

PCG YOUTH MINISTRIES
TEEN TALENT EXPO 2010



STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

Since it's beginning, the Teen Talent Expo has been one of the fastest growing ministries of the Youth Department. Teen Talent Expo has been the vehicle for teens to develop their talents toward their full potential for Christ.

Teen Talent Expo seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To involve Pentecostal Church of God youth in developing abilities and talents for the glory of God.
2. To motivate teenagers to utilize their abilities in the ministries of the Pentecostal Church of God.
3. To provide evaluative data on performances which may serve as a guide for development of talents and skills for the glory of God.
4. To motivate teenagers to develop their personal relationship with God.
5. To provide opportunities for teenagers to develop relationships with other youth in the Pentecostal Church of God.

The Purpose of this manual is to provide a resource that will enable teens to know what to expect when entering the Teen Talent Expo. Since the Expo is expanding each year, it is probable that this manual will be updated with additional information every year. It is your responsibility to check with our District Youth Department website (www.arkansaspcg.org/youth) to receive the most current information available. An attempt will be made to answer all questions regarding various aspects of Teen Talent Expo.

This manual has also been developed to set forth principles for developing talents for the Lord. It is our prayer that God will bless you as you develop your talents in ministry for Him and use this manual to help prepare you for service in His Kingdom.



GENERAL RULES

1. Each participant must have turned 13 years of age, but no older than 19, on June 1st of the competition year in order to be eligible for compete in the Teen Talent Expo.
2. Each participant must come through their Sectional and District Teen Talent Expo, and attend a Pentecostal Church of God church or a church affiliated in fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God.
3. Each participant must have received a “First Place with Invitation” rating from their Teen Talent Expo to advance to the next level of competition. Should the First Place winner be unable to attend, the Second Place winner will compete in their place.
4. All National Teen Talent Expo entries must be submitted **or postmarked to the District Youth Ministries Office by May 1st with a registration form and a fee of \$25.00. Late registrations received after May 1st must pay \$50.00 per entry. All entries must be received or postmarked to the National Youth Office by May 15th.** All district entries are sent to the National Youth Office by the district leadership.
5. The Youth Office does not provide refunds for cancellations.
6. Agreeing to and believing in freedom of expression and diversity of opinion, the participants in the Teen Talent Expo shall, in their presentation, take full consideration of areas of decency, modesty and Christian values. The local pastor of the participant and the District Youth Director must be fully aware of each performance and consent to the appropriate appearance of each participant. Should the Sectional or District Youth Director feel the participant is violating the dress code, or immodest or inappropriate in other areas not necessarily described in this manual, he may, at his discretion, require the participants to alter their appearance before performing on stage.
7. The dress code for the Arkansas District and Sectional Teen Talent Expo shall be as follows:
 - a. All Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be to the bend of the knee.
 - b. All shirts and pants shall be loose fitting.
 - c. No sleeveless shirts are permitted.
 - d. No body piercings are allowed to be worn on stage.
8. Each district may submit one entry from each of the categories in the National Teen Talent Expo.
9. A participant in the national finals may be disqualified if he/she fails to appear at the designated time and place for his/her performance.



