

OPERATION RISING STAR BIO SHEET

The following information will be used as your personal biography. This information will be used by the event host as your introduction. In addition, the information will be forwarded to Family and MWR Command in the case you are the local winner.

Contestant Name: _____

Occupation / MOS: _____

Home town: _____

Deployments: _____

Family: _____

What genre of music is your favorite? _____

When did you realize you had a talent for singing? _____

What/who has influenced your style the most? _____

What is your all-time favorite song? _____

Who is your favorite American Idol? _____

What importance has music played in your life?

What is your greatest success in music to date?

Privacy Act Statement

1. Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552; and AR 215-1.
2. Principal Purpose: To apply as a contestant on the Operation Rising Star (ORS) competition.
3. Routine Use: The information provided on the application will be used to verify the applicant's eligibility to participate in the ORS competition; it will also be used for promotion and identification purposes during the installation competition, and if the contestant advances, it will be used at the ORS Finals to prepare TDY orders; for identification and promotion purposes and for purposes further described in the official rules.
4. Disclosure: Voluntary; however failure to provide the information requested may result in the applicant not being permitted to participate in the ORS competition.

Return this form to your local participating MWR facility!

www.OpRisingStar.com



OFFICIAL RULES

Eligibility: Contestants should check with their local MWR facility for the local deadline for applications. Applications are available for download at www.OpRisingStar.com or stop by your local host facility.

1. Contestants must be Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve from any branch of Service, or a family member eighteen years or older with valid military ID card. **Please note: All travel to and from local hosting installations for competition purposes will be the responsibility, and at the expense of contestants regardless of distance traveled.**
2. Military contestants may not have any adverse actions pending. Service members whose records are flagged or with UCMJ actions may not compete.
3. Contestants must compete as a vocalist. Other talents (musician, comedian, dancer, etc.) do not qualify for this competition. There must be a minimum of four contestants at each participating installation in order for the installation winner to be eligible to move on to the Army-wide finals. Failure to have four eligible contestants will result in the disqualification of the local host site.
4. Contestants must be in an amateur status and not perform professionally (i.e. sing in an official capacity for the military or have a current or previously managed recording career). Contestants that have placed in the top twelve of prior Operation Rising Star Finals (formerly known as "Military Idol") are not eligible to compete. Soldiers currently assigned as a singer to a military performance band are ineligible to participate.

Here's how to Compete (PERFORMANCE):

1. Submit a signed and dated application stating that you have read these official rules to the local participating facility prior to the first performance.
2. All materials performed must be appropriate and conform to acceptable standards of decency, decorum and good taste based on Army values and morals.
3. First round auditions will be a cappella and judged only by the three-judge panel. Judges can stop the performer at any point during the audition and decide whether the contestant will move on to the second round.
4. Local MWR programs will post all local rules for weekly music themes. Contestants should check with the participating location for details on music selection and availability of provided music. The admittance of backup singers on the accompaniment is a local decision and contestants should inquire with the local event coordinator.
5. Each performance will consist of one song between 1:30 and 4:30 minutes in length.
6. A hand-held microphone will be provided for each round of the competition. A microphone stand and stool maybe used if requested by contestant in advance, subject to local facility availability. Contestants may play a musical instrument as part of their performance however; contestants must give advance notification of this to the event coordinator.
7. No special props, staging, or excessive choreography are required or allowed as part of this competition. The focus is on singing and vocal performances only.
8. A video performance of the winning contestant's last performance and an additional a cappella performance will be required for submission into the Operation Rising Star Finals. It is the responsibility of both the local event coordinator and the contestant to ensure that the video is submitted properly.

CONTEST FORMAT:

1. Round 1 – Judging based on a cappella performance. Only the 3-judge panel will vote to narrow the field of talent.
2. Round 2 through semi-finals/finals – Judges and the audience determine who moves to the semi-finals/finals. Judges critique and score the performances. Audience votes by written ballot after all performances are completed and judges have made their critiques. Audience vote will count for 50% of the determination as to who moves forward. The judges' votes will count towards 50% of the determination. **Note: The number of rounds will be determined by the installation Event Coordinator based on the number of contestants participating. Installation competitions will not exceed 8 weeks. The criteria that judges will use for scoring is available online at www.mwrpromotions.com.**
3. Upon entering the facility on the night of the competition, each patron will receive one voting ballot. Additional ballots may be obtained with each purchase of an appetizer or a meal during the evening's competition.
4. Ballots will be used to rank the evening's contestants and will be tallied immediately following the evening's competition to determine who advances to the next week's round. All local decisions are final.
5. Ballots will not be accepted until the nightly competition is complete.

Prizes to win at installation level competition:

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners

- 1st place \$500 and advancement to the Army Wide Finals.
- 2nd place \$250
- 3rd place \$100

The judges will award a "Spirit Award" for the best supportive unit or family readiness group (FRG). The prize is \$300 towards the winner's unit or FRG fund. Any unit or FRG may compete for the Spirit Award regardless of contestant participation. Support will be determined each night of the contest by level of applause. A cumulative score from each night will determine the winner. All local decisions are final.

