

# 2010 Qeej Competition Guidelines

The purpose of the “Qeej” flute competition is of 2 folds: 1) Promote the flute’s value, influence, and tradition as part of the Hmong culture 2) Improve Hmong cultural experiences in Sacramento Hmong New Year.

## A. Competition Process

The competition will involve 2 stages. Round 1 of the competition involves displaying of “qeej” quality skills – playing song and interpreting the words of the song. Round 2 of the competition involves “dla qeej.”

## B. Basic Requirements

1. All competitors are required to dress in Hmong clothing and costumes.
2. All competitors must play only these types of allowable “qeej” songs:
  - a. Prefer “qeej” tsab peb caug AND
  - b. Prefer “qeej” kev nkauj kev ntsaug (tsi pub muaj “qeej” tuag)
  - c. Not preferable but acceptable “qeej” tsi muaj kwv tsi muaj tig – yam zoo xwb (tsi pub key pluj kev tuag).
  - d. All other “qeej” songs, not acceptable.

## C. Guidelines

The “qeej” competition will follow the following guidelines:

- a. Competition is opened to everyone.
- b. First place winner \$300, Second place winner \$200, Third place winner \$ 100.
- c. Time limit per each round of the competition is set around 10 minutes max.
- d. Round 1: paiv taag le tshuv nwg zaa qeej.
- e. Round 2: dla qeej.
- f. Tsi pub “qeej” tuag performance of any kind.
- g. Tsi pub paiv “tuag nuj qeeg”. Acceptable interpretation: “Taug noob qeeg” or None at all, such as “qeej xub pluag”.
- h. Yog leej twg coj tsi tsaws le peb txuj cai nuav, SHNY muaj xiv txav “score” tawm tsaws le txuj cai #D los yog tshu nwg tawm ntawm txuj kev sib xeem nuav.
- i. Require 4 tug contestants minimum.
- j. In case of a tie at any level:
  - i. If time permits, a tie-breaker round of showcasing the “qeej” talent of choice will determine the winners.
  - ii. If time does not permit, the price will be split between the winners.

- k. Judges cannot speak to contestant at anytime.
- l. Judges cannot be related or closely affiliated with any contestant.

#### D. Scoring System

The scoring system shall be based on the following criteria, scores 1 – 5 per category, 1 as the lowest score, 5 as the highest score.

1. Hmong cultural clothing and cultural presence.
2. Tug yeeb yam zoo phim thaum tshuab hab zoo saib.
3. Txawj dla zoo, dla tau pis tsawg yaam.
4. Tshuv zoo hab meej.
5. Tshuab puas meej le nwg paiv.
6. Ntxiv +1 point yog tshuab qeej peb caug los yog kev nkauj kev ntsag.
7. Tsuas pub muaj 1 tug thib #1, #2, #3. Yog muaj 2 tug tie (equal score), ob tug ntawd tau lug sib tws ib zag ntxiv tsua round 3. Yog le, yuav tsum tau has dlua yaam Hmoob lug txaj kws nwg tsi tau has tsua round 1 hab round 2.
8. The winners will be the 3 top scorers of both rounds of the competition and as stated in #D7, in the event of a tie between 2 contestants for each winning category.

#### E. Penalties

The follow penalties will be imposed if occurred during the competition:

1. Tsi naav Hmoob clothing. Contestant is disqualified.
2. Dla nplaam “qeej”. Subtract -1 point.
3. Tshuv non-acceptable “qeej” songs. 0 point for the round.
4. Dla qeej, tshuv tsi meej ntiv. Subtract -.5 to -2 points each incident.

#### F. Judges

The competition will have 3 Judges, all experienced players and performers in “qeej” songs and “qeej” dancing. Judges cannot be related or affiliated with the contestants.