10. A one-time 30 point overall deduction will be given in violation of any rules stated within this manual for any respective category.
11. It is the responsibility of the participant, parents and youth leaders to be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding copyrighted music, scripts, or any other original published or unpublished works.
 - a. ***It is illegal*** to use software, sound files, video clips, quotes or any other copyrighted work for your presentation without obtaining the copyrights or the explicit written permission from the publisher or creator; always give appropriate credit to the author or creator for all copyrighted materials used to create your Talent Expo entries.
12. All Teen Talent Expo participants must read and abide by the official Teen Talent Expo rules. It is the responsibility of each participant to be familiar with the rules and procedures of this Expo. No other person will be held responsible for participant's lack of information. By signing a District and/or National Teen Talent Expo registration form, pastors, leaders, parents and students acknowledge that:
 - a. They have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules of this Expo, and
 - b. They will accept the decisions of the Director and judges as final.
13. Participants must be present at the orientation meeting at the Teen Talent Expo to complete the mandatory onsite check-in forms and attend specific category meetings.
14. The Teen Talent Expo maintains a high standard for its participants. Teenagers involved in this expo should be committed to the ministry and should represent Christ in their behavior and actions. It is our desire to leave a positive impression at the facilities and on the people with which we work. Therefore, any participant showing disrespect for people or property in the whole city will be disqualified and dismissed from the Teen Talent Expo and any expenses incurred from damages will be the responsibility of the parties involved.
15. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and/or themes. If there is a question regarding the Christian message or Christian theme of a presentation, the National Office suggests you make a different selection. ***No dark themes are permitted in any performance.*** Presentations deemed as not Christian or Christian themed will be disqualified at the discretion of the National Talent Expo committee.



16. Participants may not change or alter their entry from District Talent Expo to National Talent Expo, except as provided for in category rules.
17. Those competing in Interpretive Dance Categories may not change or alter their performance from the Sectional Talent Expo to the District Talent Expo, except as provided for in category rules.
18. All Interpretive Dance entries must send a video tape or DVD to the District Office for approval by the Executive Committee at least 2 weeks prior to the SECTIONAL Teen Talent Expo. Any one failing to do so will not be allowed to perform. No major changes to the performance can be made once the video is mailed.

On-site Orientation

1. All participants must be present or provide a representative at Orientation in order to perform at the Teen Talent Expo.
2. Participants who will perform must bring their original soundtrack and or any required outlines to Orientation. They will hand in their requirements to the Category Chairman during roll call. This will be the only time allowed to hand in soundtracks and/or outlines.
3. Participants entering the non-performing categories will check-in with their category chairman. Once roll call has been made, the chairman will instruct them where to place their exhibit.
4. If a participant is entering more than one category, a representative will be allowed to attend each orientation. It will be the responsibility of the participant to retrieve the needed information from their representative.
5. Participants performing in a group may provide one individual to represent them at orientation. It will be the responsibility of the participants to retrieve all information given to their representative.



Equipment Provided List

- Instruments provided for musical performance:
 - 1 keyboard
 - 1 drum set (see Percussion Rules for accessory requirements)
 - 5 direct boxes
- Human Video/Interpretive Dance
 - Theatrical Lighting
 - 1 spotlight
- Persuasive Speaking:
 - 1 podium
 - 1 wireless speaking microphone (handheld or lapel)
 - Video projection system and screen for powerpoint presentation.
- Theatrical Drama:
 - 5 performance lapel or wireless microphones
 - Theatrical lighting
 - 1 spot light
- Vocal Ensemble:
 - 8 microphones
- Vocal Solo:
 - 1 microphone



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

ARTS & CRAFT

Areas of Participation

- A. **Art** – painting (oil, water), sketching (pencil, chalk, etc)
- B. **Craft** – wood, metal, ceramic, etc.

CATEGORY RULES

1. The participant has a choice of either an art or craft.
2. All entries must be created entirely by the participant 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 any way between district and national competition except for minor touchups as recommended by the District Competition judges.
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 shipping and competition.
5. The participant must present his/her entry with a 3x5 placard stating the participant's name, picture and the theme of the presentation.
6. See also General Rules.

JUDGING CRITERIA

ART

Appropriate Theme – originality, Does the entry present a good central message?

Level of Difficulty – easy, medium, and 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 entry present a good central message?

Level of Difficulty – easy, medium, and 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 theme presented?

SUGGESTIONS 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.



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION CHRISTIAN BAND

CATEGORY RULES

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 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. Band entries are limited to six 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. Soundtracks are not allowed.
5. Judging shall be based on both vocalization and instrumentation of the song.
6. The talent expo will provide keyboard and drumset for all participants.
7. Students must refrain from any actions or language that may be deemed offensive or inappropriate during the presentation.
8. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
9. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.
10. See also General Rules.

