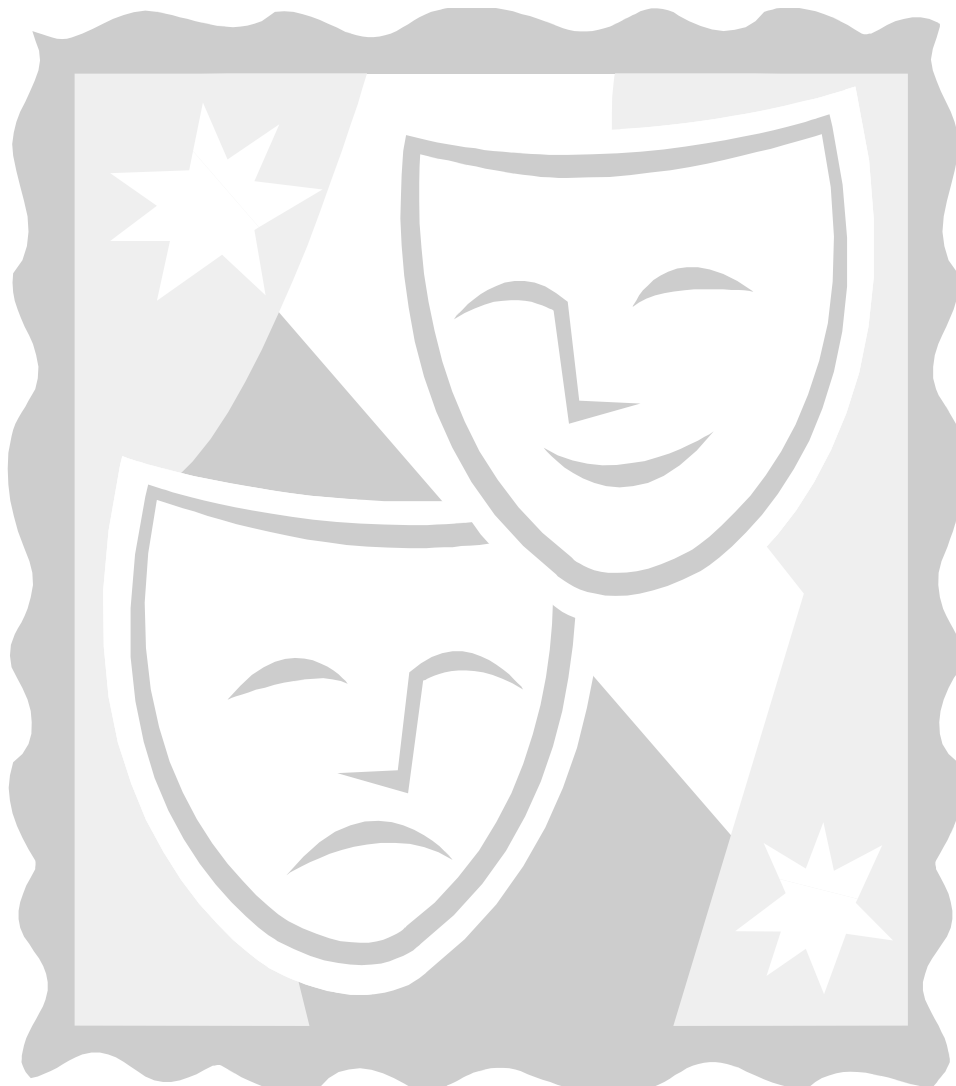


**ARIZONA DISTRICT
TEEN
TALENT EXPO
Rules and Guidelines**



Statement of Objectives and Purpose

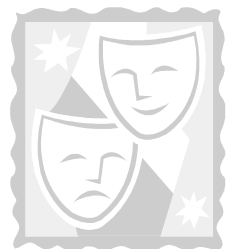
The Purpose of Teen Talent Expo:

It is the desire of the Arizona Youth Ministries Department to create a place where the teenager's talents and abilities have a place to be seen and heard. We want to instill in every teenager the importance of using their talents for the Glory of God. We believe that no one is too young to begin to be taught how to minister and share their faith to advance the Kingdom of God. We want to raise up the next generation who are not ashamed of their faith and are boldly proclaim Jesus Christ to their friends and families.

