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41st Annual Hmong New Year Celebration 2020

River Centre – Saint Paul, Minnesota, 175 W Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55102
 Saturday, November 30th and Sunday December 1st, 2019

KWV TXHIAJ & SINGING COMPETITION APPLICATION

CONTENTS	IMPORTANT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation Letter • General Rules & Regulations • Team Leader/Individual Responsibilities • Kwv Txhij and/or Singing Competition Application • Team Roster List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Application due on Thursday, October 31st *Team rosters (list of contestants) due at time of application submittal *Competition Days Saturday, November 30th and Sunday December 1st, 2019 *Award Day Sunday, December 1st, 2019 *All teams must provide with application W-9

REGISTRATION FEES AND PRIZES:

	KWV TXHIAJ	SINGING
Registration Fees	\$100.00	\$100.00
First Place	\$500.00	\$500.00
Second Place	\$300.00	\$300.00
Third Place	\$200.00	\$200.00

NOTE: Personal checks are not accepted. Business checks may be accepted only at the individual's responsibility to pay in full all fees if accrued due to insufficient funds with UHF receiving accounts in cash or money order. Individual also agrees to an additional \$50.00 penalty fee for the inability to comply with this agreement in making payments in full at the time of purchase. **Please make check payable to "United Hmong Family" and indicate the name of team on memo line.**

Type of Payment: MONEY ORDER CASHIER CHECK CASH CREDIT CARD (3.5% charge per transaction)

Name of Team (If applicable) _____

I have read and fully understand that by signing this form, I understand **registration fees are NOT REFUNDABLE**. I also agree to all the terms addressed in this application, and understand that as a respected partner, I will abide by the rules and regulations set forth by River Centre, city, state, and federal agencies to ensure compliance with my conduct and meeting requirements.

		____/____/____
Team Leader Name in Print	Signature	Date
		____/____/____
Singing Coordinator Name in Print	Singing Coordinator Signature	Date
		____/____/____
Controller, UHF Name in Print	Verified by UHF Treasurer / Board Signature	Date

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

\$ _____			
Fees Received (AMOUNT)	Date	UHF Staff Printed Name	Signature
CONTROLLER VERIFIED	Date	VERIFIED BY UHF Treasurer/Board	Date



SINGING COMPETITION INVITATION LETTER

Dear Contestant(s),

We are pleased to inform you that the Kwv Txhiaj/Singing Competition will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2019 and Sunday, December 1, 2019 at the River Centre during the 2019-2020 Minnesota Hmong New Year. We will announce first, second, and third place winners on Sunday, December 1, 2019.

Anyone who wishes to compete in the Kwv Txhiaj/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 Thursday, October 31, 2019 along with the registration deposit of \$100.00.

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 Kwv Txhiaj/Singing Contract
- Team Roster Management Form (if applicable)
- \$100 Registration Deposit

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 5 competing individuals and/or teams TOTAL. If we are short of our required minimum, the competition will be canceled. Team leaders and/or contestants will be informed and registration fees will be returned to the appropriate address provided by the contestant(s) and/or the Team Leader(s). Registration deposits are REFUNDABLE and will be returned in a timely manner once the competition is over and the 2019-2020 winners are announced. The Registration deposit acts as a security deposit. If you and/or your team DOES NOT show up on the days of the competition to compete, we will NOT return your deposit back to you and/or your team.

Our mission is to create an atmosphere that is professional, educational, and positive while incorporating fun to all participants and spectators alike. At the 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 Pako Pha (651) 346-9742 or email info@theunitedhmongfamily.org.

Sincerely,

MN HNY Committee



KWV TXHIAJ AND/OR SINGING COMPETITION'S GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

MINNESOTA'S HMONG NEW YEAR KWV TXHIAJ AND/OR SINGING COMPETITION is a competitive event during the MN Hmong New Year celebration that provides performers with opportunities to showcase each contestants' skills in either Kwv Txhiaj and/or Singing for media exposure and championship titles. The most captivating Kwv Txhiaj and/or 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 Kwv Txhiaj and/or Singing competition must complete the application. There is **NO AGE LIMIT**.

2. Application

- No Application will be processed or considered registered until all applications & registration fee is received.
- Application are not accepted by phone, email or fax (by mail only or hand it to the Dance coordinator).
- **Deadline for submitting application is Thursday, October 31, 2019.**

Note: The 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 Deposit

- \$100.00
- Make cashier's check, money order, credit card (3.5% charge per transaction) or cash payable to The United Hmong Family Inc.

4. Performance Requirements

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

5. Music Requirement

A. Audio

It is encouraged for contestants 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.