JUDGING CRITERIA

TONE - voice or instrument quality and control; clearness; fullness of sound; etc.

PHRASING - pronunciation of words and/or timing; smoothness; etc

MUSICAL EFFECT - fluency/word emphasis; artistry; memorization

MINISTERIAL EFFECT - anointing; conveyance of message; ministry or performance

STAGE PRESENTATION - appearance; approach/departure; confidence

SUGGESTIONS 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.
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 participant’s range.
 - c. The choice of music should be appropriate for a setting with a focus on ministry.
 - d. It is better to perform an easier selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The participant’s quality of performance is adjusted to the level of difficulty of their selection.
3. Phrasing in music corresponds to sentences in speech. The participant should strive to phrase naturally and seek for 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.

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION CREATIVE WRITING

Areas of Participation—

- A. Poetry
- B. Short Story

CATEGORY RULES

1. The participant 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 – 1250 words in length. Poetry must be from 12 - 20 lines.
2. Each manuscript will begin with a title page including title, writing category choice, word count, the participant’s name, address, age, the name of the participant’s church, and the name of the participant’s district.
3. Entry must be typed (at least 12 pt font) and double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11” paper. Please send four original copies of the short story or poetry. One copy for each judge as well as a “clean copy” for display. These entries are pre-judged. Your entry must be postmarked to the District Youth Office by May 1st. The District Youth Office will be responsible to have the writing postmarked to the National Youth Office by May 15th.
4. The name of the participant must be in the upper left hand corner of each additional page.
5. The page number must appear in the upper right hand corner of each page.



6. Each participant in the Creative Writing Category must include a snapshot or photo of themselves (no larger than 4 x 6) along with their entry, as the participants in this category do not have to be present in order to win. The photo page should follow the title page, just prior to the short story or poetry. The photo needs to be attached to or printed on the photo page.
7. Winning entries will be submitted to *The Pentecostal Messenger* for publication.
8. Each manuscript becomes the property of the National Youth Ministries office and may not be returned.
9. See also General Rules.

JUDGING CRITERIA **SHORT STORY**

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?

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

JUDGING CRITERIA **POETRY**

Theme – Is it appropriate?

Vocabulary – Is it fresh, descriptive, original, and 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?

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR CREATIVE WRITING ENTRIES

Hints: 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, spelling, 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?

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION DRAMA

Areas of Participation—

- C. Theatrical Drama
- D. Human Video

CATEGORY RULES

Theatrical Drama

1. Only handheld props are allowed that are carried on/off stage by individual participants. (No setup time allowed for props).
2. Theatrical Drama groups are limited to a maximum of 10 performers with only five having a microphone.
3. No audio sound device is allowed during performance.
4. The time limit for Theatrical Drama is five minutes.



Human Video

1. No speaking parts are allowed.
2. Groups are limited to a maximum of 20 people.
3. The time limit for Human Video is seven minutes.
4. The participants must provide the written song selection with words in triplicate to the Category Chairman during orientation, so as to assess accuracy.
5. The title page should include the category (Human Video or Mime), name of the song, group name and District of participants.

Both areas of concentration

1. Anything that would leave a residue on stage may not be used. This is not only for the safety of others, but also as a common courtesy to the theater. This is to include but not limited to:
 - Aerosols
 - Pyrotechnic devices
 - Confetti
 - Liquids
 - Fog machines
 - Breakable items
2. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted.
3. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
4. See also General Rules.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICPANTS

1. Theatrical Drama division was originally designed to develop the theatrical skills in an individual, not that of a group. The “role” or “character playing” is truly what theatrics is all about. While a small group may have a theme to convey a message, most of the theatrics are lost in presentation. Theatrics is designed for acting out portions of scripts already written, or short original scripts. These may be of Biblical characters or scenes. They may also be scenes from production.
2. Human video was originally intended to act out the message of a song.