Teen Talent Expo enables teenagers to do just that!

Teen Talent Expo seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Creating a forum where the teenagers abilities and talents are being developed and matured.
2. Motivate teenagers to use their abilities and talents to Glorify God in every area of their life.
3. Provide a place where lasting relationships can be established between teenagers across the Arizona District.



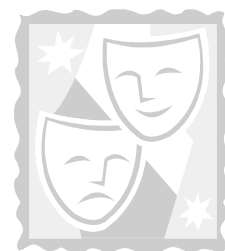
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Award of Excellence

We are delighted to have you participate in this year's Teen Talent Expo. We are excited to see the God given talent that you have been blessed with. Continue to use your gift's for God's Glory!

Each category at this Teen Talent Expo will have a 3rd Place, 2nd Place, and Award of Excellence given. The Award of Excellence recognizes the student(s)' overall achievement in preparing themselves to be used by God for His service. Those receiving the Award of Excellence will have the opportunity to represent the Arizona District at the National Teen Talent Expo in June.



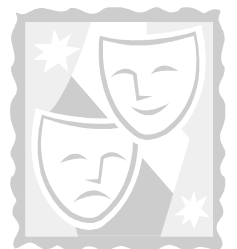
Participation

Entry Requirements:

1. Participants must be teenagers (Ages 13-19) at the time of the District Teen Talent Expo to be eligible to enter.
2. All participants must attend a Pentecostal Church of God or an affiliate church in fellowship.
3. Agreeing to and believing in freedom of expression and diversity of opinion, the participant in the Teen Talent Expo shall, in their presentation, take full consideration of areas of decency, modesty, and Christ centered values.
4. The Youth Pastor must be fully aware of each performance and the appropriate appearance of each participant.

Performance:

1. Each participant may submit one entry from each of the categories.
2. A participant in the District Teen Talent Expo may be disqualified if he/she fails to appear at the designated time and place for his/her performance.
3. A 30 point deduction will be given in violation of any rules and guidelines stated within this manual for any respective category.



Art-N-Crafts

A. Paintings (water, oil) B. Sketching (pencil, chalk, etc.) C. Crafts (wood, metal, ceramic, etc.)

Category Guidelines:

1. The contestant has one of three choices; paintings, sketching, or crafts.
2. All entries must be entirely that of the contestant and must have an appropriate theme. All entries must have been created since the close of the previous National competition.
3. Entries cannot be altered in anyway between District and National competition except that of minor touchups are permitted.
4. Each contestant is responsible for delivery of his/her entry to both District and National competitions and will assume full liability of any damage that may occur during competition.
5. The contestant must present his/her entry with a 3x5 placard stating the entrant's name an the theme of the presentation.

Judged on Areas of:

Art:

Appropriate Theme- Originality. Does the entry present a good central message?

Level of Difficulty- Easy, Medium, Difficult.

Perspective- Correct and proper symmetry (angle/line, etc.)

Color Scheme/Contrast- Are contrasts accurate? Do colors go together well? Is the work lively?

Composition- Overall beauty, ability and appearance. How is the name of the artist and theme presented?

Craft:

Appropriate Theme- Originality. Does the craft present a good central message?

Level of Difficulty- Easy, Medium, Difficult.

Design- Proportionate. Is it interesting? Is correct and proper symmetry used? Does everything "fit" together?

Craftsmanship- Neatness, uniformity, and precision. How much effort was put into the craft?

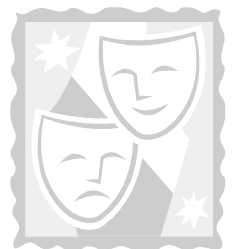
Appearance- Overall beauty, ability, and appearance. How is the name of the craftsman and the theme presented?

