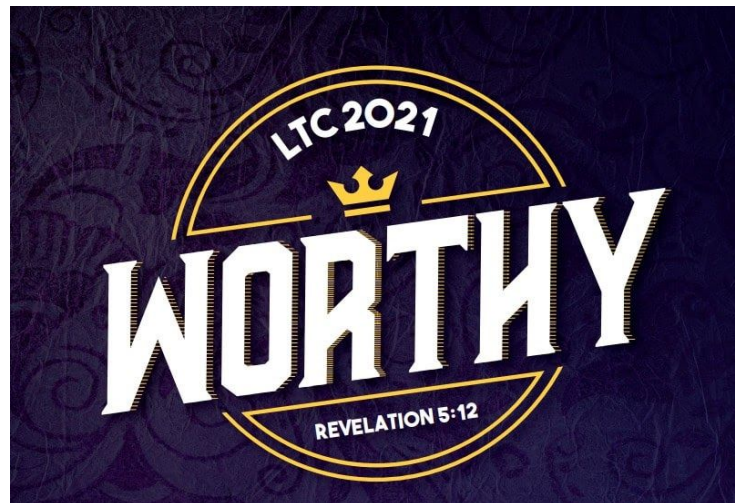




***Reference Manual
for 2021***



*In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb,
who was slain, to receive power and wealth and
wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”
Revelation 5:12*

**Bible Bowl:
Revelation**

**Convention Site:
The Westin Charlotte**

ERLTC Manual 2021

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Manual Changes

SECTION	CHANGES As Of October 1, 2020 <i>(discard all previous manual versions)</i>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pages and forms updated with 2020 dating. • Important Dates & Information changes.
Challenge Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Event Added • Audio/Video Challenge Criteria Sheets added
Pre-Convention Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Events Added • Christian Essay, Christian Fiction, Communion Meditation and Presentation of a Power Point Criteria Sheets added
Convention Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rule changes currently
Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms updated with 2021 dates

Important Dates

- October 1 - Manual for 2021 Update Available

- October 15 - Portal for Registrations of Students and Hotel Opens

- November 1 - Teen Board Member Names Due to ERLTC Board

- January 15 - T-Shirt Design Suggestions Deadline
- Early Student Registrations and Hotel Reservations
- Registration Fees, Hotel Deposit, and T-Shirt Payments Due

- March 1 - Challenge and Pre-Convention Events Deadline
- Final Student Registrations and Hotel Reservations
- Registration Fees, Hotel Deposit, and T-Shirt Payments Due
- Registration Fees are non-refundable after this date
- Late Fee of \$15.00 after this date.

- March 15 - Deadline for submitting Jimmy Crawford Leadership Award and Christian College Scholarship applications

- April 2-4 - Convention on Friday through Sunday (Easter Weekend)

- May 15 - Awards Correction Deadline

ERLTC Contact Information

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Vision & Mission of Eastern Region Leadership Training for Christ (ERLTC)

- ❖ Vision: putting Christ back in our culture.
- ❖ Mission: helping kids discover their God given talents, then helping them use their talents to serve God and mankind.

Why Leadership Training?

The future of the church rests with our ability to train effective leaders. There will always be a need for leaders to rise to the occasion as servants, Bible class teachers, ministers, deacons and elders.

Believing that training should begin at an early age, LTC provides an opportunity for children and teens to recognize and develop leadership skills. Training is Biblical, practical, and in-depth.

The unique structure of LTC allows local churches to mold the program in a way to meet local needs and provide a year-round training program for their youth.

Benefits of Leadership Training for Christ (LTC)

- Aids the development of skills in speaking, song leading and Bible reading.
- Assists in the growth of confidence and the use of gifts and skills.
- Builds memories that will last forever.
- Creates deep long lasting relationships.
- Develops drama and puppetry skills for use in VBS and mission trips.
- Encourages children, teens, parents and adults to spend consistent time in God's word.
- Encourages youth to grow towards becoming effective leaders in today's church.
- Fosters participation in service projects.
- Nourishes parent and adult participation.
- Promotes team building and encouragement.
- Provides training for youth to be effective teachers.
- Provides year-round structured leadership training.
- Sharpens singing skills.

History of LTC

LTC began in 1989 to stimulate and encourage spiritual, mental, and social growth among young men and young women in grades three through twelve. Its goal to achieve this growth is by developing skills in leadership, Bible knowledge, and Christian servant-hood. Skills are developed in each of these areas through participation in a variety of individual and group events throughout the year. These events take place within the context of a wholesome and supportive environment designed for the purpose of fostering enthusiasm and high achievement among the participants. Since its beginning with an annual convention held in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, LTC has made an opportunity to challenge young people to develop in an increasing number of leadership areas. LTC has expanded over the years and there are now ten independent regional conventions held annually.

- ~ North Texas LTC (Dallas, TX)
- ~ Midwest LTC (Indianapolis, IN)
- ~ Great Plains LTC (Rogers, AR)
- ~ LTC Northwest Region (Richland, WA)
- ~ Heart Of America LTC (Kansas City, MO)
- ~ LTC Southwest Region (Tucson, AZ)
- ~ Central Texas LTC (Houston, TX)
- ~ LTC Western Region (Santa Clara, CA)
- ~ Southeast LTC (Mobile, AL)
- ~ Eastern Region LTC (Charlotte, NC)

Church Coordinators Code of Ethics

- ERLTC is for the growth and spiritual development of our youth. The ERLTC preparation must be the student's own work. Guidance, resources, and encouragement must be provided so students can develop their own ideas.
- Emphasis must be placed on participation and effort instead of on competition and winning. Lesser value comes from winning; maximum value comes from hard work and best efforts.
- Seek to provide positive guidance to our young people when there is a need for improvement. Remember that our young people learn how to handle conflict and difficulty from adult examples.
- Must emphasize servant leadership. It is not enough to teach public communication skills, but additionally, we must model and teach leadership through servant-hood.
- While working with the youth, place your focus on training year round, not on preparation for a once a year convention.
- Must find important and needed areas for our youth leaders to be integrated into the overall leadership of the church. Our youth need responsibilities now that gives them important roles and contributes to the church.
- Must communicate these ethics to all parents and church leaders by meeting with them to ensure that they are fully prepared to serve as well-informed adults.
- Need to strongly encourage participants to be involved in more than one event.

Church Behavior Agreement

Our actions and behavior reflect not only on ourselves, but on our church, on ERLTC and on Christ. Above all else, remember that God is to be glorified and we should let our light shine.

All Participants & Attendees:

- Be courteous to the Hotel staff and the convention workers and take special care to protect the Hotel and ERLTC property..
- Be aware of the noise level in the hallways, foyers, and rooms.
- Always walk in the corridors and other public places and allow others access to public facilities by properly using elevators, escalators and corridors.
- Curfew for all convention participants and attendees is 11:30 pm on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Be modest and neat while deciding what to wear to the convention.

All Participants:

- Stay on the Hotel property unless accompanied by a parent or an adult sponsor.
- Wear ERLTC name tags even when not involved in an event.
- If a student is not actively participating in an ERLTC event, then they must be accompanied by an adult.

Other Items:

- Do not bring coolers to distribute food or drinks to your participants in public areas of the hotel, i.e. hallways, lobbies, parking lot, public meeting spaces, etc. If you bring a cooler, it should remain in your room.
- Do not bring cooking appliances to use in a Hotel room or suite.
- The sale of food or any other items are prohibited at the Hotel.
- Use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during the Convention.
- Participants are for *No Reason* to be in the rooms of other participants of the opposite gender unless a parent or adult sponsor is present.
- If the ERLTC Board of Directors, Coordinators, Convention staff or the Hotel staff become aware of a participant disregarding any of these policies, that participant will be dismissed from any events that they are scheduled to participate in and all awards will be revoked.

Torch Bearer Guidelines

Purpose:

- A program designed to continue the spiritual growth of our young people once they finish high school.
- A program to harness the training that participants received and use it to help ERLTC grow.
- A program to continue training spiritual leaders for our future. An avenue to continue growing spiritually while gaining additional experience as leaders.
- To provide leadership through being a servant to others.
- To have fun and provide much needed assistance in keeping things running during the Convention.

Requirements:

- Must have participated in LTC during high school.
- Understands that their participation as a Torch Bearer will require active responsibilities before and during the Convention that are determined by the Board of Directors.
- Agrees to adhere to all rules as established and outlined by the Board of Directors.
- Must be willing to follow the directions given by their Board contact person and the Board Chairperson.
- Maintain proper ethical conduct as a designated Torch Bearer at the Convention (will receive a special t-shirt).
- Must be willing to sign the ERLTC Behavior Agreement.
- Must be willing to sign a written commitment to these guidelines.

