



*The contest begins now!*

4 weekly video performances

Jan 7 – Jan 28, 2023

2 live performance

Feb 4 and Feb 11 at 1 pm

Live Semi-finals – Feb 25 at 1 pm

Live Finals March 10 at 7:30 pm

Registration fee: \$25

**Register online at [SkokieTheatre.org](http://SkokieTheatre.org)**

Questions? Call the Skokie Idol hotline at

847-677-7761 ext. 4

## Skokie Idol – Official Contest Rules

*updated Oct 24, 2022*

Welcome to the exciting world of Skokie Idol! This is a singing competition that is open to everyone. We have new rules and an exciting new format that will let you continue to sing for your favorite audiences and receive no-cost coaching from some of the greatest singers in the Chicagoland area. If you've performed with us in the past, or if you're new to the game, this year has the potential to be the most exciting yet.

### **What's different from prior years?**

- A combination of video submissions and live performances
- No weekly eliminations
- Written feedback from our judges

### **How the Game is Played:**

Skokie Idol is welcome to all singers, regardless of their experience. Contestants are divided into two or more divisions depending on their age as of January 1, 2023. There will be one winner in each division. Based on registration, we reserve the right to adjust the number of divisions and the age ranges per division.

Contestants will be asked to send us four songs recorded on a smart phone or video camera, and to sing two songs live on the Skokie Theatre stage. After that, the semi-finalists will return for one more live performance. Our finalists will be chosen from the semi-finalists, and will return to sing a program of three live songs for the finals.

The first step is to record your first song. Sing and video your favorite song for us. You can sing to a track, you can sing a cappella, you can sing while you play an instrument or have someone accompany you. But you must be the only singer. (Occasionally, a pre-recorded song track contains background singers. That's ok as long as you sing the lead).

Record your song on your phone or your tablet. You could also record it in a zoom session, or you can have a friend record you on a video camera like a Handicam.

This first song will not be judged, so feel free to experiment and get used to the process. Learn how to be comfortable in front of a camera, where it's best to record, and how far away from the music you should be. Everyone's first song will be shared with the public in a Zoom presentation on January 7.

The first song can be anything you like, but songs after that must be chosen according to the weekly challenge.. There will be three weekly challenges that you send us on video. These will be presented on Zoom to both our judges and audiences, who will vote on their favorite singers. Weekly challenges are broadcast at 1 pm every Saturday from Jan 14 – Jan 28, and will also available on demand through the next Friday. Each week, the song challenge will be from a different song category that we choose. Past categories have included Broadway, Country & Western, Beatles, Big Band, 60's, etc. but there may be new categories this year.

For the fourth and fifth challenges, you will be asked to sing live at the Skokie Theatre. Your friends and family will have to attend in person to vote for you and you will receive immediate feedback from the judges.

After the fifth challenge, we will add up your weekly scores to see where you rank. Only your top 4 scores from the weekly challenges will be counted. Your lowest week will be ignored, as will the first video you submitted. So it won't matter if you miss a week, or if there's a category that you had a particularly hard time with.

The top half of the contestants will be invited back for the Semi-final round which will be presented live on at 1 pm on Feb 25 You must attend the semi-finals to qualify for the finals.

The top two or three scoring finalists will be invited back to sing three songs for the finals. The finals will be held Friday, March 10 at 7:30 pm at Skokie Theatre.

The winner from each division in the finals is named Skokie Idol for 2023 and will be featured in a live concert performance this summer.

There is a \$25 registration fee to participate. To register, fill out our registration form at [SkokieTheatre.org](http://SkokieTheatre.org). You will be sent contest rules and technical information on how to submit your song.

Your first song challenge is the "audition song": **Send Us Your Favorite Song**. Start work on it now. After we receive your online registration form and registration fee, we will send you directions on how to submit your songs. Your first song must be received prior to January 7, but don't wait until the last minute. You will not receive your first weekly challenge category until we have your audition song.

*Note: Contest rules are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the Skokie Theatre management. Current rules are always available on the Skokie Theatre website.*

*By registering for Skokie Idol, contestants agree that their likeness may appear in promotional photos and videos taken during the event, and that their submissions will be shared on-line.*