Hints for Entries:

The qualities the judges desire to see are originality and careful attention to details. High points are given for neatness, cleanliness, uniformity and precision. The perspective should be correct with proper symmetry used. Pay particular attention to color contrasts. Find someone who teaches arts or crafts and ask them to give you an objective opinion on what you can improve. Design a nice placard to go with your entry which will give your name and the title of your presentation. Think carefully about your title. Try to focus on some way your entry can minister to the viewer. Perhaps you can compose a Scripture verse as your theme. Maybe you can compose a Scriptural analogy. Use your imagination and develop your creativity. Art consists of many different elements. The most important elements are:

- A. Color
- B. Line
- C. Mass
- D. Space
- E. Texture

These elements are as important to an artist and craftsman as words are to a writer. By stressing certain elements, an artist can bring out a particular theme or mood.



Christian Band

Category Guidelines:

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 7 minutes.
2. The copyrights to any music compositions shall be secured by the author prior to the Expo. Any original music compositions should be noted as such.
3. Ensemble entries are limited to 6 persons. All participants must be within the age limits of the competition. Not every vocalist must play an instrument nor every instrumentalist vocalize the song.
4. Professional or non-professional soundtracks are not allowed.
5. There shall be no conductor for this category. Judging shall be based on both the vocalization and instrumentation of the song.
6. Teen Talent Expo will not provide any instrument other than a piano.

Judged on Areas of:

Tone- Voice or instrument quality, clearness, fullness of sound, and control of voice or instrument.

Phrasing- Pronunciation of words and/or timing, smoothness.

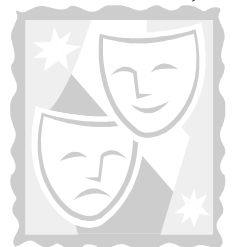
Musical Effect- Fluency (word emphasis), artistry; How well is selection learned? Is the music memorized?

Ministerial Effect- How well is the selection ministering to the audience? Do you sense a deep desire of the participant to minister and not just perform?

Stage Presentation- Appearance, approach and departure, confidence of contestant.

Hints for Entries:

1. Effective stage presence is important in the ministry of music. Good stage presence transforms stage fright into confidence. This becomes possible when the participants define their purpose as performing for God's glory. This gives the listening audience and judges the impression that the musician is delighted to minister.
2. The selection and arrangement of music is a significant factor.
 - A. This area was designed to feature instrumentalists/vocalists working together for harmony. The design is to develop the "dynamics" of music through learned and rehearsed skill.
 - B. The music should be within the appropriate limits of the contestant's range.
 - C. The choice of music should be appropriate for a worship setting with a focus on ministry.
 - D. It is better to perform an easier selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The quality of a contestant's performance is adjusted to the level of difficulty of their selection.
3. Phrasing in music corresponds to sentences in speech. The contestant should strive to phrase naturally and seek for the music to flow. Phrasing also refers to the ability to know where to accent (a more full sound, more crisp, or in a softer voice.)
4. Tone results when strings, vocal chords, drumheads, etc. vibrate. The goal for good quality is to produce a tone that is clear and full.



Creative Writing

Areas of Participation—A. Poetry B. Fiction/Non-Fiction.

Category Guidelines:

1. The contestant has one of three choices: non-fiction, fiction, or poetry. The essays for fiction and non-fiction must have a Christian theme and be between 500-700 words in length. Poetry must be from 12-20 lines.
2. All entries must be original and typed double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11" paper.
3. The name of the contestant must be in the upper left hand corner of the first page.
4. The page number must appear in the upper right hand corner of each page.

Judged on Areas of:

Fiction/Non-fiction:

Theme— Is it appropriate? Are the essential points given logically and convincingly?

Organization—CoGENCY and unity; Does everything in the essay apply directly to the thesis? Is the usage of examples and illustrations adequate? Is the thesis composed according to directions? Does the opening “lead” into the thesis? Does the writer close properly?

Details— Are strong verbs used? Is the thesis descriptive? Does it come full circle?