Teen Board Guidelines

Purpose:

- To give our youth an avenue to share their voice to the ERLTC Board of Directors.
- To give our youth the opportunity to meet and create a bond with other youth from participating churches.
- To brainstorm ways to bring the youth of our Lord's church together more so to create stronger bonds and love for each other through understanding of spiritual differences.
- To learn to take more responsibility and act on it for their spiritual growth, and to develop relationships with other adult Christians so they will have some loving guidance.
- To grow in maturity; to understand that we should love others with gentle concern for their spiritual life.
- To desire to work together with our Christian brothers and sisters with understanding and flexibility according to each other's spiritual walk.

Requirements:

- Teen must be in the 11th or 12th grade.
- Each church participating in ERLTC may have two (2) teens (no gender restriction).
- Teens are chosen for the upcoming year's Convention immediately after the current year's Convention is completed.
- Teens are chosen by the Church Coordinator of each church currently participating in ERLTC. All exceptions may be decided by the Church Coordinator subject to the needs of their church group. All exceptions must be approved by the Board of Directors in advance.
- A teen will serve on the Teen Board for one year. A teen may serve more years if re-chosen by their church each year.
- A teen must be actively participating in ERLTC for their church during the current ERLTC year. They must participate at the Convention in at least one Individual Event (Bible Reading, Signing, Song Leading, Speech) plus one Group Event (Bible Bowl, Chorus, Drama, Puppets).
- Teens are encouraged to attend the Teen Board meeting before the Convention, as scheduled by the Board of Directors. While attending the Teen Board meeting is encouraged, it is not required; the Teen Board leadership is chosen at this meeting. Teens are required to attend all meetings at the Convention; starting on Friday morning of the Convention.
- A teen understands that their participation on the Teen Board will require active responsibilities before, during and after the Convention to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Teens will adhere to rules as established and outlined by the Board of Directors.
- Teens must be willing to follow the directions given by their Board contact person and the Board Chairperson.
- Teens must also be willing to sign a Commitment Form and a Behavior Agreement.

Evaluating Best Practices 2021

We have taken the approach to “Evaluate” not “Judge or Rate” the participants.

Every event in ERLTC requires adults to evaluate our young people on how each young person’s work meets the rules and criteria of that event.

We encourage the local churches to hold a meeting with your volunteers (evaluators) at your home church before the Convention and provide them with these Best Practices to follow.

These Best Practices will help you to evaluate and **NOT** judge the participants.

1. Review and become familiar with the event rules and the evaluation criteria before the Convention. Observe practice sessions of the event and see what is done and how participants are taught; this should increase your insight.
2. Evaluate each participant and/or team on their own merit. No participant and/or team is to be compared to another participant and/or team. Participants and/or teams do **NOT** compete against each other.
3. Evaluate each participant based on their grade level. The standards of performance will be different at each grade level. Be sure to take note of the grade level of each participant. Teams are evaluated at the highest grade participant.
4. Evaluate by trying to gauge the amount of effort that the participant has put into their work.
5. Encourage those that are obviously working very hard to do their best.
6. **ALWAYS** give positive and constructive feedback. Feedback should be given with written comments. Comments will help the participant have a direction on how to improve for next time.
7. Encourage rather than Discourage. Try not to give feedback in a harsh manner that would be negative and cause discouragement. We are training our young people, so be positive in a constructive and encouraging way.

Challenge Events

Challenge Events are designed to encourage a lifestyle of study, service, and leadership. Throughout the year, participants are encouraged to spend time in God's Word, in service to others, and in teaching others. These events are conducted and completed at the local church by the deadline date established.

These events are to be completed by March 1st.

Participant should follow the rules of the event.

Church Coordinator should:

- Register the participant on the ERLTC registration website.
- Help the participant follow the rules of the event.
- Evaluate the participant or find volunteers to perform the evaluation.
- Record the awards using the Online Awards reporting on the Registration website.

When evaluating the participant, make every effort to:

- Keep the standards high.
- Make certain the participant actually performed the work required with minimal adult supervision.
- Remember that these are supposed to be "challenges" and not "gimmies."

Challenge Events are:

- Audio / Video
- Bulletin Board / Class Room Door
- Daily Devotional
- Leadership
- Platinum
- Reading
- Scripture
- Service
- Signing for the Deaf
- Teaching
- T-Shirt Design

Audio and Visual Assistance Challenge

Purpose: To encourage young people to develop the skills needed to run the audio and visual equipment used during a worship service.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator must submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. Participants will participate as an observer, a helper, an assistance.
3. As an observer the participant must watch and learn what is to be expected of them.
4. As a helper the participant will aid the technician in performing some tasks before, during, and after a worship service.
5. As an assistance the participant will take the lead on certain parts of the audio and visual program and work closely along with the technician.
6. Participants are encouraged to complete these tasks within consecutive weeks. Any deviations must be discussed with the Church Coordinator.

Awards:

3rd-7th grades

- Gold = 1 worship service as an observer, plus 2 worship services as a helper, plus 1 worship service as an assistance – total of 4 weeks
- Silver = 1 worship service as an observer, plus 3 worship services as a helper – total of 4 weeks
- Bronze = 2 worship services as an observer plus 2 worship services as a helper – total of 4 weeks

8th-12th grades

- Gold = 1 worship service as an observer, plus 2 worship services as a helper and 2 worship services as an assistance - total of 5 weeks
- Silver = 2 worship services as an observer, plus 2 worship services as a helper, plus 1 worship service as an assistance – total of 5 weeks
- Bronze = 2 worship services as an observer, plus 3 worship services as a helper - total of 5 weeks

Bulletin Board or Classroom Door Challenge

Purpose: To develop the ability to use creative ideas and techniques to communicate a thought or theme from the Bible.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.

Rules:

1. Bulletin Board and Classroom Door decorations can be about anything from the Bible.
2. The event can be an individual or a team event and is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
3. A maximum of four (4) participants are allowed per team.
4. The participant may decorate a Bulletin Board and/or a Classroom Door.
5. The Bulletin Board and/or Classroom Door must be displayed in a classroom or other public area at the church building.
6. Adult assistance should be limited to that of advice and supervision. Actual work should be done by the participant only.
7. The 3rd-7th grade participants may assist a teacher or ministry leader and the idea does not need to be the idea or creation of the participant.
8. For the 8th-12th grade participants, the idea or creation must be that of the participant.

Awards:

- Gold – Three (3) Bulletin Boards and/or Classroom Doors completed.
- Silver – Two (2) Bulletin Boards and/or Classroom Doors completed.
- Bronze – One (1) Bulletin Board or Classroom Door completed.

Daily Devotional Challenge

Purpose: To promote and encourage the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer as part of our relationship with God.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.
- The Church Coordinator will verify the use of the Prayer Journal at least one time during every month of the participant's pre-approved plan.
- Note that the Prayer Journal is a private part of the relationship that is being developed and should be respected as such.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. The participant must read the Bible plus keep a Prayer Journal by following a set plan.
3. The set plan chosen by the participant must be pre-approved by the Church Coordinator. Suggested plans are provided below.
4. The participant will maintain a Journal keeping a list of things prayed about. Be sure to record the date on the pages of the Prayer Journal. A blank journal can be one purchased or can be in a notebook form.
5. Participant will read a Bible scripture for a specified time according to the plan chosen.
6. Participant will record in the Prayer Journal what Bible text was read.

Awards:

- Plan 1: 3rd-12th grades

Read 15 minutes per day

- Gold – 60 days in 70 total days
- Silver – 45 days in 55 total days
- Bronze – 30 days in 40 total days

- Plan 2: 3rd-12th grades

Read 15 minutes per day

- Gold – 5 days a week for 3 consecutive months
- Silver – 4 days a week for 3 consecutive months
- Bronze – 3 days a week for 3 consecutive months

- Plan 3: Additional plans may be developed and pre-approved by the Church Coordinator.

Leadership Challenge

Purpose: To promote the leadership of older participants in the training of younger participants and to encourage the continued growth and participation of leaders.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.
- Completion of all requirements may carry over the Challenge Event deadline, but must be completed by time of the Convention. Submission of the award using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process will still need to be completed by the deadline.
- The Church Coordinator will be responsible for verifying completion of this event.

Rules:

1. This event is open to the 8th-12th grade participants.
2. The participant shall lead a group of participants in the 3rd-7th grades in their training for ERLTC events.
3. The participant will coach or co-coach one (1) team event or three (3) individuals preparing for an individual event.
4. The participant may work with an adult, but must take a major leadership role in the training.
5. No more than two participants may work together with one team.
6. The Church Coordinator may further define these requirements for their local church.
7. The participant will work under the guidance of the Church Coordinator who will certify completion of this event.

Awards:

- Gold – Six (6) sessions with participants.
- Silver – Four (4) sessions with participants.
- Bronze – Two (2) sessions with participants.

Platinum Challenge

Purpose: To promote the leadership and servant-hood of older participants who have continued to excel in demonstration of various talents and gifts.

Process:

- Must be reported by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator must submit a detailed log to the Challenge Event Coordinator that lists and explains what the participant did for this Challenge. The Challenge Log Sheet in the Forms Section of this manual can be used as a log.
- Completion of all requirements may carry over the Challenge Event deadline, but must be completed by time of the Convention. The Church Coordinator will be responsible for verifying completion of this event.
- The Church Coordinator will need to report to the Challenge Event Coordinator if the participant wishes to be an evaluator at the Convention.

