
APPLICATION RULES

- 1 **The Application.** The materials submitted with the application are used solely for the purposes of this application. The Ragtime Kid Advisory Board will not use any of these materials without the expressed permission of the applicant.
- 2 **Deadlines.** Applications may be submitted beginning January 30, 2026. Submit the completed application, along with any supporting documentation, to ***SJFSedalia@gmail.com*** no later than **February 22, 2026, at 11:59 CST**. Supplementing materials may be added to an already-submitted application through the deadline.
- 3 **Selection of Awardee.** Winner(s) will be selected by the advisory committee of Ragtime Kid Program no later than March 1, 2026. The 2026 Ragtime Kid will be introduced at the Festival May 27–30, 2026.
- 4 **Lodging.** While the board of the Scott Joplin Festival does attempt to place performers (and in this case, a parent or guardian) in host homes, this is not guaranteed. Lodging in a host home in this case will be considered a courtesy, one extended only if possible. If the participant(s) would prefer hotel accommodations, it will be at the participant(s)' expense.
- 5 **Travel.** The cost of travel to and from the festival is borne by the participant(s). It is the intent of the financial component of this award to facilitate this transportation. Depending on the point of origin, the board of the Scott Joplin Festival may be able to suggest a carpool arrangement and will be able to provide ground transportation to and from the Kansas City International Airport. Free local ground transportation will be available in Sedalia.
- 6 **Award.** The Ragtime Kid will receive a cash honorarium of \$1000, and the opportunity to work closely with some of ragtime's most respected musicians and historians. Except for the cash portion, the award will be different for each winner. With the guidance of the Ragtime Kid Program Director, a plan of study or exploration will be designed that best reflects the Ragtime Kid's talents and interests. The opportunity to work with world-class musicians and historians is possible, though not necessarily guaranteed. Similarly, performance opportunities may arise from this experience, but again are not guaranteed. We aim to make the experience a rewarding one! The \$1000 cash honorarium will be conferred at the 2026 Scott Joplin Festival. *If an applicant is selected as Ragtime Kid but cannot or will not attend the 2026 Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia, MO, the award will be either cancelled or deferred.*
- 7 **Safety Precautions.** It is the intent of the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Foundation to hold a live and in-person festival in 2026. We want to assure you that since the Covid pandemic, our festival has taken precautionary measures to help maintain the safety and cleanliness of our venues and facilities. If a winner (or their chaperone) is unable to attend due to any medical or safety issues, the award may be deferred until the following festival. In the unlikely event that the festival is cancelled, the award may be postponed until the festival is able to be held in-person.