3. 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 to 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.
4. It is important to create a mood for ministry in drama. This means it is important for the participant(s) to begin in a positive and confident manner.
5. You have a variety of situations from which to choose:
 - One act play/script
 - Illustrated storytelling
 - Interpretation for the deaf
 - Mime
 - Game show style
 - Human Video
 - Etc.
6. With all these presentations available, the judges are looking for basic ingredients in good drama.
7. Appropriate appearance: Does the actor's appearance complement what he/she is trying to say? Is extra effort made to dress or bring the presentation to character by props, makeup, etc?
8. 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?
9. 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?
10. 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?
11. Level of difficulty: Easy, medium, difficult. Was time and effort put into the character?



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION DRUM & PERCUSSION

CATEGORY RULES

1. Each contestant will have (3) to (5) minutes to perform a routine.
2. Ten points per judge will be deducted if performance is short of the 3 minutes or longer than 5 minutes.
3. Drum sticks, Bass Pedal's, cow bells, percussion accessories and drum thrones are the only personal pieces of gear contestants may use during their performance unless playing any other percussive instrument. (example: See percussion list below)
4. Contestants will perform on a 5 piece drum set that will be provided by the Teen Talent Expo for use in the contest. The drum set will be complete with cymbals, Hardware and drum throne. The brand, model, cymbals and hardware will vary by location.
5. You will be allowed to use an accompaniment track only. You are not allowed to have other musicians on stage with you. The judges will be scoring you on your percussion solo. It is recommended that you solo exclusively without a track.
6. This category will be limited to between 1 and 8 performers.
7. We know that there are traditional percussion instruments (drums & congas), but we also know our culture represents un-conventional percussion items as well.
8. Any entry using un-conventional percussion (trash cans, pipes, sticks, as well as "stomp" entries) can have no more than 8 performers.
9. You will have 3-5 minutes to set up the drum kit and add your accessories.
10. See also General Rules.

JUDGING CRITERIA



All contestants will perform for a panel of three independent judges who have significant experience in performing drum percussion, teaching drum percussion, percussion skills and/or substantial knowledge of and/ or experience in the music industry.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) Overall performance
- (2) Originality, Creativity
- (3) Technique and Rhythm
- (4) Style and Difficulty
- (5) Stage presence.

Each judge will assign each contestant a score between 1 and 20 in each category. The judges' total scores will then be added, resulting in a total final score for each contestant. The decision of the judges is binding and final.

A basic drum set will be provided with these pieces.

- A basic kit with 2 rack toms
- Floor Tom
- Kick Drum
- Cymbals (1 ride 2 crash) & High Hat (you can add extra cymbals & bring your own)
- Snare (optional: you may bring your own)
- A single Kick Pedal (optional: you may bring your own single pedal or double pedals)
- You may add additional accessories for your performance.

Percussion Instrument List

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Congas | Maracas |
| Drum set (Provided by TTE) | Wood Blocks |
| Cow bells | Triangle |
| Bongo | Xylophone |
| Timpani | Tambourine |
| Un-conventional percussion items | Chimes |



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION INSTRUMENTAL

Areas of Participation—

Instrumental Solo

Instrumental Ensemble (limited to 6 persons)

CATEGORY RULES

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 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. An instrumental soundtrack may be used. No vocals or accompaniment will be allowed.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 minutes.
2. Participation is limited to acoustical only (see approved instrument list) plus rhythm percussion instruments.
3. 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.
4. Instrumental ensembles are limited six persons.
5. An instrumental soundtrack may not be used. No vocals or accompaniment will be allowed.
6. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
7. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.
8. See also General Rules.



APPROVED INSTRUMENT LIST

Banjo
Mandolin
12 string guitar
Violin
Viola
Horn Family
Rhythm/Percussion Instruments

Acoustic guitar
Dulcimer
Acoustic Bass
Cello
Harp
Woodwinds
Acoustic Piano

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

Technique – breathing, rhythm, and accuracy of notes.