General Appearance—What extra effort did the writer use to make the thesis professional looking?

Poetry:

Theme— Is it appropriate?

Vocabulary—Is it fresh, descriptive, original, accurate?

Rhythm/Rhyme—Is meter regular, without jolting variations? Is rhythm smooth? Does the rhyme complement the poem?

Imagery and Symbolism—Is the use of poetic devices such as imagery, figures of speech, parallelism, etc. appropriate?

Both Categories:

Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation—Are all words spelled correctly? Does it demonstrate subject/verb agreement, pronoun agreement, no misplaced modifiers, etc.? Is the punctuation correct?

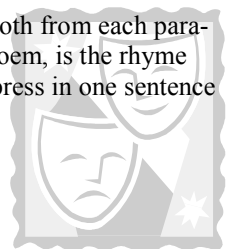
Hints for Entries:

Read over the judging sheets before writing. Judges look for stories and poems that are original and imaginative yet still believable. Because of space limitations, it is important to make each word count and contribute. Begin your entry with a strong opening statement or paragraph and end with a strong closing statement. Quotes are a good way to support a thesis but use them sparingly; the judges want to hear what you have to say. Watch carefully for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.

1. Read the article aloud, rapidly, as if you were reading someone else's work. Ask: Is it interesting? Is it significant? Are there any blind spots? Does it have rapport?
2. Read the article a second time. Ask: Is the article logical? Does the ending tie to the opening? Can I tighten sentences? Can I improve word choice? Are transitions clear?
3. Read the article again. This time probe deeper. Ask: Is the lead interesting? Is it interesting and relevant? Are action verbs used? Does it have a suitable end?
4. Read the article again. Verify quotations, facts, spellings, punctuation, etc.
5. Now ask someone you trust to read the article. Ask them to be honest with you. Watch for their initial reaction. If the article doesn't grab the reader, find out why.
6. Read the article again. Make sure sentences are not too long. Break long sentences with three or four word sentences. Make the entry “breathe.”

The Article:

1. **Beginning Leads-Objective:** Grab the reader's attention. Start with a direct statement or fact, a question, an attention-getting statement, an anecdote, a quotation, or an analogy.
2. **The End-Objective:** One thought stamped in the reader's mind. End with a brief summary, a generalization which restates the idea in different words, a dramatic ending or a message in a nutshell (if a poem).
3. **The Body-Objective:** Giving the major idea. Are the paragraphs in logical sequence? Are transitions smooth from each paragraph? Are the verbs alive? Do the sentence lengths vary? Does the sentence structure make sense? If a poem, is the rhyme smooth and flowing, if used? Are poetic devices accurate and lively? Are words fresh or trite? Can you express in one sentence what the poem is trying to say? Does the poem convey emotion?



Drama

Areas of Participation—A. Dramatization, Soliloquy. B. Skits, plays. C. Puppetry, etc. D. Pantomimes, Human Video.

Category Guidelines:

1. A copy of the selection must be given to the judges prior to the performance. Pantomimes should present a description of the presentation with its theme beforehand. The description or selection copy must include name, address, church name of contestant on front page.
2. Time limits of the presentation must not exceed 7 minutes and must have a Christian theme.
3. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. In emergency situations, a replacement in a group drama may be possible.
4. Entries must be presented tastefully.
5. A 30 point deduction may be given for any infraction of the rules and guidelines.

Judged on Areas of:

Presentation of— Originality. Is it unique? Is it interesting? Is it relevant? How well does the drama minister to the audience? Did the presentation raise questions that it did not answer?

Animation— Enthusiasm, posture. Is the presentation spirited? Does the contestant have eye contact (with either other co-actors or audience; whichever is applicable)? Does it appear lively or static? Is the actor in tempo with music, if used? Does the actor seem relaxed in his/her role?

Characterization— Acting ability. Does the actor fill the role properly? Does the actor enter “in character”? Is the actor consistent in character? Do external factors (audience, lighting, sound, etc.) pull the actor out of character?