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

- "Kwv Txhiaj and/or Singing" (Please write legibly)
- Your Competition Order (#)
- Label "Day 1" or "Day 2"
- Contestant and/or Team Name
- Team Leader Name (if applicable)
- Title & Artist of the track - Exactly as Registered

Reminder, each CD should have only 1 song on it. At the end of each day, if you would like the copy of the CD returned, please ask the Dance Coordinator. Please also bring a backup CD in case of an emergency.



B. Routines/Length

All contestants must perform in a six (6) minute routine. 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. Fire, swords and knives on stage are prohibited. Simulated weapons with dull, safe edges are acceptable with approval of The MN HNY Committee Staff and Stage Managers. No liquid, gel, aerosol, glitter, or similar substance that would affect the dancing surface is allowed unless specifically approved by The MN HNY Committee. Performers must leave the stage as it was when they started their entry without any "litter." If the stage is "littered" during a routine, please be prepared to clean it up immediately after the routine is finished with the broom provided. Safety is always our main priority. Where there is a safety concern, please speak to a MN HNY Committee Staff when submitting your application. MN HNY Committee reserves the right to disallow the use of any oversized or dangerous props.

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 lyric, song, execution, style, and overall sound and appearance. All judges' decisions are final.

Note: If there shall be any request of scores, 10 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 Kwv Txhiaj and/or 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.



10. Winners awarded as follows:

	Kwv Txhiaj	Singing
Registration Fee:	100.00	100.00
First Place:	500.00	500.00
Second Place:	300.00	300.00
Third Place:	200.00	200.00

***** 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 Kwv Txhiaj and/or Singing Competition. In the event of a tie, there will be no rematch between those teams that are tied. Those teams will just 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 contestants for first place, there will be no 3rd Place:

- The two contestants will be named FIRST PLACE
- The 1st & 2nd Prize money will be added together & split evenly between those 2 contestants
- 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 contestants for first place, there will be no 2nd & 3rd Place:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- The three contestants will be named THIRD PLACE
- The third-place prize will be split evenly between those 3 contestants
- 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 right side of the by stage. Contestants must sign in at least 2 hours before the competition to confirm your attendance.

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.

PAYMENT

First, Second and Third place awardees will get their checks on December 17, 2019 upon bringing in all verification information to be used for tax verification. No checks will be issued earlier.

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.
- MN HNY is not responsible for any lost or stolen item and will not 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 offer 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.

Contestant Name:			
Contestant Leader Legal Name (Print):			
Contestant 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 practice area (if feasible) clean by picking up all trash (including tape, water bottles, wrappers, etc.). Failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions by 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 Kwv Txhiaj and/or Singing Competition Rules, Registration procedures, and Disciplinary and Rules Committee Operating Procedures and Sanctioning Guidelines.

D. 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 with the team roster after the Team Roster Deadline on Thursday, October 31, 2019.

E. 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 Thursday, October 31, 2019, 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.

F. Uniforms/Appeals

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

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

The 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.



H. 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 Kwv Txhiaj and/or Singing will need to confirm understanding of the rules and regulations, along with confirming his/her participation within the competition by signing the agreement

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

Contestant Name:		
Contestant Leader Legal Name (Print):		
Contestant Leader Signature:		Date:
Address:		
Phone Number:		
Email:		



KWV TXHIAJ AND/OR SINGING COMPETITION APPLICATION

1. CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Contestant Name: _____

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

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

2. TEAM INFORMATION (if feasible)

Artist / Band: _____

***REQUIRED**

Song #1: Kwv Txhij (Folk Song) General Singing

Music/Song Title: _____

Artist Name (Singer/Songwriter): _____

Track Number (#): _____ Length of Music/Song: _____ Minutes

Song #2: Kwv Txhij (Folk Song) General Singing

Music/Song Title: _____

Artist Name (Singer/Songwriter): _____

Track Number (#): _____ Length of Music/Song: _____ Minutes

Brief Description of Your Performance:



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 this 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, I 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.

Contestant Name:			
Contestant Leader Legal Name (Print):			
Contestant Leader Signature:		Date:	
Address:			
Phone Number:			
Email:			



KWV TXHIAJ AND/OR SINGING TEAM ROSTER MANAGEMENT FORM

1. CONTESTANT NAMES

**All contestants must have a wristband to go to the backstage, to be given by program manager. If there is more than one individual per contestant group, all names must be provided. Anyone younger than 18 will need a parental signature.*

#	CONTESTANT NAME(S)	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	GENDER*	PARENT PRINT NAME (For the purpose of wristband count)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

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

2. AGREEMENT & PERMISSION

By signing this contract, we as a Team Leader, Team Members & Parents:

- Authorize our sons/daughters/ to participate in the Kwv Txhij and/or 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 refund of any register deposit.
- Contestant is automatically terminated from the rest of the competition if contestant(s) missed the first contest schedule.
- 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.

Contestant Name _____

Contestant Leader Name (Print) _____ Date: _____

Contestant Leader Signature _____ Date: _____