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

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?

SUGGESTIONS 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 a 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 will 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 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, 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 exercised brings greater dexterity.

THE TEEN TALENT EXPO WILL PROVIDE

1. House drums professionally tuned; you may use your own foot pedal, snare, and cymbals.
2. Electric keyboard.
3. Direct inlet connections to the PA system for all guitars and instruments.
4. You may use your own amplifier, guitars, and effects pedals.
5. You must be ready to plug into a direct box for performance.
6. See also Equipment list provided.



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

INTERPRETIVE DANCE

Areas of Participation

Solo Dance
Group Dance

CATEGORY RULES

1. All performances must send a video tape or DVD to the District Office for approval by the Executive Committee at least 2 weeks prior to the SECTIONAL Teen Talent Expo. Any one failing to do this will not be allowed to perform. The performance cannot have any major alterations after the video is mailed.
2. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and/or themes and must not exceed 5 minutes. Time will begin at the beginning of movement or music.
3. Soundtracks may be used. You must provide a CD media case.
WARNING: If the judges determine background vocals or duplication of the solo instrument on the soundtrack distracts or interferes with the performance, points may be subtracted from the score.
4. The National Youth Department suggests that you only use original CDs in your performance. Any CD that is not original (ex. burned CDs, invalid music file formats, etc.) are not guaranteed to work in our systems and is not the responsibility of the National Youth Department or National Teen Talent Expo. The participant assumes all risk of possible soundtrack malfunctions! Back-up soundtracks are recommended. Should this situation arise, the participant will be disqualified.
5. Group entries are limited to 15 persons.
6. Choreography will be based on and should convey the intended message of the piece.
7. Neither choreography nor costumes should at any time compromise Christian ideals (i.e. be suggestive, vulgar, revealing, etc.)
8. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
9. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.
10. Any and all props must be hand-held only (i.e. scarves, hats, ribbons, etc.). No other stage props are permitted.
11. The focus of the category must be dance.



12. See also General Rules.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. STAGE PRESENTATION:

- Dancer's entrance and exit enhances and/or remains consistent with performance.
- Costumes enhance rather than distract the performance and are conducive to the mood of the dance.
- Costumes must be modest and not revealing.
- Dancers should be confident with themselves, their environment, and the choreography.
- Props (if any) should be appropriate for the piece, enhance performance, but not distract from it.
- Performers should use provided stage to maximum potential.

2. TECHNIQUE:

- Moves should be made with accuracy and purpose, consistent with the intent of the performance, and with clear transitions.
- In a group, dancers move together with precision as one and individual parts complement each other and overall performance.
- According with intention, movements should be made with proper fluidity of motion.
- Are transitions between each move smooth, flowing from one to the other seamlessly?
- Both timing and rhythm should be accurate.

3. CHOREOGRAPHY:

- Choreography should be fresh, original, and inventive.
- Choreography should be appropriate for dancers, the environment, and the intended message.
- Dance moves must never be suggestive or vulgar.
- There should be a variety to the choreography in both type and frequency of actions to keep it dynamic and interesting.
- Careful not to repeat identical actions too frequently.

4. MINISTERIAL EFFECT:

- All aspects of the performance (dancers, props, choreography, etc.) should lend to the anointing and glorify God.
- Overall performance should convey the message or intent of the music/dance.
- The performance should minister to the audience.



5. OVERALL:

- The difficulty level of the performance, choreography, should be suitable for the age of dancer(s).
- There should be clear transitions from one move to the next.
- The dancer's energy level should remain consistent throughout the performance regardless of the tempo of the music.
- Dancer(s) should establish a rapport with the audience and be effective in reaching those observing it.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Interpretive dance is a dance style that seeks to interpret the meaning inherent in music rather than by performing specific preformatted moves, it seeks to depict emotions or tell a story. To worship God in dance is biblical. The Bible commends it (Psalm 149:3; 150:4). Scripture gives many references to the use of dance as a form of joyous celebration and of reverent worship. ***This should be the theme of ALL dance performances.***

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 numbers 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.