Rules:

1. This event is open to the 11th-12th grade participants.
2. The participant has been awarded Gold status for at least 3 out of the last 4 years prior to 11th or 12th grade in an individual event. The participant shall lead another participant or a group of participants throughout the convention year in an ERLTC event.
3. The participant must meet with the participant(s) for a minimum of 8 sessions or work with the participant(s) for the entire preparation time prior to Convention.
4. The participant must take a major leadership role in the training but should have an adult overseer. No more than two participants may work together with one team group event.
5. The participant must serve in their community in at least 1 area (such as, but not limited to, Scout Leadership, Volunteer Leadership, Community Clean up, Meal Kitchen, Peer Tutoring, etc.) for a minimum of 5 times throughout the Convention year.
6. The Church Coordinator will certify completion of this event. The Church Coordinator may further define these requirements for their local church.
7. Completion of this event qualifies the participant to be an Evaluator at the Convention. The Church Coordinator will need to notify the Challenge Event Coordinator if the participant wishes to be an evaluator.

Award:

- The participant will receive a special Platinum award for this challenge.

Reading Challenge

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for young people to develop skills through the oral reading of the Scripture.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. The participant may choose a Scripture reading from the Old or the New Testament.
3. The Scripture reading chosen should be from a standard translation of the Bible, no paraphrases.
4. The participant should not attempt to explain or interpret the passages, but should place major emphasis on the actual Scripture reading chosen.
5. A brief introduction of 20 seconds or less is required.
6. The introduction includes: (a) participant's name; (b) what Scripture reading; (c) the translation of the Scripture; and (d) why chose this Scripture.
7. The Scripture reading must be at least 2.0 minutes in length.

Awards:

- Gold = 2 Scripture readings to 5 or more people, plus 1 reading to 15 or more people, plus 1 reading to 30 or more people.
- Silver = 2 Scripture readings to 5 or more people, plus 1 reading to 15 or more people.
- Bronze = 2 Scripture readings to 5 or more people.

Scripture Challenge

Purpose: To promote and encourage the habit of memorizing Scripture to help put God's word in our hearts.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.
- The Church Coordinator will specify one or more adults to listen to the participant and verify his or her accomplishments.
- The adult specified may not be related to the participant.
- The adult may provide help as appropriate. "Help" is defined as a word or two said to the participant when they are stuck reciting.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. The 3rd-7th grade participants are to memorize a maximum of 50 verses of Scripture.
3. The 8th-12th grade participants are to memorize a maximum of 100 verses of Scripture.
4. The participant may select the Scriptures to memorize; however, they must be pre-approved by the Church Coordinator.
5. The participant may choose Scriptures from the Old and/or the New Testament.
6. The Scriptures chosen should be from a standard translation of the Bible, no paraphrases.
7. Memory work shall be quoted verbatim (within reason) of the chosen Scriptures. Adult "help" may be provided as appropriate. "Help" is defined as a word or two said when stuck while reciting.
8. The participant may use a list of Scriptures during the sittings, but may have no other notes.

Awards:

- 3rd-7th grades
 - Gold = 50 total verses at 2 different sittings
 - Silver = 30 total verses at 2 different sittings
 - Bronze = 20 total verses at 2 different sittings
- 8th-12th grades
 - Gold = 100 total verses at 2 different sittings
 - Silver = 50 total verses at 2 different sittings
 - Bronze = 25 total verses at 2 different sittings

Service Challenge

Purpose: To encourage students to make Christian service an integral part of their lives by promoting creative thinking in coming up with ways to serve our God and the community.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- Completion of all requirements may carry over the Challenge Event deadline, but must be completed by time of the Convention.
- The Church Coordinator will be responsible for verifying completion of this event.

Rules:

1. This event can be an individual or a team event and is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. The participant(s) may choose from the list of suggested service projects or may create new ones.
3. Pre-approval by the Church Coordinator is required for any projects added to the suggested lists. The Church Coordinator may further define these requirements for their local church.
4. A major project such as a mission trip, VBS, work camp, etc., can count as a maximum of two projects, but must cover at least three separate days.
5. Any project should: (a) meet the needs of individuals; or (b) assist the immediate family outside of normal responsibilities; or (c) build up the church; or (d) improve the community.

Awards:

- 3rd-7th grades
 - Gold = 10 projects
 - Silver = 8 projects
 - Bronze = 6 projects
- 8th-12th grades
 - Gold = 12 projects
 - Silver = 10 projects
 - Bronze = 8 projects

Service Challenge Suggestions

Suggested Service Projects for 3rd-7th grade participants:

- Arrive early and set up for a church event that is not related to the children's or youth ministries.
- Bring 3 different friends to visit at church services.
- Contact a Children's Home and arrange to be a pen pal for one of the children (send at least 6 letters during a 3-month period).
- Donate 2 hours helping a Bible Class teacher prepare class materials or other church projects.
- Help a neighbor wash their car from beginning to end.
- Help serve in a food kitchen with adults you know.
- Help with the never-ending fight against litter and weeds at a cemetery in your community.
- Rake leaves, mow yards, shovel snow, pull weeds, or wash dishes for a neighbor or shut in.
- Read a book of the New Testament on tape to be given to a person who has difficulty reading.
- Sing with a group (youth and/or adult) at a nursing home at least 2 times.
- Spend 1 hour picking up trash somewhere in the community.
- Spend 2 hours helping clean the church building.
- Take out kitchen trash from the church building 10 times.
- Visit the elderly in a nursing home with an adult.
- Work on a recycling project for at least 1 month and donate the money to a non-profit organization.
- Write 3 letters to missionaries encouraging them in their work.
- Write 5 notes of encouragement to shut-ins, sick, elderly, etc.
- Write and mail 3 holiday cards to children at a children's home.

Suggested Service Projects for 8th-12th grade participants:

- Baby-sit free of charge for a total of 10 hours (not your own family).
- Bring 5 different friends to visit at church services.
- Contact another church and arrange a pen pal with someone from that youth group (send 6 letters in 4-month period).
- Help prepare and cleanup communion trays for 4 weeks.
- Locate a needy family and put together and deliver a "care package" of food, toys, etc.
- Make a bedroll for a homeless person.
- Make a quilt to be given to a child in a Children's Home.
- Make receiving blankets and diaper shirts for a hospital mission.
- Participate in a youth group "work camp."
- Rake leaves, mow yards, shovel snow, pull weeds, or wash dishes for 3 neighbors or shut ins.
- Sing with a group (youth and/or adult) at a nursing home at least 4 times.
- Spend 3 hours picking up trash somewhere in the community.
- Visit a local nursing home and read devotional literature or the Bible to the residents.
- Volunteer 10 hours to help church staff (i.e., maintenance, secretaries, or ministers).
- Volunteer to either pick up groceries for an elderly person or take him/her shopping with you.
- Volunteer to work an hour a week for one month in the church library or workroom.
- Work on a recycling program for 2 months and donate the money to a non-profit organization.
- Write 10 notes of encouragement to shut ins, sick, elderly, etc.
- Write 5 letters to missionaries encouraging them in their work.
- Write 5 notes of appreciation to Bible class teachers who have made a difference in your life.

Signing for the Deaf Challenge

Purpose: To develop the ability to interpret for the deaf/hard of hearing, as well as provide services to the deaf/hard of hearing to glorify God and his church.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator will submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.
- The Church Coordinator will specify one or more adults to listen to the participant and verify his or her accomplishments.
- The adult specified may not be related to the participant.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. No signs or coaching instructions can be given to the participant while performing.
3. Use: ASL Signing
4. Participant will start at the Bronze level and advance to the Silver, and then to the Gold.
5. Once the participant has reached the Gold status, they can enter the Conversational Signing for the Deaf Event at the Convention. This can be done in the same Convention year.

Award: Bronze Event Rules:

- Finger spell your name and song selection.
- Sign any song of your choice - 2 stanzas.
- Sign "Thank You."
- Once you have reached Bronze status you must move to next level of signing.

Award: Silver Event Rules:

- Finger spell your name and song selection.
- Sign any song of your choice - 2 stanzas.
- Sign one (1) verse from any scripture chosen from the current ERLTC theme.
- Sign: "Thank You."
- Once you have reached Silver status you must move to next level of signing.

Award: Gold Event Rules:

- Finger spell your name.
- Sign "Good Morning."
- Sign any song of your choice – 2 stanzas.
- Sign three (3) verses from any scripture chosen from the current ERLTC theme.
- Sign "Thank You."
- Once you have reached Gold status you must move to Convention level signing.

Teaching Challenge

Purpose: To encourage young people to develop creative teaching skills.

