion of the investigation, if any individual within your team participated in the activities with bribery, we reserve the right to terminate your singing candidacy without your prior knowledge.

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10. Winners awarded as follows:

	Singing
Registration Fee:	150.00
First Place:	1500.00
Second Place:	1000.00
Third Place:	500.00

***** There must be at least 8 minimum applicants and/or teams registered for the competition to take place.**

Note: Winners of either the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award are required to complete W-9 forms. Please see Singing Coordinator to complete the form before receiving your award.

11. Tie Breaker

There are three prizes to be awarded to the top three scores of the Singing Competition. In the event of a tie, there will be no rematch between those teams that are tied. Those teams will be awarded with the same place and the money will be split up between them.

Some of the scenario that could happen during a tie:

A. In the event of a tie between two teams for first place, there will be no 3rd Place:

- The two teams will be named FIRST PLACE
- The 1st & 2nd Prize money will be added together & split evenly between those 2 teams
- The winner of 2nd Place will remain as 2nd place but awarded with prize money of a 3rd Place.

B. In the event of a tie between three teams for first place, there will be no 2nd & 3rd Place:

- The three teams will be named FIRST PLACE
- The 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prize money will be added together & split evenly between those 3 teams

C. In the event of a tie between two teams for second place, there will be no 3rd Place:

- The two teams will be named SECOND PLACE
- The 2nd & 3rd Prize money will be added together & split evenly between those 2 teams
- The 1st Place winner will remain the same with place & award

D. In the event of a tie between three teams for second place, there will be no 2nd & 3rd Place:

- The three teams will be named SECOND PLACE
- The 2nd & 3rd Prize money will be added together & split evenly between those 3 teams
- The 1st Place winner will remain the same with place & award

E. In the event of a tie between two teams for 3rd place:

- The two teams will be named THIRD PLACE
- The 3rd Prize money will just be split evenly between those 2 teams
- The 1st & 2nd Place winner will remain the same with place & award

F. In the event of a tie between three teams for 3rd place:

- The three teams will be named THIRD PLACE

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- The third-place prize will be split evenly between those 3 teams
- The 1st & 2nd Place winner will remain the same with place & award

12. Photo Release

For Valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, you hereby agree as follows: you hereby give and forever grant to Minnesota Hmong New Year, licensees and producers or publishers of its promotional material and their successors and assigns, the right to use, publish and copyright your picture, portrait and likeness, in whole or part, including alteration, modifications, derivations and composites, in advertising and promotion of Minnesota Hmong New Year committee throughout the world. This right shall include the right to combine your likeness with others and to alter your likeness, by digital means or otherwise, for the purposes set forth herein. This right shall include any photography and all video recording of you to keep for MN HNY.

CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Check In – There will be a check-in table set-up by the Program Manager for all contestants to check in. This table usually located to the right side of the stage. Contestants must sign in at least 2 hours before the competition to confirm your attendance.

Audio – USB or CD soundtrack must be submitted to the sound engineer 1 week (5 Days) prior to their contest schedules.

Winner Duties - First place winners are required to perform at least one performance after receiving his/her winning announcement award. These performances will be held on the last day of the New Year celebration before the crowning of Miss Hmong Minnesota.

First, Second & Third Place Contestants in the General Contest – Agree to perform at the following year’s Minnesota Hmong New Year and at the Hmong Freedom Festival Grand Opening Ceremony.

CONTEST RULES

- Only registered contestants may participate in this competition; any unregistered replacements are not allowed.
- Contestants who violate the contest policies and rules will automatically be deemed as non-compliance, deeming automatic disqualification and/or expulsion of the individual/group from the competitions and/or the Minnesota Hmong New Year. Due to the seriousness of the offense (i.e. involving criminal behavior), additional fees may apply. The issue may also be reported with local authorities per the city of St. Paul.
- Contestants are also automatically terminated from the rest of the competition if they have missed the contest schedule.
- Any contestant involved in any form of fighting or physical dispute, regardless of the cause, shall result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the competition; additionally, he/she may be asked to leave the Minnesota Hmong New Year site and be barred from participating in future competitions.
- Only the registered contestants, and assigned manager or lead is allowed backstage. No additional family members, and or friends, are allowed for the safety of all the contestants.
- MN HNY has the right to change or cancel any competition at its sole discretion.

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- MN HNY is not responsible for any lost or stolen item and will not be liable for any accident or injury occurred before, during, and after your competition.
- MN HNY reserves the right to use any media materials such as audio, videotapes, pictures, and any recorded materials during the event for advertising or other promotion purposes.
- MN HNY Program Managers reserves the right to terminate any contestants from competition at any time without any cause of the above.
- MN HNY requires all teams to provide appropriate identification of all competitors at any given time.

AGREEMENT

By signing this competition agreement, I have read and fully understand the rules and regulations of the competition. I also understand the decisions of the judges are final and this competition is offered to me without any agreement I should have no judgment against Minnesota Hmong New Year. If I disobey this agreement; the New Year Committee or program manager has the right to terminate me from the contest, and future events, without notice.

Team Name:			
Team leader Legal Name (Print):			
Team leader Signature:		Date:	
Address:			
Phone Number:			
Email:			

Rules and Regulations

A. Pick up all trash after performance

Each contestant is responsible for leaving the competition stage and the area backstage clean by picking up all trash (including tape, water bottles, wrappers, etc.). Failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions in future competition with The United Hmong Family, Inc.

