



For more than 160 years, the California State Fair has been the one constant setting for celebrating and showcasing the "Best of California". In 2018, the first ever Youth Mariachi Competition at The California State Fair was held with youth competitors from across the state. The competition was a resounding success! It was one of the highlights of the Fair which showcased the "Best of California" and our diversity and cultures.

The California State Fair seeks to continue that legacy at the 2019 California State Fair by highlighting the contributions of groups and individuals who have helped shape the heritage of California. This year's State Fair, from July 12<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, will continue to celebrate the rich tradition of mariachi music that has helped weave the social and cultural tapestry of California.

With roots deep in Mexican-American communities, mariachi's branches extend far, traversing borders and cultures by expressing the human experience. The recent revival of mariachi in California's schools ensures that it will continue to grow and to touch the people of this state and beyond. Consequently, the State Fair is seeking to bring the best young mariachis from throughout the state to compete for the title of "The Best of California!"

The competition itself will take place during the weekend of July 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. All teams will showcase their talents before viewers from around the state, and contestants will be competing for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes.

The competition will culminate with a performance by the world-famous Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. All participants in the Youth Mariachi Competition will receive free admission Sunday evening and the opportunity to meet the members of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. The competition, plus events leading up to and following, will be covered by State Fair partner, Univision.

The California State Fair Youth Mariachi Competition is also partnering with members of the Legislative Latino Caucus to assemble the best teams representing communities from the Mexican Border to the San Francisco Bay Area, and from the California's Central Coast through its Central Valley.

For more information, including how to participate next year, feel free to contact us at [YouthMariachiComp@CaliforniaStateFair.com](mailto:YouthMariachiComp@CaliforniaStateFair.com)