Process:

- Must be completed by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Church Coordinator must submit awards using the Online Challenge Awards reporting process.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. The participant should be at least 3 years older than the class he or she is teaching.
3. Participants will participate as a Helper, a Helper/Teacher, and as a Teacher.
4. As a Helper, the participant must aid the teacher in preparing for the class. This would include things such as cutting out handwork, coloring and preparing visual aids, preparing artwork, etc.
5. As a Helper/Teacher, the participant must aid the teacher in preparing for the class and teach a small portion of the class such as the Bible lesson or the application story, etc.
6. As a Teacher, the participant would be responsible for preparing for the class and teaching the whole class time.
7. Participants should complete these tasks with the same class. Participants are encouraged to complete these tasks within consecutive weeks. Any deviations must be discussed with the Church Coordinator.

Awards:

3rd-7th grades

- Gold = 2 class periods as a Helper, plus 2 class periods as a Helper/Teacher for a total of 4 weeks.
- Silver = 2 class periods as a Helper, plus 1 class period as a Helper/Teacher for a total of 3 weeks.
- Bronze = 1 class period as a Helper, plus 1 class period as a Helper/Teacher for a total of 2 weeks.

8th-12th grades

- Gold = 1 class period as a Helper, plus 2 class periods as a Helper/Teacher, plus 1 class period as a Teacher for a total of 4 weeks.
- Silver = 1 class period as a Helper, plus 2 class periods as a Helper/Teacher for a total of 3 weeks.
- Bronze = 1 class period as a Helper, plus 1 class period as a Helper/Teacher for a total of 2 weeks.

T-Shirt Design Challenge

Purpose: To encourage communication of faith and beliefs through artistic media.

Process:

- Must be completed and submitted to the ERLTC Board Chairman by the T-Shirt Design deadline of **January 15th**.
- Participant(s) first and last name, grade and church name should be indicated on the **BACK** of the entry.
- The Church Coordinator must indicate the participants that have entered a T-shirt design into the Registration website. However, the Board will enter the award that the participant receives via the Registration website.

Rules:

1. This is an individual or small team event that is open to 3rd-12th grade participants.
2. 3 participants max may work on a design together.
3. The design must reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
4. The design must be an original creation of the participant with no adult assistance. Adult supervision only.
5. The design should be made with the intention of being on the back and/or front pocket area of a T-Shirt.
6. Dimensions of the image must fit on 8.5"x11" paper. Smaller sizes are permissible.
7. Design of the T-Shirt should be in black and white. Color schemes may be suggested and listed on a separate sheet of paper or on the back of the entry.
8. Designs may **NOT** be created with the use of graphic design/art programs/clip art. Should be the original design/idea of the participant(s).
9. Photographs may NOT be used.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The design reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
- The design shows that time was taken in its development.
- The design follows the listed formatting rules.
- The design shows use of creativity.

Awards: Awards for Convention T-Shirt Design entries will be based as:

- Gold = any of the designed entry is included in the T-Shirt Design chosen
- Silver = none of the designed entry is included in the T-Shirt Design chosen

Pre-Convention Events

Pre-Conventions Events are designed to explore the various talents of the participants. These are projects done throughout the year before the Convention.

These events are to be completed by March 1st.

Participant should follow the rules of the event.

Church Coordinator should:

- Register the participants on the ERLTC registration website.
- Help the participants follow the rules of the events.
- Email the Pre-Convention Event Coordinator for their mailing address in order to submit any entries that need to be mailed.
- All Pre-Convention entries plus Submission Form for each entry, postmarked or emailed by the deadline of March 1st to the Pre-Convention Event Coordinator.
- Will ensure that entries are picked up at the end of the Convention.

Pre-Convention Event Coordinators should:

- Have each entry evaluated by at least 2 evaluators.
- Bring completed and evaluated work to the Convention for display as applicable.
- Evaluation forms should be completed and given to the Awards Coordinator at the Convention.

Pre-Convention Events are:

- Children's Book
- Christian Essay
- Christian Fiction
- Commercial Clip
- Communion Meditation
- Poetry
- Power Point
- Presentation of a Power Point
- Song Writing
- Video Drama
- Web Page

Rules for all Pre-Convention Events

In a team event a participant may move up to an older level, but an older participant may not move down to a younger level. Each team in each event will participate and be evaluated at the grade level

of the highest grade member.

Children's Book

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose: To encourage the use of creative writing and drawing by making a Children's Book that conveys a Christian message.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant(s) online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will mail the completed work plus a completed Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Children's Book Event Coordinator. The entry must be postmarked by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. Write and illustrate a children's story that reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner using a form of fiction or non-fiction.
2. This is an individual or a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
3. A team can be 1 or 2 participants for this event. Only one entry may be submitted. The entry will be evaluated at the grade level of the highest grade team member.
4. Adult assistance should be mainly verbal. Adults may discuss the theme and its possible applications and make verbal suggestions on content and style. Adults may also note editorial corrections on the participant's written work.
5. The entry MUST have a taped 3x5 inch information card on the back or underside of the book entry, typed or handwritten neatly. Information on the card must include: a) participant's name(s); b) grade level(s); and c) church name.
6. The story must be submitted in book form (bound with staples, thread, glue, etc.) Handwritten work is admissible if legible and neatly presented.
7. The story may be written in any form of fiction or non-fiction (e.g. mystery, action, humor, fable, etc.) so long as it reflects the current ERLTC theme. The theme may be reflected anywhere in the story, climax or conclusion, so long as it is clearly and accurately taught or presented.
8. The story must use correct grammar (including spelling) and proper punctuation. It should also include elements appropriate for fiction or non-fiction, such as plot and character development.
9. The story must be illustrated by drawings, cartoons, photographs, paintings, or computer-generated graphics. All illustrations must be original work and connect with the story told. Adherence to copyright laws must be observed.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant(s) either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The story reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner and is written in a form of fiction or non-fiction.*
- *Grammar & Punctuation: The entry uses correct grammar, spelling, and proper punctuation.*
- *Readability: The story flows easily and has a logical sequence with clear transitions; well organized.*
- *Illustrations: Illustrations are neatly designed, appear to be original works, and connect with the story told. Adherence to copyright laws were observed.*
- *Format & Submission: Story was submitted in a book form. Any handwritten work was legible and neatly presented. The Information card was included.*
- *Storyline: The storyline is original and well developed. The characters and plot are interesting and hold the reader's attention.*

Christian Essay **A Pre-Convention Event**

Purpose: To develop written communication skills to express biblical thoughts and ideas.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant online.
- The Church Coordinator will mail or email the completed work plus the completed Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Pre-Convention Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be postmarked or emailed by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd –12th grade participants.
2. Write an essay which reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner and include at least one Scripture reference.
3. Only one essay per participant will be accepted.
4. The essay should have a title and be 250 to 500 words.
5. The essay should be typed and double spaced. For students sixth grade and younger, handwritten work is admissible. It must be, in the minds of the evaluators, legible and neatly presented.
6. The essay should have:
 - A thesis statement in the introduction of the essay (declares what you believe and what you intend to prove); a thesis statement typically at the end of the opening paragraph
 - At least 3 – 5 supporting points in the body of the essay
 - A conclusion to reinforce the thesis statement
7. Adult assistance shall be essentially verbal. Adults may discuss the theme and make verbal suggestions on content and structure.
8. Participant will include his/her name, grade level, number of words and congregation name of the document.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The essay clearly and accurately reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Thesis Statement: The thesis statement clearly states the author’s beliefs and intentions of the essay.*
- *Supporting Points: The supporting points are clearly stated in the body of the essay.*
- *Use of Scripture: The scripture reference(s) are used to support the thesis, including an accurate quotation and use of biblical passages.*
- *Creativity: The essay will be evaluated on the blend of the author’s creativity with the theme and the ability to hold the reader’s interest.*
- *Spelling: The essay holds proper use of the English language, word usage and spelling.*
- *Grammar: The essay contains proper grammar and punctuation.*
- *Readability: The essay will be evaluated on the correct use of paragraphs, pagination, the absence of typographical errors and structure as an essay.*
- *Conclusion: The essay should be closed by a conclusion that reinstates the thesis and is sustained by the previous material.*

Christian Fiction **A Pre-Convention Event**

Purpose: To encourage those who enjoy creative writing to develop their skills in a Christian arena.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant online.
- The Church Coordinator will mail or email the completed work plus the completed Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Pre-Convention Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be postmarked or emailed by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd –12th grade participants.
2. Write a story in any form of fiction (e.g. mystery, action, humor, fable, etc.).
3. The story should reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner. The theme may be reflected anywhere in the story, climax or conclusion, so long as it is clearly and accurately presented.
4. The story should include elements appropriate for fiction, such as plot and character development.
5. The story should be typed and two to seven pages in length.
6. The story should have a title, correct grammar and proper punctuation.
7. Only one story per participant will be accepted.
8. Adult assistance shall be essentially verbal. Adults may discuss the theme, make verbal suggestions on content and style, and note editorial corrections on the participant's written work.
9. Participant will include his/her name, grade level and congregation name on the document.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The story clearly and accurately reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Grammar & Spelling: The story has correct grammar, spelling, punctuation and sentence structure.*
- *Readability: The plot of the story flows easily and keeps the reader's attention. The author uses appropriate elements for fiction, such as a plot and character development.*
- *Creativity: The story should shows a unique or unusual expression of ideas, plot, and/or form.*
- *Format: The writing follows the guidelines as listed in the ERLTC manual.*

Commercial Clip

ERLTC Manual 2021

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose: To create an uplifting or spiritually thoughtful video short clip that centers around the current ERLTC theme.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator will be sure to register the participant(s) online as a team. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will mail the Commercial Clip plus the Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Commercial Clip Event Coordinator. The entry must be postmarked by the deadline date of March 1st.
- Participating groups may submit more than one entry. Separate videos, documentation, and submission forms for each commercial clip should be submitted.