Appropriate Appearance— Does the actor’s appearance complement what he/she is trying to say? Is effort made to dress or bring the presentation to character by props, makeup, etc.?

Level of Difficulty— Easy, medium, difficult

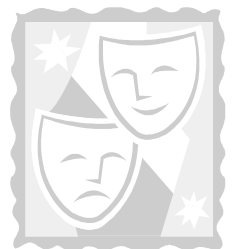
Hints for Entries:

Drama is the method by which characters relate to one another. Therefore, it is important that the drama be a convincing portrayal of characters. All the elements of speaking apply to acting (except maybe in mime): gestures, movement, voice inflection, and rapport. The key word of drama is believability. To create good drama, study people’s reaction to things they hear, and work toward a natural reflection in your characters. It is important that the primary objective is ministry, not just to entertain. Because the drama category is so diverse, seek to be creative in your presentation.

It is important to create a mood for ministry in drama. This means it is important for the contestant(s) to begin in a positive and confident manner. If you desire, go to center stage, look across the audience, and tell them your name and the title of your drama. Then, after pausing for a short moment, enter into character.

You have a variety of situations from which to choose:

1. One act play/skit
2. Illustrated storytelling
3. Puppetry/marionettes
4. Ventriloquism
5. Interpretation for the deaf
6. Mime
7. Game show style
8. Human Video



Instrumental Music

Areas of Participation—A. Instrumental Solo B. Instrumental Ensemble (Limited to 6 persons)

Category Guidelines:

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 7 minutes.
2. The copyrights to any music compositions shall be secured by the author prior to the Expo. Any original music compositions should be noted as such.
3. Ensemble entries are limited to 6 persons.
4. Accompaniment is optional. Only the instrumentalist's performance will be rated by the judges.

Judged on Areas of:

Tone—Voice or instrument quality, clearness, fullness of sound, and control of voice or instrument.

Technique— Breathing, rhythm, and accuracy of notes.

Phrasing— Pronunciation of words and/or timing, smoothness.

Interpretation— Style, poise expression, eye contact, posture, gestures, etc.

Musical Effect— Fluency (word emphasis), artistry; How well is selection learned?

Intensity and Projection— How well is the contestant “getting into” their song?

Ministerial Effect— How well is the selection ministering to the audience? Do you sense a deep desire of the participant to minister and not just perform?

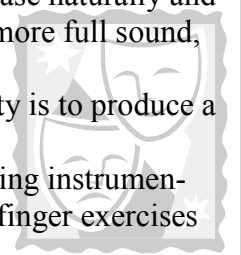
Level of Difficulty— Is the selection easy, medium, or difficult?

Stage Presentation— Appearance, approach and departure, confidence of contestant.

Other Factors— Choice of music; Does the accompaniment contribute to the song or does it distract from the message? Is the music memorized?

Hints for Entries:

1. Effective stage presence is important in the ministry of music. Good stage presence transforms stage fright into confidence. This becomes possible when the instrumentalists define their purpose as performing for God’s glory. This gives the listening audience and judges the impression that the musician is delighted to minister.
2. The selection and arrangement of music is significant factor.
 - A. This area was designed to feature instrumentalists working together for harmony. The design is to develop the “dynamics” of music through learned and rehearsed skill. The performance should feature each instrument during the performance as well as “symphony”. **No vocals should be allowed during the performance.**
 - B. The music should be within the proper extremes of the contestant’s instrumental range.
 - C. The choice of music should be appropriate for a worship setting with a focus on ministry.
 - D. It is better to perform an easier selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The quality of a contestant’s performance is paramount to the level of difficulty of their selection.
3. Interpretation refers to the personal touch the contestant brings to the music. Style refers to the distinctive manner the composition is performed giving it personality.
4. Phrasing in music corresponds to sentences in speech. The contestant should strive to phrase naturally and seek for the music to flow. Phrasing also refers to the ability to know where to accent (a more full sound, more crisp, or in a softer tone).
5. Tone results when strings, vocal chords, drumheads, etc. vibrate. The goal for good quality is to produce a tone that is clear and full.
6. Intensity projection refers to the prominence of the piece. Finger dexterity is used in judging instrumentals. Is the musician using the fingers smoothly and quickly? Disciplining the hand with finger exercises brings greater dexterity.



