



KCS Youth Festival

Saturday, March 21, 2026:

Rules and Regulations

General Rules

1. Registration & Payment Deadlines:

- Single Events: Sub-Juniors & Juniors:
 - Online Registration AND Payment by **Saturday March 7th:**
 - \$20 per event, per child
 - Late Registration Permitted by Sunday March 15th:
 - \$25 per event, per child (Includes \$5 **late fee**)
 - After March 15th, Registrations will only be accepted for Pencil Drawing, Water Coloring, Knanaya Quiz, and Spelling Bee
 - \$25 per event, per child (Includes \$5 **late fee**)
- Little Kids Events: (Coloring and Smiling Talent Competition):
 - Online Registration AND Payment by Saturday March 7th:
 - \$10 per event, per child
 - Late and “Walk-In” Registration Permitted
 - \$15 per event, per child (Includes \$5 **late fee**)
- Group Events:
 - Online Registration AND Payment by Saturday March 7th:
 - \$20 per event, per child
 - Late Registration Permitted by Sunday March 15th:
 - \$25 per event, per child (Includes \$5 **late fee**)

The late fee will be incurred if payment is not made by March 7th, even if the Registration form was completed earlier. No exceptions will be made as to the late fees.

2. Fees should be paid via Zelle to operations@kcschicago.com. A separate payment should be made for each participant with their name, family name and Age division in the memo for single events. Group registration fees should be paid in one transaction per group.
 3. All participants must be born to both Knanaya parents and the family must be eligible for KCS Chicago membership.
 4. Walk-in registrations will only be permitted for the following events:
 - Small Kids: Smiling Competition, Coloring
 - Sub-Juniors, Juniors & Seniors: Water Coloring, Pencil Drawing, Knanaya Quiz
 5. **The committee will not be disclosing the number of participants who have registered for each event prior to the day of the competition. Please do not call and ask.**
 6. Participants should arrive at the Community Center to check-in and receive their chest numbers starting at 8:30 am on March 21st.
 7. Age divisions are based on the participants' grade in school as of March 21st:
 - Sub-Juniors: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Grades
 - Juniors: 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grades
 - Seniors: 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grades
- Participants may compete in a higher age division for ***group events only***, but not vice versa. (E.g. A 4th grader may choose to compete in the Junior division but a 5th grader may NOT compete in the sub-junior division.)
8. Due to extremely low participation in the Senior division for the last several years, we will be conducting **Senior level competitions for Group Events ONLY**. (No **Single** Senior Events)
 9. Each participant is limited to a maximum of five (5) single events. There is no limit on group events.
 10. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes will be awarded to the top scorers in each event.

11. Karaoke / background music / accompaniment are NOT permitted for any of the singing / music events.
12. Background music / track *is* permitted for the fancy dress competitions.
13. A group must have a minimum of three (3) participants for entry in a group event.
14. Elocution subjects, Knanaya Quiz material, and Spelling Bee word lists will be published on the KCS website on February 21st.
15. Crayons will be available for the Small Kids Coloring Competition. Pencils will be available for Pencil Drawing or participants may bring their own. No colored pencils may be used. Participants *must bring their own paints and paintbrushes* for Water Coloring. All paper and water will be provided.
16. Time Limits for each type of event:
 - **3 Minutes:** Fancy Dress (Single or Group)
 - **5 Minutes:** Folk Dance (Single or Group), Cinematic Dance (Single or Group), Western Dance (Single), Elocution (Eng or Mal), All Song / Music Events (Single or Group)
 - **10 Minutes:** Classical Dance (Single or Group), Western Dance (Group), Margamkalli
 - **60 Minutes:** Coloring, Water-Color Painting, Pencil Drawing
17. A *tentative* schedule of events and room assignments will be published on the KCS website on March 20th. This schedule is only an estimation and is **subject to change** per the discretion of the Youth Festival Committee.
18. Participants, parents, and audience members are prohibited from speaking to the judges during the event and scoring. Any questions or complaints must be addressed with the KCS Executive Board and Youth Festival Committee.
19. **All decisions made by the KCS Executive Board and Youth Festival Committee will be FINAL.**

Rules Regarding Selection of Kalathilakam, Kalaprabhitha & Rising Stars

1. The following overall festival prizes will be awarded: Kalathilakam, Kalaprabhitha, Rising Star (Female), and Rising Star (Male).
2. In order to be considered for the overall prizes, participants must have participated in ***at least one*** of the following Knanaya-rooted events: Purathanapattu, Margam Kalli, Knanaya Quiz.
3. In order to be considered for the overall prizes, participants ***must place (win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd)*** in at least ***one dance event (Category A) and one non-dance event (Category B)***.
4. Of the participants who meet the above criteria, the female with the highest number of points will be named Kalathilakam and the male with the highest number of points will be named Kalaprabhitha. The female and male with the second highest scores will be named Rising Stars. In the event of a tie, scores from Group Events will be factored in.
5. Overall point totals are calculated as follows:
 - For events where there were three (3) or more participants, 5 points will be awarded to the 1st place winner, 3 points will be awarded to the 2nd place winner, and 1 point will be awarded to the 3rd place winner.
 - For events where there were only one (1) or two (2) participants, 5 overall points will be awarded to those receiving at least 90% of the points available from the judges for their performance. A participant receiving between 80% and 90% of the total points will be awarded 3 overall points. A participant receiving between 70% and 80% of the total points will be awarded 1 overall point.

For questions / concerns / additional information, please contact:

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