Rules:

1. This is a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. The commercial clip may include participants from different grades; however, evaluation will be at the level of the highest grade participant.
3. All actors and narrators must be ERLTC participants.
4. Create a short script which reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner. Then, provide costumes, props, and actors that are ERLTC participants. Videotape the commercial clip and edit the video (optional).
5. Like a television commercial, the commercial clip should be short, telling the story as compact as possible. It can be amusing or thoughtful.
6. Length of the commercial clip should be no less than one (1) minute minimum and two (2) minutes maximum. Commercial clips that do not meet the time limit will be penalized.
7. Submissions are to be DVD format. Each DVD should be labeled with the following documentation: (a) year and theme; (b) church name; and (c) team name.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participants either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The commercial clip clearly reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Continuity: The storyline and dialogue flowed smoothly from one time to the next.*
- *Characters: The speaking and interaction between characters is smooth and natural. Interaction uses good facial expressions, gestures, enunciation, movements, and reactions as appropriate for the story.*
- *Costumes & Set Design: The costumes and set design are appropriate and add to the commercial clip to make it believable.*
- *Clarity of Picture: Characters and action are clearly discernible, not fuzzy or indistinctive. Transition between scenes or takes is smooth.*
- *Clarity of Sound: The actors, the sound effects, and the music are understandable and clearly heard.*
- *Time Limit: The length of the commercial clip is no less than 1 minute minimum and no more than 2 minutes maximum.*
- *Format & Submission: The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual for the required formatting and submission.*

All materials including scripts and video recordings that are submitted, become the property of ERLTC. It is understood that ERLTC reserves the right to use these materials for promotion, instruction or in any manner deemed appropriate by the ERLTC Board of Directors.

Communion Meditation **A Pre-Convention Event**

Purpose: To develop the ability to express comprehension of the significance of the weekly memorial of Christ's death and written as if giving a talk in preparation of the Lord's Supper.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant online.
- The Church Coordinator will mail (3 copies) or email the completed work plus the completed Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Pre-Convention Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be postmarked or emailed by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd –12th grade participants.
2. Write a meditation essay for preparation of the Lord's Supper.
3. The essay should reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
4. The essay should include Scripture references.
5. The meditation essay shall be typed and between 150-250 words (3rd – 7th grades) and 250-325 words (8th – 12th grades).
6. The essay shall have a least 3 parts:
 - An introductory statement
 - A developed message that mentions the death of Christ, the bread which represents His body and the fruit of the vine which represents His blood
 - A conclusion
7. All copyright laws should be observed with appropriate credit given to the copyright author.
8. Adult assistance shall be essentially verbal. Adults may give suggestions on content and structure.
9. Participant will include his/her name, grade level, number of words and congregation name on the document.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The meditation essay clearly and accurately reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Scripture: The meditation essay includes Scripture and Scripture references, which support the main idea.*
- *Structure: The essay includes an introduction, developed message to include the death of Christ, references to the bread and fruit of the vine and a conclusion.*
- *Effectiveness: The meditation essay reflects the participant's understanding of the significance of the memorial of Christ's death.*
- *Creativity: The essay shows unique thoughts about the memorial of Christ's death.*
- *Format & Submission: The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual for the required formatting and submission.*

Poetry **A Pre-Convention Event**

Purpose: To develop the ability to express spiritual feelings and thoughts in the form of poetry and verse.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant online.
- The Church Coordinator will mail or email the completed work plus the completed Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Poetry Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be postmarked or emailed by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Write a poem whose content reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
3. Only one poem per participant will be accepted.
4. If the entry is mailed to the Poetry Event Coordinator, it MUST have a taped 3x5 inch card on the back or underside of the entry; either typed or handwritten neatly. Information on the card must include: a) participant's name, b) grade level, and c) church name.
5. Adult assistance shall be essentially verbal. Adults may discuss the theme and possible poetic applications, make verbal suggestions on content and style, and note editorial corrections on the participant's written work.
6. The poem may be written in any meter or rhythm. It does not have to rhyme. Poems that do rhyme can adhere to any rhyme scheme.
7. Poems must start with a title line.
8. Each poem may be typewritten or handwritten in a legible manner. Do not use fancy fonts. Each poem shall not exceed one page.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The poem clearly and accurately reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Structure: Writing of the poem is in a proper rhyme scheme, or in a meter scheme, or in a non-rhyming scheme that achieves a poetic effect.*
- *Readability: The poem holds the reader's attention throughout the entire writing. There is an appropriate use of “poetic license” for desired effect and easy flow.*
- *Creativity: The poem shows a unique or unusual expression of ideas, plot, and/or form.*
- *Format & Submission: The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual for the required formatting and submission.*
- *Effectiveness: The combination of the plot, form, words, style and meaning contributes to holding the reader's interest from beginning to end.*
- *Organization: The poem is well organized. The poetry style chosen is appropriate for the subject.*

Power Point

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose: To give young people the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their creative and technical talents.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant(s) on the Registration website. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Power Point entry plus a completed Pre-Convention Event Form for each entry to the Power Point Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be emailed by the deadline date of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual or a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. The maximum on a team are two (2) participants. Only one entry may be submitted. The team entry will be evaluated at the grade level of the highest grade team member.
3. Develop a presentation of a devotional thought that reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner. The presentation should be suitable for use in a church related setting. The presentation must glorify God.
4. All copyright laws should be observed (text and graphics) with appropriate credit given to the copyright author.
5. Adult assistance should be limited to that of technical advice and supervision only. The presentation should be the work of the participant(s).
6. The presentation must be done using Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 or better.
7. The presentation should be self-explanatory. Additional descriptions of the pictures and wording can be expressed in a short narrative in the notes section of the Power Point slide.
8. The slides and all features within a slide should advance automatically. The maximum time for the presentation is 7 minutes.
9. The presentation must be not less than 10 slides nor more than 30 slides.
10. The first slide must include the participant's name, grade, church name, and a title for the presentation.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The viewer's understanding of the current ERLTC theme and its impact on people's lives is reflected in some manner.*
- *Glorifying God: The presentation must glorify God.*
- *Creativity: The fonts, colors, graphics, sounds and animations are used in creative, tasteful, and aesthetically pleasing ways.*
- *Neatness/Legibility: The slides are not "cluttered," but display a well-organized, informative presentation of the material.*
- *Description of Events: The presentation is self-explanatory or the descriptions using the notes section, are succinct; are informative.*
- *Format & Submission: The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual for the required formatting and submission.*
- *Time Limit: The maximum time for the presentation is 7 minutes in length.*

All materials including scripts and video recordings that are submitted, become the property of ERLTC. It is understood that ERLTC reserves the right to use these materials for promotion, instruction or in any manner deemed appropriate by the ERLTC Board of Directors.

Presentation of a Power Point

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose:

- To give young people the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their creative and technical talents.
- To develop verbal communication talents and public speaking skills as they relate to Biblical principles.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator will email a video of the participant presenting their Power Point Presentation, the power point slides, and a completed Pre-Convention Event Form for each entry to the Presentation of a Power Point Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be emailed by the deadline date of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Develop a presentation of a devotional thought that reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner. The presentation should be suitable for use in a church related setting. The presentation must glorify God.
3. If a participant has a team entry in the Power Point Pre-Convention Event, he/she may use their slides for this presentation. Each team member may use the same slides for this event, provided that the overall message of the oral presentation represents original work.
4. All slides must follow the guidelines for the Power Point Pre-Convention Event.
5. Adult assistance should be limited to that of technical advice and supervision only. The presentation should be the work of the participant.
6. The content of the ORAL presentation should consist of supportive material and be an addition to the slides. Not read directly from the slides. (notes maybe used and are encouraged)
7. The slides and all features within a slide should advance appropriately with the ORAL presentation. Either by automation or by the participant.
8. Presentations shall be 2.5 to 4 minutes in length for the 3rd-7th grades and 3 to 5 minutes in length for the 8th-12th grades. Presentations that do not adhere to the time limits will be penalized during evaluation.
9. The first slide must include the participant's name, grade, church name, and a title for the presentation. These items must be stated ORALLY at the beginning of the presentation.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The viewer's understanding of the current ERLTC theme and its impact on people's lives is reflected in some manner.*
- *Creativity and Neatness: The fonts, colors, graphics, sounds and animations are used in creative, tasteful, and aesthetically pleasing ways. The slides are not "cluttered," but display a well-organized, informative presentation of the material.*
- *Content of Oral Presentation: The content consists of supporting materials. (e.g., verses, stories, facts, examples, illustrations, etc.).*
- *Language: The speaker uses good grammar, descriptive words, word pictures, similes, metaphors, and/or other colorful techniques to bring out the message.*
- *Delivery: The speech flows naturally and continuously without being read. The speaker shows a balance in voice tone, volume, and speed throughout the speech.*
- *Personality & Attitude: The speaker shows their personality and attitude through the words used, the smile on their face, the sincerity in their eyes, the tone of their voice, and the eye contact with the audience.*
- *Time Limit: 2.5 to 4 mins in length for the 3rd-7th grades & 3 to 5 mins in length for the 8th-12th grades.*