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Areas of Participation

Persuasive Speaking

Christian Stand-up Comedy

CATEGORY RULES

1. All entries in the Persuasive Speaking category are limited to one person. All entries in the Christian Stand-Up Comedy are limited to up to two persons.
2. The entry must have a Christian and/or appropriate theme. The participant makes a presentation similar to an attorney's defense of a moral principle.
3. Three copies of the outline must be given to the Category Chairman at Orientation. All sources or research must be documented, including author and title. The contestant's name, address and district should be on the first page.
4. Time of the presentation must not exceed 5 minutes. Thirty points will be deducted from the overall score if the presentation is over the limit.
5. The participant may use outline note cards, if needed.
6. Participants in the Persuasive Speaking Category may use visual aids supporting their presentation. Media equipment will be provided (Projector, screen and computer.) All video presentations must be provided in Microsoft Powerpoint using CD or flashdrive and must be handed to the Category Chairman during Orientation
7. Entries must be tastefully presented. Make it your goal to edify Jesus. If you have any questions, contact your District Youth Director. He/She will be able to assist you in your presentation.

JUDGING CRITERIA

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 and 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?

Here are some styles you may use in your presentation:

1. Verse Outline—Take 2 or 3 verses for your outline. Build your central thought from these.
2. Word Outline—Use a short text and highlight a word. For example: River, sin or faith.
3. Chapter Outline—Take a chapter from the Bible which focuses on your subject.
4. Topical Outline—This is the most commonly used outline where all subject matter supports the main topic.
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.

Christian Comedy

Preparation – How well is the speaker prepared?

Delivery – Is it interesting? Is the speaker convinced of the hilarity of the topic? Does the speaker speak in monotone? Does the voice rise and fall at proper times?



Communication—facial, eye and movement. Does the speaker make connection with the audience? Does he/she seem stiff and uncomfortable?

Originality—Positive approach, use of imagination, fresh material, individualistic approach.

Clarity/Difficulty Factor—How well are the major points presented? Is the outline neat and in order? Is language clear, concise and simple?

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

The key word is convincing, in *persuasive* speaking. Whether you are exhorting or presenting an oral argument, your job is to convince the judges and congregation that these are your words, thoughts and 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 detract from your 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 keep to the outline, you will want to make it work for you. Talk with your pastor, youth pastor or teacher about outlining. Your outline should flow freely from your subject and text (if used.)
2. Have someone evaluate your presentation. Have them use the suggestions below.
3. Loudness and fast speaking are not always best. Blend the presentation with short thought-provoking sentences.
4. Be relevant in your presentation. Use current statistics from newspapers, almanacs, internet, etc. Remember to document your information.
5. Be sure the message is scriptural and leads the hearer to an appropriate decision about the Christian walk.
6. Be sure the presentation is no longer than 5 minutes. 30 points will be deducted from your overall score if you go over.



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

SHORT FILM

Areas of Participation—

- A. Short Film

CATEGORY RULES

1. An outline (story board) of the film must accompany the entry. The outline must include name, address, and district of contestant on front page.
2. Opening credits must include title of short film, category, name of director, and district.
3. Time limit of the film must not exceed 7 minutes and must have a Christian theme.
4. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition, except for minor touch-ups as recommended by the judges.
5. Entries must be presented tastefully.
6. The directors and editors must be within the age limits.
7. The entry must be submitted in DVD format on disk.
8. It is the responsibility of the participant, parents and youth leaders to be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding copyrighted music, scripts, or any other original published or unpublished works. All participants should follow these rules:
 - a. Never use software, sound files, video clips, music, quotes or any other copyrighted work for your presentation without obtaining the copyrights or the explicit written permission from the publisher or creator; always give appropriate credit to the author or creator for all copyrighted materials used to create your Talent Expo entries.
 - b. Never use unpublished music or scripts without written permission from the author or creator of the work.
9. A 30 point deduction may be given for any infraction of the rules and guidelines.

