

Orange school to host fraternity talent search

The Eta Pi chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, joined by the Orange Extended School Day Program, will present their annual Talent Hunt Program on Saturday in Central Elementary School.

Organizers said amateur performers from high schools in Orange, Montclair, South Orange-Maplewood, West Orange, East Orange and Newark will perform. Categories of competition include dramatic interpretation, dance, instrumental and classical or contemporary vocal music and visual art.

The competition is scheduled for Saturday in the auditorium of Central Elementary School, located along Cleveland Street next to the Rosa Parks School. Contestants will receive a certificate for participation; the top three performers will receive cash prizes.

The overall winner will represent the chapter at a district level with performers from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Travel expenses will be paid by the chapter. This year, the district competition will take place on April 17 in Syracuse, N.Y. Cash prizes will be awarded to all category winners and the overall winner will represent the district in a national competition during July in Raleigh, N.C. Travel expenses will be paid by the district organization.

The Omega Psi Phi fraternity's Talent Hunt Program has been an annual event for 65 years. The Eta Pi chapter, based in Montclair, has conducted a local program for more than 30 years.

This is the third year the chapter has collaborated with Orange's Extended Day Program, an after-school program in partnership with the Orange Board Education. The after-school program provides educational, personal development, culture enrichment and recreational programs to junior high and high school students of Orange. The program is active weeknights from 6 to 9 p.m. Contact the city's Recreation Department at 973-266-4045 for additional information.