Song Writing

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose: To develop the ability to express spiritual thoughts and feelings in the form of song.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant(s) online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will mail a copy of the completed work plus the completed Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Song Writing Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be postmarked by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual or a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. More than one person may work on a composition, but the song will be evaluated in the division of the oldest participant. All writers of both words and music must be ERLTC participants.
3. Write an original a-cappella composition where the content reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
4. Write an original melody and original lyrics. Do not write words "to be sung to the tune of" an existing melody. No awards will be given for lyrics only. You may, instead of writing original lyrics, set a scripture text to music, in which case, you must note that fact on your title page.
5. Harmony is not required, although proper harmonic chords may enhance the composition. Two-part harmony is at least encouraged in the older grade levels. A composition will not be penalized for being melody only. Improper harmonic chords may result in lower ratings.
6. When you have finished your composition, sing your song in someone else's hearing to be sure it is as "sing-able" as you think it is. Then try teaching it to someone.
7. Submit your entry on paper that is 8-1/2" x 11" along with the song on a CD. It is acceptable to do the scoring by hand or by using computer software. If you do not use preprinted staff paper, take extra care to make your work neat and readable.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant(s) either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The entry reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Structure: The entry is consistent in style, balanced phrases, and flow. Rhythmic patterns of lyrics and music match.*
- *Lyrics: The lyrics have aesthetic value that fits to the melody, with the syllables stressed on the right beat of the melody.*
- *Melody/Music: The entry has a comfortable range of high to low (if parts, each range appropriate); leaves a "pleasing to the ear" affect.*
- *Originality: The melody/music of the entry is original.*
- *Format & Submission: The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual for the required formatting and submission.*
- *Sing-Ability: The entry has a natural melodic pattern and harmonization.*

Video Drama

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose: To dramatize on video, a Biblical story which illustrates the current ERLTC theme.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participants online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will mail the Video Drama plus the Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Video Drama Event Coordinator. The entry must be postmarked by the deadline date of March 1st.
- Participating groups may submit more than one entry. Separate videos, documentation, and submission forms for each video should be submitted.

Rules:

1. This is a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. All actors and narrators must be ERLTC participants. The video drama may include participants from different grades; however, evaluation will be at the level of the highest grade participant.
3. Create the script based on scripture to deliver a spiritual message. Provide costumes, props, and actors.
4. The video drama may incorporate a dramatization of a Bible story that reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner. It may include a modern-day application, if desired.
5. Videotape and edit the video. Length of the video drama is no less than 2.5 minutes minimum and no more than 10 minutes maximum. Video dramas that do not meet the time limit will be penalized.
6. Submissions are to be DVD format. Each DVD should be labeled with (a) year and theme; (b) church name; and (c) the team name.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participants either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The entry clearly reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Continuity: The storyline and dialogue flows smoothly from one time to the next.*
- *Delivery & Poise: The speaking and interaction between characters is smooth and natural. Movements and reactions of the characters are appropriate for the story and gives the appearance of being “real”.*
- *Costumes & Set Design: The costumes and set design are appropriate for the story and add to the video drama to make it believable.*
- *Clarity of Picture: Characters and action are clearly discernable, not fuzzy or indistinctive. Transition between scenes or takes is smooth.*
- *Clarity of Sound: The actors, the sound effects, and the music are understandable and clearly heard.*
- *Special Effects: Lighting, and/or camera angles, and/or editing, and/or other different approaches enhance the video drama.*
- *Time Limit: The length of the video drama is no less than 2.5 minutes and no more than the 10 minutes maximum.*

All materials including scripts and video recordings that are submitted, become the property of ERLTC. It is understood that ERLTC reserves the right to use these materials for promotion, instruction or in any manner deemed appropriate by the ERLTC Board of Directors.

Web Page

A Pre-Convention Event

Purpose: To develop creative and technical talents by the creation of a Website on the internet.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register the participant online.
- The Church Coordinator will email the entry plus the Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Web Page Event Coordinator.
- The entry must be emailed by the deadline date of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Create a website on the internet. The website must reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
3. The website shall be of a format that is generally accessible to most users of the internet. Each site may consist of one or more pages with links from the website to the individual pages.
4. Websites may be linked, but the participant must specify exactly which URL's are to be evaluated.
5. Adult assistance shall be limited to advice and supervision. The website shall be the work of the participant only.
6. When submitting the entry, include the completed URL for the site with a list of pages or URL's within the site that are to be evaluated.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The entry clearly reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Glorifies God: The web page clearly glorifies God, first and foremost, through the text, the graphics, and the animations.*
- *Creativity: The web page displays original and/or interesting creativity with use of the text and/or graphics, and/or animations.*
- *Content: All content is accurate; appropriate copyright laws are observed; and proper credit is given to authors.*
- *Technical: The web page has no broken links or orphaned pages. Pages load quickly. The linked pages are consistent with the purpose of the web page.*
- *Appearance & Readability: Formatting (font styles, sizes, bullets, italics, bold, etc.) are consistent throughout or any variations enhance the content; making the web page easy to read.*
- *Format & Submission: The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual for the required formatting and submission.*

All materials including scripts and video recordings that are submitted, become the property of ERLTC. It is understood that ERLTC reserves the right to use these materials for promotion, instruction or in any manner deemed appropriate by the ERLTC Board of Directors.

Convention Events

Convention Events are rehearsed, prepared, and completed, prior to the Convention and performed and evaluated at the Convention.

These events are done at the Convention held on Easter weekend each year.

Participant should:

- Follow the rules of the event.
- Prepare and rehearse the event well in advance of the Convention.

Church Coordinator should:

- Register the participants on the ERLTC registration website.
- Help the participants follow the rules of the event.
- Obtain coaches for the participants as necessary to help them prepare for the event.
- Obtain volunteers willing to be evaluators at the Convention as required by the rules of each event.
- Complete final registration at the Convention for those participants that are participating in the Convention events.

Convention Events are:

- Art (Drawing, Graphic Poster, Greeting Card, Painting, Photography, Scrapbooking, Sculpture)
- Bible Bowl
- Bible Reading
- Chorus
- Conversational Signing
- Drama
- Puppets
- Song Leading
- Speech

Rules for all Convention Events

In a team event a participant may move up to an older level, but an older participant may not move down to a younger level. Each team in each event will participate and be evaluated at the grade level of the highest grade member.

A participant may be in only one individual or team event during a given time period.

Art

A Convention Event

Purpose: To communicate faith and beliefs through art.

Process:

- There are 7 different categories for Art: 1) Drawing; 2) Graphic/Poster Design; 3) Greeting Card; 4) Painting; 5) Photography; 6) Scrapbooking; and 7) Sculpture.
- The Church Coordinator will confirm that each child submits only one Christian Art entry per category (e.g., one drawing, one graphic poster design, one greeting card, one painting, one photography, one scrapbook, one sculpture).
- The Church Coordinator will register each entry on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator will deliver the entry to the Art registration table on Friday at the Convention during the scheduled registration time. Register each entry by the Art category and the grade level of the participant.
- Submit 1 evaluator for every 3 entries. If less than 3 still must submit 1 evaluator.

General Rules:

1. A participant may submit 1 Art piece in each of the 7 different categories of Art.
2. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd – 12th grade participants. Scrapbooking is a team event with a maximum of four (4) participants.
3. Art entries must reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
4. Adult assistance shall be limited to that of advice and supervision. Adults may assist freely in the framing of the Art.
5. The entry MUST have a taped 3x5 inch card on the back or underside of the Art entry, typed or handwritten neatly. Information on the card must include: a) participant's name; b) grade level; c) church name; d) caption quotation/scripture; and e) Art category.
6. The caption quotation should include 2 to 5 sentences explaining the participant's thoughts and connecting them directly to the entry, or a scripture reference that indicates the passage being interpreted by the entry.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Identification: The entry has proper identification that includes the: (1) participant's name, (2) grade level, (3) church name, (4) caption quotation/scripture, and (5) art category.*
- *Presentation: The entry has proper support presentation needed for display (base, easel, frame, brace, scripture reference, explanation) as outlined in the ERLTC manual.*
- *Size: The entry meets the required size parameters as outlined in the ERLTC manual.*
- *Interpretation of Theme: The participant's interpretation of the chosen scripture reference and/or explanation, clearly reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Art Elements: Uses elements of Art, which are the basic things seen. Elements such as line, shape, form, color (light/dark), texture (rough/smooth), and space (focus/periphery).*
- *Design Elements (Poster Only): Art shows a combination of design elements in a compelling way to communicate a message. Elements include type, photography, illustration, color, line, texture, shapes, etc.*
- *Design Principles: Shows a balance of the Art elements that includes the blending of colors and the materials used.*
- *Creativity: Shows original thought and/or imagination on ideas that are creative and inventive; as based on the age and grade level of the participant.*
- *Neat & Orderly: Art shows done with patience and in a neat and orderly manner.*

Art

A Convention Event

Drawing Rules:

1. The total size (drawing plus frame/matt board) shall not exceed 18x24 inches. Smaller entries are permissible. Frame and/or matt board are optional but not required.
2. Any/all matting and/or self-supporting frames are admissible. Drawings must be displayed upright.
3. All surfaces must be two dimensional: paper, illustrator's board, etc.; applied with crayons, color pencils, chalk, pastels, conte crayon, charcoal, scratch board, markers, etc.