B. Be a good example

Each contestant needs to reinforce a positive attitude on and off the stage. The atmosphere you create your will rub off on other competitors.

C. Know the rules

Each contestant is responsible and held responsible to learn and know the MN HNY's Rules and Regulations. This includes the Singing Competition Rules, Registration procedures, and Disciplinary and Rules Committee Operating Procedures and Sanctioning Guidelines.

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I. Registering contestants

Each contestant is responsible to understand all the procedures and deadlines for registering his/her application. No new additional performers (including additional teammates) can be added to the team roster after the Team Roster Deadline on **Monday, November 6, 2023.**

J. Managing your team roster

Along with this application, each contestant will be provided a Team Roster list for registration with the application, if deemed necessary for your competition. After Saturday, November 18, 2023, no more changes to the roster are allowed. This form indicates the legal name, gender, and birth dates of the entire team of contestants within the group. A contestant is NOT considered a valid registered contestant unless their information is on the form.

K. Uniforms/Appeals

Uniforms are not a requirement, but it is the contestants' responsibility to wear appropriate attire.

L. Being a contestant is a privilege, not a right.

The Program Manager & New Year Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, or terminate any performer, in the opinion of the board, if the contestant does not support the Minnesota Hmong New Year's mission or does not meet our expectations as listed herein.

M. Other responsibilities

1. Be reachable by the MN HNY Committee, and the UHF always.
2. Provide all the necessary information of all contestants in the Team Roster Management Form, if deemed necessary.
3. Obtain signatures of parents or guardians of any contestants under 18 years of age. Contestants competing in the Singing will need to confirm understanding of the rules and regulations, along with confirming his/her participation within the competition by signing the agreement

*Note: A Team leader can be a coach, instructor, parents, or any member from the team. However, the Team leader **CANNOT** be listed as a contestant, a replacement/sub or an eligible person to compete with the team.*

I have read the Responsibility of Team leader agreement; I understand and agree to all policies.

Team Name: _____

Team leader Legal Name (Print): _____

Team leader Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

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SINGING COMPETITION APPLICATION

1. TEAM LEADER/CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Team leader/Contestant Name: _____

Gender: Male Female Female-Identified Male-Identified Prefer not to say

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. TEAM INFORMATION (If applicable)

Team Name: _____

***REQUIRED:**

Music/Song Title: _____

Artist Name (Singer/Songwriter): _____

Track Number (#): _____

Length of Music/Song: _____ Minutes

Brief Description of Performance:

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3. AGREEMENT & PERMISSION

By signing this contract, I understand that I must be 18 years of age and/or have either my parent or guardian complete the form.

I understand that parents are required to sign in the TEAM ROSTER MANAGEMENT FORM if there are any contestants on my team under the age of 18.

As a contestant, I agree that if I (or my team) places either 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in this competition, my team will serve as a role model and perform any related duties as requested by Minnesota Hmong New Year throughout my award year. I also understand that all pictures and documents of my competitions will be kept and used as needed for the Minnesota Hmong New Year as record and future presentation. I also agree to abide by one of the criteria specified as the placing team(s) to provide performances at the next MN HNY event, the Hmong Freedom Festival, and/or other events as deemed necessary by the United Hmong Family, Inc.

Team Name:	
Team leader Legal Name (Print):	
Team leader Signature:	Date:
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	

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SINGING TEAM ROSTER MANAGEMENT FORM

Contestant (or Team leader) Name: _____

Team Name (if applicable): _____

1. TEAM MEMBERS

**Parent is required to sign this form if member is under 18 years of age.*

**Member of 18 of age or older can sign on their own.*

#	CONTESTANT NAME(S)	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	GENDER	PARENT SIGNATURE (if under 18 years of age)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

**Gender: Male, Female, Male-Identified, Female-Identified, Prefer not to say.*

2. AGREEMENT & PERMISSION

By signing this contract, as the individual, Team Members and/or Parents:

- Authorize our sons/daughters/ to participate in the Singing competition.
- All the names, ages, gender are correct.
- Only registered contestants may participate in this competition; any unregistered replacements are not allowed.
- Contestant who violates the contest policy, Minnesota Hmong New Year has the right to terminate him/her for the competition without refunding of any register deposit.
- Contestant is automatically terminated from the rest of the competition if contestant(s) missed the first contest schedule.

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- Any violation of these terms and conditions by any contestants or members of a group will result in appropriate actions being taken against the individual/group including but not limited to; disqualification and/or expulsion of the individual/group from the competitions and/or the Minnesota Hmong New Year.
- Any contestant involved in any form of fighting or physical dispute, regardless of the cause, shall result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the competition; additionally, he/she may be asked to leave the Minnesota Hmong New Year site and be barred from participating in future competitions.
- MN HNY has the right to change or cancel any competition at its sole discretion.
- MN HNY is not responsible for any lost or stolen item and will not liable for any accident or injury occur before, during and after your competition.
- MN HNY reserve the right to use any media materials such as audio, videotapes, pictures, and any recorded materials during the event for advertising or other promotion purposes.
- MN HNY Program Managers reserves the right to terminate any contestants from competition at any time without any cause of the above.
- MN HNY requires all teams to wear appropriate uniforms and may require identification of all competitors at any given time.

Date: _____

Team Name (If applicable): _____

Contestant/Team leader Name (Print): _____

Contestant/Team leader Signature: _____

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