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

*Cinematography—*camera work and storytelling. Is the film well shot? Are there diverse camera angles? Is the camera work stabilized during film?

*Sound & Lighting—*Is the sound in good quality? If using music, does it “fit” with the film? Do any soundtracks interfere with dialogue? Are audio clip volumes too low? Is the picture clear or too dark?



Editing—Is it organized? Is the film well cut or is there too much dead space? Are there appropriate transitions? Are credits arranged?

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Film-making is the art of visual storytelling on screen. It has become the most significant art form of our generation. Therefore, it is important that the short film be organized, creative in cinematography, editing, and finally, convey a valued message. To create a good short film, study storytelling from movies, TV shows, and commercials. Watch carefully how different camera angles are used, along with mixing music, sound effects, and dialogue. Sound tracks can set the mood for your film.

A scene of a guy sleeping on a couch can be shot at a tilted angle with eerie background music, making the audience feel fear (like there's someone in the room). The same scene can be shot with high energy music and an aerial view angle, and completely change the mood. Cinematography and sound design play an important role in storytelling. It is also important that the primary objective is ministry, not just to entertain. Seek to be creative in your presentation.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The Judges are looking for basic ingredients in a good short film.

1. Appropriate Theme—That which ministers to the audience.
2. Presentation of Theme—How good does the short film do in bringing the theme alive? Does it flow? Is it interesting? Is it relevant?
3. Cinematography—Does the camera tell the story? Is it creatively filmed? Is the mood experienced through the film work?
4. Sound & Lighting—Is the sound and picture clear?
5. Editing—Is it well cut? Is it organized and presentable?
6. Story—Is it believable? Is the message of the film conveyed through the theatrical roles? Is it creative?
7. Difficult Factor—The judges will observe closely how easy or difficult the entry is. It will not be too difficult to judge whether the short film has put time and practice in the presentation or not.



CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

VOCAL

Areas of Participation

Vocal Solo Female
Vocal Solo Male
Vocal Ensemble

CATEGORY RULES

1. The participant may or may not choose to use accompaniment music. Only the vocal performance will be evaluated. For those using CDs for accompaniment music, you must provide a jewel case.
2. The National Youth Departments suggest that you only use original CDs in your performance. Any CD that is not original (ex. Burned CDs, invalid music file formats, etc.) are not guaranteed to work in our systems and is not the responsibility of the National Youth Department or National Teen Talent Expo. The participant assumes all risk of possible soundtrack malfunctions! Back-up soundtracks are recommended. Should this situation arise, the participant will be given the option to perform acapella or be disqualified.
3. If the participant chooses to use live music, accompaniment is limited to a single instrument.
4. Background vocals are not allowed for vocal entry soundtracks.
5. Musical selections must not exceed 5 minutes.
6. To ensure sound level, microphones will be set prior to the National Teen Talent Expo by an official sound technician. Participants may not ask for special sound settings.
7. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
8. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.
9. See also General Rules.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

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 ensemble defines their purpose as performing for the



- glory of God. This gives the listening audience and judges the impression that the participant 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 vocal solos singing slow selections. This does not mean that you should not sing a slower song, only that 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 range.
 - c. 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.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each participant will be judged on the same criteria. These are:

- a. Tone: Defined as quality, control, clarity.
- b. Technique: Defined as rhythm, accuracy of notes, breathing, diction, articulation, intensity, memorization.
- c. Interpretation: Defined as style, expression, artistry, harmony, choice of music.
- d. Ministerial Effect: Defined as involves and inspires listeners, centers on Christian theme, anointing.
- e. Stage Presentation: Defined as appearance and poise, enter/exit