Graphic Poster Design Rules:

1. Posters should be conceptual in nature using a combination of words and images to convey a biblical message.
2. Poster size shall not exceed 11x17 inches. Posters must be computer generated.
3. Poster must be mounted on black matt board with a border of 2 inches.
4. Poster must be original works of art created by the participant.
5. Adherence to copyright laws must be observed.

Greeting Card Rules:

1. Total size must meet the U.S. Postal mailing requirements for greeting cards.
2. Greeting card must be hand artwork and design. No computer-generated work is admissible. Clip-art may be used as paste-on additions. Adherence to copyright laws must be observed.
3. Expressions, poems, etc. may be included but must be either participant's original thoughts or a Biblical message.

Painting Rules:

1. The total size (painting plus frame/matt board) shall not exceed 18x24 inches. Smaller entries are permissible. Frame and/or matt board are optional but not required.
2. Painting must be displayed upright.
3. Surfaces must be two-dimensional: paper, canvas, masonite, illustrator's board, etc.
4. Painting applied with oils, acrylics, watercolors, transparent inks, gouache, alkyds, etc.

Photography Rules:

1. The total size (photograph plus frame/matt board) shall not exceed 18x24 inches. Smaller entries are permissible.
2. Photography must be framed or matted. Any/all matting and/or self-supporting frames are admissible. Photography must be displayed upright.
3. Photography may be taken in either black-and-white or color.

Art
A Convention Event

Scrapbooking Rules:

1. Describe and record church activities from the past twelve months. The scrapbook should show service projects, outreach opportunities, edification activities, or the ability to work together.
2. The scrapbook should contain a cover sheet stating the name of the church, name and grade of the participant.
3. Scrapbooks should be no smaller than 8/5x11 inches and no larger than 13x16 inches in size when closed.
4. This can be a team event with a maximum of four (4) participants.

Sculpture Rules:

1. The base of the sculpture shall fit into a 12x12 inch square and shall not stand over 18 inches in height. Smaller entries are permissible.
2. Sculptures must be self-supporting, i.e. supported or braced as needed for display. However, sculpture and supports/braces must remain movable. Special lighting is not permitted.
3. The use of materials is not restricted, with the understanding that all displays must be in good taste (Art Event Coordinator makes the final decision in this area).

Bible Bowl
A Convention Event

Purpose: To challenge students to achieve in-depth knowledge of God's Word.

Process:

1. Enroll five-member teams in grade level of highest grade member.
2. The Church Coordinator must register all team(s) on the Registration website.
3. The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Bible Bowl Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
4. The study material for Bible Bowl relates to the current ERLTC theme.
5. All questions will be drawn from the text of The Holy Bible, **New International Version by International Bible Society, Copyright 2011**. Any information in the text may be asked, and some questions may cover information from more than one verse.
6. The Bible Bowl Event is a tournament consisting of two rounds for 3rd-7th grade participants and three rounds for 8th-12th grade participants.
7. Scores in all rounds will be used to determine team awards. Each participant in a team event will receive an award.

Team Requirements:

1. A team consists of a maximum of five (5) participants and a minimum of one (1).
2. If you do not have enough team members, you are responsible for finding the additional team members. The best way to find other members is to contact other churches coming to the convention. Advise the Bible Bowl Event Coordinator of this action at the Registration table.
3. If you have extra team members, please contact the Bible Bowl Event Coordinator before the convention.
4. Should there not be a complete team of 5 participants, there will be no adjustment to the team's score either by adding points for missing players or by using a percentage of the correct answers of the competing members.

Rules:

1. A church may enter any number of teams in either grade level. There are two grade levels in this event: 3rd-7th grades and 8th-12th grades.
2. A participant may be a member of only one team during the Convention.
3. A participant may participate in any grade level above his own, but may not participate in a lower grade level.
4. Game time is forfeit time.
5. Team members will sit together in a half circle, facing the scorer, in the front of the room. There will be a curtain divider between each team.
6. Team members may not have any materials or notes with them.
7. Team members will be allowed to talk quietly to discuss answers and be provided a cube showing the letters A-D to present answers to their assigned Scorer.
8. The audience will be seated in the back of the room. Spectators are not to enter or leave the room during the event. Spectators do not have speaking privileges during the Bible Bowl Event.
9. Protests are received *only* from the Adult Coaches.
10. Protests are to be made at the end of the round in question. After the Quizmaster's protest closure at the end of a round, no protests will be heard concerning that round.

Bible Bowl

A Convention Event

Questions:

1. All questions are of substance and objective, calling for specific facts, order of events, or key memory verses. Questions will not call for interpretation. Questions are taken from the current ERLTC theme and text not from a study guide. ERLTC does not endorse, recommend, or utilize any study guide. Questions are taken from the 2011 New International Version (NIV).
2. A list of questions will *not* be provided in advance or at the Convention. A copy of the questions will be provided to each Church Coordinator in their awards packet at the end of the convention.
3. A question will be displayed on screen while the Quizmaster reads the question aloud two times only.
4. If the Quizmaster or any Scorer hears an answer spoken by any team member, the question will be voided for that team only. Credit will be given to all other teams. No substitute question will be asked.
5. If the Quizmaster or Scorer hear or see any answers or signals from the audience, the question will be voided for all teams. The person who spoke or signaled will be asked to leave. A substitute question will be asked in its place.

Answers:

1. After the reading of each question, each team will have 10 seconds to think about their answer. Team members will be allowed to talk quietly to discuss answers.
2. At the end of 10 seconds a tone will sound. The team representative will reveal the answer using the cube by clearly displaying the letter (A-D) on the cube to the Scorer.
3. A team who reveals their answer after the time limit receives no credit on the question.
4. After each answer for the teams is recorded by the Scorers, the Quizmaster will give the correct answer.

Scoring:

1. One (1) Scorer must be provided for each participating team.
2. A Scorer may not keep score for a team from his or her home church.
3. After each question, the Scorer will record the team answer on a standardized score sheet. Once the correct answer is given, the Scorer will also record it on the sheet.
4. Each team scores one point for each question answered correctly.
5. After all scores are recorded, the Quizmaster will ask the next question.
6. No bonus or adjusted points are given for any reason.

Bible Bowl Event:

1. There will be two rounds of 25 questions each for the 3rd-7th grades, and three rounds of 25 questions each for the 8th-12th grades.
2. A 5-minute break will occur between rounds and not during them.
3. A perfect team score is 100.
4. Scores are totaled from each round for each team.

Awards:

- Gold: 90% - 100% of the top score in the grade division
- Silver: 75% - 89% of the top score in the grade division
- Bronze: 50% - 74% of the top score in the grade division

Bible Reading **A Convention Event**

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for young people to develop skills through the oral reading of the Scripture.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register each participant on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Bible Reading Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
- Submit one (1) evaluator for every three (3) participants. If less than 3, still must submit 1 evaluator.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Choose a reading from Old or New Testament for each participant.
3. Choose reading from a standard translation, no paraphrases.
4. A brief introduction is required that should not exceed 20 seconds. The introduction will include: (a) the participant's name, (b) what Scripture reading, (c) the translation, and (d) the setting of the passage.
5. The entire presentation that includes the introduction, is not to be more than 2.5 minutes maximum or 1.0 minute minimum.
6. The participant should not attempt to explain or interpret the Scripture. Participant should place major emphasis on the actual Bible reading and not on prepared statements. Memorization is neither required nor encouraged; the ability to read the Scripture chosen is what is being evaluated.
7. Spectators may not leave or enter the room while participants are speaking. This is not a "come-and-go" event.
8. Any video or audio equipment must be set up prior to the event and must be stationary. No participant may be taped without his or her advanced approval and the appropriate notification to the Evaluators and the Bible Reading Event Coordinator.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Introduction: The reader states: (1) the participant's name, (2) what Scripture reading, (3) the translation, and (4) the setting of the passage; does not exceed 20 seconds of the total time.*
- *Poise: The reader presents the reading with confidence and composure.*
- *Posture: The reader has proper posture by standing straight with both feet firmly on the floor. Any movement done is to emphasize a point.*
- *Voice Tone: Voice tone helps hold interest, is pleasing, and is consistent with the reading by using proper inflection.*
- *Voice Volume: Voice volume is loud enough for the audience to hear, but not overpowering.*
- *Rate and Flow: The rate and flow is pleasing and natural, and enhances the meaning of the text.*
- *Articulation and Enunciation: The reader pronounced the words clearly and distinctly, making the reading understandable.*
- *Eye Contact: The amount of eye contact with the audience shows the reader's preparation for the Scripture reading.*
- *Time Limit: The entire presentation includes the introduction plus the text reading, and is not less than 1.0 minute and not more than 2.5 minutes in length.*

Chorus

A Convention Event

Purpose: To present a-cappella music in order to encourage believers, witness to unbelievers, and praise our God.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register each team on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Chorus Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the scheduled registration time.
- The Church Coordinator determines that participants are performing in no more than two choruses.
- The Church Coordinator will provide 1 evaluator per registered chorus.

