



The contest begins now!

1 video performance
Before Jan 16, 2024

5 live performances
Jan 20 thru Feb 17 at 1 pm

Live Semi-finals – March 2 at 1 pm

Live Finals March 23 at 7:00 pm

There is no registration fee

1st Prize in each division: \$500 plus a live concert appearance.

Register online at SkokieTheatre.org

Questions? Call the Skokie Idol hotline at
847-677-7761 ext. 4

Skokie Idol – Official Contest Rules

updated Dec 8, 2023

Welcome to the exciting world of Skokie Idol! This is a singing competition that is open to everyone ages 10 - 100. 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?

- We are back to mostly live performances
- No weekly eliminations
- No Registration fee

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, 2024. 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 one song recorded on a smart phone or video camera, and to sing five 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 on our website.

The first song can be anything you like, but songs after that must be chosen according to the weekly challenge. 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 weekly 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 February 17 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 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 March 2. 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 23 at 7:00 pm at Skokie Theatre.

The winner from each division in the finals is named Skokie Idol for 2024 and will receive \$500 and be featured in a live concert performance over the summer.

There is no registration fee and the contest is open to everyone eight years and older, regardless of where you live or how much experience you have. To register, fill out our registration form at SkokieTheatre.org. You will be sent contest rules and 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, we will send you directions on how to submit your song. Your video challenge must be received no later than January 16, but don't wait until the last minute. You will not receive your first live 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.