

**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Blues festival announces contest finalists.**

LONGVIEW, TEXAS - The T-Bone Walker Blues Fest has announced the names of eleven finalists in the Patterson Nissan Junior Showcase. The Showcase is a competition for student age guitar players.

The youngsters will meet in for the final showdown on the Maude Cobb Convention Center main stage beginning at 10:00 AM Saturday.

Admission to the Junior Showcase performances is free to the public.

Grade 9-12 finalists, along with their home towns, are: Jimmie Skeeters. Athens; Chandler Whitehead, Athens; Carter Wilkinson, Port Allen, La.; Joseph Williams, Kilgore; Andrew Greear, Hallsville; Sameep Koirala, Irving; and Derian Hadley, Canton.

Grade 6-8 finalists are: Ben Smiley, Larue, Texas; Jackson Zemler. Lewisville; Cody Lattis, Murchison; and Sarah Grandstaff, Athens.

The winners in each of the two age categories will be determined by a panel of judges composed of T-Bone Walker Blues Fest performers Ally Venable, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, and Rafael Espinoza.

Winners will recognized in an awards ceremony immediately following the performances and will later perform on the T-Bone festival stage with a T-Bone Walker performing artist.

The 2016 T-Bone Walker Junior Showcase is made possible by the sponsorship of Patterson-Nissan.

The T-Bone Walker Blues Fest kicks off Friday with gates opening a 4:00 PM and continues through Saturday evening.

Complete artist lineup, show schedule, and ticket information can be found at the festival's website at [www.tbonewalkerbluesfest.com](http://www.tbonewalkerbluesfest.com).

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