Interpretive Dance

Areas of Participation—Solo Dance and Group Dance.

Category Guidelines:

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and/or themes and must not exceed 5 minutes.
2. Group entries are limited to 15 persons.
3. Choreography will be based on and should convey the intended message of piece.
4. Neither choreography nor costumes should at any time compromise Christian ideas (i.e. be suggestive, vulgar, revealing, etc.)
5. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. In emergency situations a replacement in a group entry may be possible.
6. Any and all props must be hand-held only (i.e. scarves, hats, ribbons, etc.). No other stage props are permitted.

Judged on Areas of:

Stage Presentation:

Beginning with the entrance and not ending before the exit, a dancer's movements and poise should enhance the performance and remain consistent throughout. Any costumes and/or props should also contribute to the mood of the performance and should never distract or take away from the desired effect. While on stage dancers should be confident with themselves, their environment, and the choreography they are using. As much as possible, performers should use the stage setting provided to the maximum potential. Also, remembering that we represent Christ at all times, all costumes must be modest and not be revealing.

Technique:

During the performance dancers should keep in mind that every move has a purpose and should remain consistent with the intent of the performance. All choreography should be carried out with accuracy and definition. While all choreography should flow together, there must be a clear transition from one move to the next. If a group performance, dancers should move with precision, together as one, or if included, individual parts must complement each other and/or the overall performance. Unless intentionally otherwise, movements should be made with fluid motion, not appearing awkward or unnatural. Of course, when dancing, timing and rhythm play a large role in the quality of a performance.

Choreography:

To catch the attention of both the judges and the audience, choreography should be fresh, original, and inventive. However, it must also be appropriate for the dancers, the environment, and the intended message of the performance. In keeping with our goal of giving glory to God, Dance moves should never be suggestive or vulgar. A variety of moves should be used to keep a performance dynamic and interesting. Being careful not to repeat identical actions too frequently will also ensure an exciting performance.

Ministerial Effect:

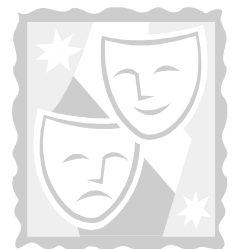
As with all things, dancing should be done for the glory of God. All aspects of a performance (dancers, props, choreography, etc.) should be conducive to the anointing of the Holy Spirit. To truly minister, the overall performance must properly convey the message or intent of the music/dance. If the audience is not being ministered to, God is not glorified and our goal is lost.

Overall:

All choreography should be based on the individual age of the performers, being neither too advanced nor less than challenging. Though each move should be defined, the overall performance should flow as one piece with smooth transitions between actions. Regardless of the tempo of the music, a dancer's energy level should remain consistent throughout the performance. This ensures that the performance will not drag or become uninteresting even if the tempo is slower. Perhaps most importantly, to be successful, a performance must reach those observing it. Displaying the appropriate expressions and stance will go far in accomplishing this.

What Judges Want!

1. Creative and age-appropriate choreography.
2. Good clean technique.
3. Stage presence.
4. Well-rehearsed choreography.
5. Dancers who are comfortable with all elements of the number.
6. Clean number with choreography that is well suited for the dancers.
7. Original ideas.
8. A clean professional look onstage: good costume, hair and makeup.
9. Technique: Make sure that you do not give them any reason to deduct points.
10. The human quality: They are looking for real people with real emotions.