Qualification for Rising Star Finals:

1. The first place winner at each participating location will qualify for the 2009 Rising Star finals.
2. Local MWR program will forward a winner's package to Army Entertainment Division. Submissions shipped by commercial method please address to, Attention: Operation Rising Star Entry, 6091 Jackson Loop, Bldg. 1434, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. All US Postal Service Mail address to; Operation Rising Star Entry, PO Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. The submission must include their winner's final performance and an a cappella song performance.

3. Videos must be received by 2:00 p.m. EST on October 14, 2009. Details on the video format specifics and additional instructions on how to upload the videos will be provided online at www.OpRisingStar.com prior to the start of the local competitions. Failure to submit the video will result in exclusion of the contestant from the Army wide finals.
4. Active Duty contestants that advance to the semi-final round of the Operation Rising Star Finals will need Command approval to attend the two week long final scheduled November 7- 22, 2009. Travel, lodging and meal expenses will be provided for the twelve semi-finalists.

Format of 2009 Rising Star Finals:

1. **Round 1:** The winners from each installation will be paired against each other through the first round of competition where only judges vote via video submission. The judges will select the top 12 performers to advance to the semi-final round. Announcement of the twelve should be made on or about October 21, 2009.
2. **Semi-final and final round:** Weighted score from the web-viewing and/or broadcast audience and 50% of the panel of three judges. Audience members both online and in-person will be able to cast their vote by logging onto www.OpRisingStar.com. The exact times of voting windows will be published on the website listed.

2009 Rising Star Grand Prize

- **1st Place:** The winning contestant and a guest will receive an all expense paid trip to Los Angeles California to record their own 3 song CD. The trip includes airfare, lodging, and three days of studio time at a professional recording studio and \$500 spending cash. Professional studio time includes; music arrangement, mixing, mastering, vocal coach, four musicians for one day, audio engineer, and CD producer. The winning contestant will receive his or her own personal professionally recorded and edited CD. This CD is a demo CD and not intended for resale purposes; approximate retail value (ARV) of this prize is \$18,200.
- **2nd Place:** \$1000 Cash
- **3rd Place:** \$500 Cash

Prize Acceptance

In the case that the grand prize winner can not accept the all expense trip, the prize will be awarded to the second place winner. No additional prizes will be awarded. No substitution of prizes will be made except that the prize package is subject to availability and FMWRC reserves the right to substitute prizes of equal or greater than value. Winners are solely responsible for reporting and payment of any taxes on prizes.

Limitations of Liability

By entering the Operation Rising Star program, the contestant holds harmless the United States Army and event partners from any liability in participation in the contest whatsoever for any claims, injuries, losses, or damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the Operation Rising Star program or with the acceptance or possession of prizes. FMWRC is not liable for any technical issues that result in the inability to cast a vote, view the contest or provide comment feedback.

The FMWRC is not responsible for any typographical or other error in the printing of the offer, administration of the promotion or in the announcement of prizes. In the event the FMWRC is prevented from continuing with the promotion, or the integrity of the promotion is severely undermined by any event beyond the Army's control, including but not limited to fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labor dispute or strike, act of God or public enemy, satellite or equipment failure, riot or civil disturbance, war (declared or undeclared), terrorist threat or activity, or any federal, state or local government law, order or regulation, order of any court or jurisdiction, or other cause not reasonably within the Army's control (each a "Force Majeure" event), the Army shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to abbreviate, modify, suspend, cancel or terminate the promotion without further obligation. If the Army, in its sole discretion, elects to abbreviate the promotion as a result of a Force Majeure event, the Army reserves the right but not the obligation to award the prizes from among all valid and eligible participants received up to the time of such Force Majeure event.

General:

All decisions regarding the selection of winners and all aspects of the Operation Rising Star program are final. FMWRC and event partners will not be responsible for typographical, printing or other inadvertent errors in these official rules or in other materials relating to the program.

Participation in the Operation Rising Star competition, and/or the acceptance of any prize constitutes permission to use your name, biographical information, and/or likeness (for example, photograph, video, or sound recording) for any authorized DOD purpose to include MWR advertising without any further compensation.

Privacy Act Statement: AUTHORITY: Section 552a, Title 5, United States Code; Section 3013, Title 10, United States Code; Executive Order NO. 9397; Army Regulation 215-1. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To confirm that the player and winner are eligible to participate in competition and/or to report grand prize summary to the Internal Revenue Service. ROUTINE USES: Information gathered will be used for the principal purpose only and will be filed and disposed of in accordance with AR 640-10. MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE AND EFFECT ON INDIVIDUAL NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION: Contestant will be ineligible to compete or win prize if he or she does not provide requested information

For additional questions regarding the Operation Rising Star competition log-on to www.OpRisingStar.com or email: mwrpromotions@conus.army.mil.