Public Speaking

Areas of Participation—A. Persuasive Speaking B. Christian Comedy

Category Guidelines:

1. The contestant has one of two choices: Persuasive Speaking or Christian Comedy. The entry must have a Christian and/or appropriate theme.
Persuasive Speaking: The contestant makes up to a 7 minute presentation similar to an attorney's defense of a moral principle.
Christian Comedy: The contestant makes up to a 7 minute oral presentation demonstrating his/her ability to express a subject in a humorous manner.
2. Three copies or outlines of the selection must be given to the judges prior to the performance. All sources or research must be documented including author and title. The contestant's name, address, and church name should be on the first page.
3. Time of the presentation **must not** exceed 7 minutes. Thirty points will be subtracted from the overall score if the presentation is over limits.
4. The contestant may use outline note cards, if needed.
5. Visual aids supporting the presentation may be used.
6. The contestant may use one of the subjects at the close of this booklet, if desired.
7. Entries must be tastefully presented. Make it your goal to edify Christ.

Judged on Areas of:

Persuasive Speaking:

Preparation— How well is the speaker prepared? Has he/she done his/her research?

Delivery— How well is the argument presented? Does the speaker rely too much on emotional appeal? Is it based only on the speaker's opinion? Is the delivery "too preachy"? Does the speaker use similes, illustrations, figures of speech, or other "windows"? Does the speaker seem persuaded him/herself?

Contact— Facial, eye, voice. Does the speaker make connection with the audience?

Persuasiveness— Is the argument persuasive or believable? Is it interesting? Does the speaker endeavor to bring new and relevant material for consideration? How well does the speaker do at speaking deliberately and persuasively without being antagonistic?

Written Outline/Resources— What is the quality of the outline presented to the judges? Is the outline neat and in order? Is it easy to follow? Has the speaker defined all sources of research? How well has the speaker utilized these resources?

Christian Comedy:

Preparation— How well is the speaker prepared? Has he/she done his/her research?

Delivery— Sincerity and warmth. Is the voice warm or antagonistic? Is the delivery "too preachy"? Is it interesting? How well does the speaker use similes, illustrations, figures of speech, etc? Does the speaker approach his/her subject well?

Communication— Facial, eye, movement. Does the speaker make connection with the audience? Does he/she seem stiff and uncomfortable? Does the speaker speak in monotone? Does the voice rise and fall at proper times?

Originality— Positive approach, use of imagination, individualistic approach, freshness.

Clarity/Difficulty Factor— How well are the major points presented? Is the outline neat and in order? Is language pompous or is it clear, concise, and simple? Easy, medium, or difficult?

Note: 30 points will be subtracted for failure to keep within 7 minute time limit.



Public Speaking

Cont. from previous page.

Suggested Subjects for Public Speaking:

The Importance of Values	The Effects of Drugs on Youth
Overcoming Peer Pressure	What is a Christian?
A youth in the Bible	The Impact of Divorce on youth
Holy Spirit Baptism and the Teenager	Evolution vs. Creation
New Age vs. Christianity	Public Schools vs. Christian Involvement Schools
Why do Good People Suffer?	Growing Crime Rates
The Influence of Television	Why is the Bible the Inspired Word of God?
Current Events	Rock Music-Its Influence Today
Is It Really Important What a Person Believes?	

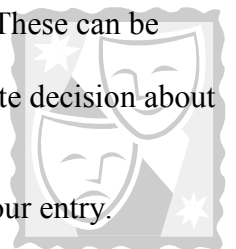
Outline Styles for Persuasive Speaking:

1. **Verse Outline**– Take 2 or 3 verses for your outline. Build your central thought form these.
2. **Word Outline**–Use a short text and highlight a word. For example, most people have heard messages built around the word river, sin or faith, etc.
3. **Chapter Outline**– Take a chapter from the Bible which focuses on your subject.
4. **Topical Outline**– This the most commonly used outline, but it can still be effective, if used creatively.
5. **Biographical Outline**– This presentation comes from a character sketch which reveals a truth about the theme.
6. **Contrasting Truths**– This style develops when opposites meet. For example, Romans 6:23 speaks of wages and gifts, death and life.

Hints For Entries:

In public speaking, the key word is convincing! Whether you are exhorting or presenting an oral argument, your job is to convince the judges and congregation that these are your words, your thoughts, and your feelings. Many factors contribute to successful speaking: gestures, posture, voice inflection, and emotion. Be careful. Emotion should be carefully balanced. If you portray too little emotion, your performance will appear rigid, bland, and colorless. If you portray too much you will appear harsh and overbearing. Be careful that your emotion does not distract from clear and easily understood speaking.

1. Your first element of public speaking is to develop a good outline. This is the heart of the presentation, and since you must adhere to the outline, you will want to make it work for you. Talk with your pastor, experienced minister or teacher about outlining. Your outline should flow freely from your subject and text (if used).
2. Have someone evaluate your presentation to be sure it is interesting and has variety in gestures, voice inflection, and volume. Variety is important in the delivery. Loudness and fast speaking are not always best! Blend the presentation with short thought-provoking sentences.
3. Be relevant in your presentation. Use current statistics from USA Today, almanacs, etc. These can be found in a public library or on-line.
4. Be sure the message is Scriptural, theologically sound, and lead the hearer to an appropriate decision about the Christian walk.
5. Be sure that your presentation is not longer than 7 minutes. This will cost points for you.
6. Build your presentation from one of the subjects listed. Then, decide the personality of your entry.



Vocal Music

Areas of Participation—A. Vocal Solo B. Multiple Voice (Limited to 8 persons)

Category Guidelines:

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 7 minutes.
2. The copyrights to any music compositions shall be secured by the author prior to the Expo. Any original music compositions should be noted as such.
3. Multiple voice entries are limited to 8 persons.
4. The soloist is usually accompanied by soundtracks, piano, or guitar but any instrument or combination of instruments may be used. Only the vocal performance is evaluated.

Judged on Areas of:

Tone– Voice or instrument quality, clearness, fullness of sound, and control of voice or instrument.

Technique– Breathing, rhythm, and accuracy of notes.

Phrasing– Pronunciation of words and/or timing, smoothness.

Interpretation– Style, poise expression, eye contact, posture, gestures, etc.

Musical Effect– Fluency (word emphasis), artistry; How well is selection learned?

Intensity and Projection– How well is the contestant “getting into” their song?

Ministerial Effect– How well is the selection ministering to the audience? Do you sense a deep desire of the participant to minister and not just perform?

Level of Difficulty– Is the selection easy, medium, or difficult?

Stage Presentation– Appearance, approach and departure, confidence of contestant.

Other Factors– Choice of music; Does the accompaniment contribute to the song or does it distract from the message? Is the music memorized?

Hints for Entries:

1. Effective stage presence is important in the ministry of music. Good stage presence transforms stage fright into confidence. This becomes possible when the vocalist or instrumentalist defines their purpose as performing for God’s glory. This gives the listening audience and judges the impression that the musician is delighted to minister.
2. The selection and arrangement of music is a significant factor. Consider this criteria:
 - A. Most entries in the solo competition are female vocalists singing slow selections. Most entries in the instrumental competition are piano arrangements. This does not mean that you should not sing a slower song or play the piano. Whatever you perform, make it a unique selection and your chances are greater of getting the judge’s “attention”.
 - B. The music should be within the proper extremes of the contestant’s vocal or instrumental range.
 - C. The choice of music should be appropriate for a worship setting with a focus on ministry.
 - D. It is better to perform an easier selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The quality of a contestant's performance is paramount to the level of difficulty of their selection.
3. Interpretation refers to the personal touch the contestant brings to the music. Style refers to the distinctive manner the composition is performed giving it personality.
4. Phrasing in music corresponds to sentences in speech. The contestant should strive to phrase naturally and seek for the music to flow. Phrasing also refers to the ability to know where to accent (a more full sound, more crisp, or in a softer voice).
5. Tone results when strings, vocal chords, drumheads, etc. vibrate. The goal for good quality is to produce a tone that is clear and full.
6. Intensity projection refers to the prominence of the piece.