Rules:

1. This is a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants. A team consists of two (2) or more participants.
2. Select and prepare the Chorus with appropriate a-cappella music.
3. The current ERLTC theme should be reflected in some manner.
4. Each chorus will have 8 minutes to set up, sing, and clear the stage. Performances over the time limit will be penalized during the evaluation.
5. Lighting levels in the performance rooms may not be altered. Music stands will not be provided.
6. All Chorus groups are encouraged to be present for all performances.
7. Spectators may enter rooms between performances only. No one will be allowed to enter a room after a Chorus has started its performance.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participants either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Appearance: The Chorus is dressed neatly and appropriately, but not necessarily formally nor in uniform. Care in appearance shows.*
- *Theme & Spiritual Message: The current ERLTC theme is reflected in some manner in the presentation, effectively delivering the spiritual message.*
- *Stage Presence: The Chorus has appropriate facial expressions and body movements, as well as visible ease at performing. Chorus looks energetic and happy.*
- *Blending of Voices: The voices of Chorus blend well together; one or two voices did not overpower the group.*
- *Diction: Diction is clear and precise with the words pronounced clearly. Consonants are crisp and clear.*
- *Dynamic Contrast: The Chorus has clear volume (loud/soft) contrast, with a dynamic range that expresses the mood and feeling.*
- *Harmony: Chorus used harmony in at least one of the songs during the performance.*
- *Positioning: First person at front of Chorus stands on a designated taped marker.*
- *Time Limit: The Chorus meets the time limit of 8 minutes maximum that includes set up, performance, and clearing of the stage.*

All materials including scripts and video recordings that are submitted, become the property of ERLTC. It is understood that ERLTC reserves the right to use these materials for promotion, instruction or in any manner deemed appropriate by the ERLTC Board of Directors.

Conversational Signing

A Convention Event

Purpose: To develop the ability to interpret for the deaf/hard of hearing, as well as provide services to the deaf/hard of hearing to glorify God and his church.

Process:

- Spectators may not enter or leave the room while a participant is signing or interpreting.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Signing Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the scheduled registration time.
- Submit the name of one (1) evaluator for every two (2) participants.

Participant Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. No signs or coaching instructions can be given to the participant while performing.
3. The participant must be at their assigned room 10 minutes prior to their scheduled time.
4. Participant must use ASL (American Sign Language) for all signing.
5. The participant will use the 2011 NIV version or the EVD (English Version for the Deaf) for Scripture verses in signing.
6. The participant must have someone to read or sing the selection(s) they have prepared.
7. The participant will fingerspell their name and fingerspell the selection being signed.
8. Ensure the version of the song, if chosen, follows the publication in the Signing rules.
9. Participant may choose to bring and use a copy of the words for the song and/or scripture. The Signing Event Coordinator will NOT provide words.
10. Ensure that the participant is ready to meet the level requirements as described below.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Preparation Vocabulary: The signer follows the event rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual and clearly demonstrates an understanding of the selection meaning with word choice.*
- *Movement Understandability: The signer's hand shapes, palm orientation, and placement of signs are smooth and flowing.*
- *Finger Spelling Understandability: The signer uses correct letters, numbers, and appropriate spacing. Mouthing of the words instead of the letters is done.*
- *Preparation Sign Clarity: The signer is well prepared by showing a stable position of the hand, clear transition between signs, and clear interpretation.*
- *Confidence Expression: The signer's facial and body expressions demonstrate that the signer has practiced and is at ease with the audience; e.g. smiling, relaxed, good posture, eye contact with the audience.*

Conversational Signing

A Convention Event

Beginner Signing Level I – Event Rules:

- Fingerspell your name.
- Sign “Good Afternoon.”
- Participant must sign the name of the church they attend.
- Sign the current ERLTC theme and verse.
- Sign “Thank You.”
- Once you reach Gold status you must move to next level: Beginner Signing Level II.

Beginner Signing Level II – Event Rules:

- Fingerspell your name.
- Sign “Good Afternoon.”
- Participant must sign the name of the church they attend.
- Participant chooses one (1) scripture that relates to the theme of the current ERLTC text.
- Sign “Thank You.”
- Once you reach Gold status you must move to next level: Intermediate Signing Level I.

Intermediate Signing Level I – Event Rules:

- Fingerspell your name.
- Sign “Good Afternoon.”
- Participant must sign the name of the church they attend.
- Participant will include a 30 second introduction about their self, for example: your hobbies, grade, siblings, etc.
- Participant chooses one (1) scripture that relates to the current ERLTC text.
- Sign “Thank You.”
- Once you reach Gold status you must move to next level: Advanced Signing Level I.

Advanced Signing Level I – Event Rules:

- Fingerspell your name.
- Sign “Good Afternoon.”
- Participant must sign the name of the church they attend.
- Participant will include a 30 second introduction about their self, for example: your hobbies, grade, siblings, etc.
- Participant chooses two (2) verses and a chorus from the following song selections. All songs have been selected from Songs of the Faith & Praise, 1994 Edition of Howard Publishing Co.
 - * Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer #777
 - * Lord Speak to Me #771
 - Fortress #10
 - * A Wonderful Savior #508
 - My Shepherd Is #126
 - * God Moves in a Mysterious Way #26
 - * He Lives! #346
 - * A Mighty
 - * The Lord
- Sign “Thank You.”
- Once you reach Gold status 3 out of 4 years, OR, if you are in the 11th or 12th grade, then you can move forward to the next level: Platinum Challenge Level.

Platinum Challenge Level – Event Rules:

- Fingerspell your name.
- Sign “Good Afternoon.”
- Participant must sign the name of the church they attend.
- Participant will sign a 3-5 minute devotional thought or a Bible lesson.
- Devotional thought will start with a prayer and end with a prayer.
- The devotional thought or Bible lesson must be relevant to your life and relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- Sign “Thank You.”

Drama

A Convention Event

Purpose: To encourage students to dramatize modern-day life applications of Christian truths.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register each Drama team on the Registration website.
- Register each drama team by the registration deadline.
- The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Drama Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the scheduled registration time.
- Submit the name of one (1) evaluator for each drama team entered.

Rules:

1. This is a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants. A team may not exceed 12 participants. Teams are evaluated at the highest grade level participant.
2. Each participant may only participate in one drama.
3. The drama is a modern-day application of any Christian truth, with respect to the current ERLTC theme in some manner. This is not a Bible story re-enactment.
4. The length of the drama will be no less than 6 minutes and not more than 12 minutes. This will include set-up, performing, and clearing the stage. A performance that does not adhere to the time limits will be penalized during evaluation.
5. Adults may help in set-up and take down of props. Adults shall be clear of the stage area during the performance.
6. Stages will tentatively be 16' wide and 12' deep; this may change due to conditions beyond our control. Be prepared to adapt.
7. Have appropriate wardrobe, props and sound effects to support the drama.
8. Props that are used must be easily carried on and off stage.
9. All tape players and special lighting must be powered by battery; no plug-ins will be allowed. There are to be no fireworks, flames, or smoke of any kind (smoke bombs, etc.)
10. All drama teams are encouraged to be present for all drama performances.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participants either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Character Development: Characters stay in character throughout the drama presentation and are believable.*
- *Clarity of Principle: The spiritual message delivered reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Delivery: Lines spoken by the characters are loud and clear with proper voice inflections to show emotions and to express ideas.*
- *Interaction: Interaction between the characters flows smoothly and comfortably.*
- *Props: Props used are appropriate and enhance the story.*
- *Wardrobe: The wardrobe chosen supports the story and identifies the characters.*
- *Time Limit: The length of the drama is no less than 6 minutes and not more than 12 minutes, which includes set up, performance, and the clearing of the stage.*

Puppets

A Convention Event

Purpose: To encourage the presentation of Biblical stories through the use of puppets.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register each team on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Puppets Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the scheduled registration time.
- Submit one (1) evaluator for each puppet team registered.

Rules:

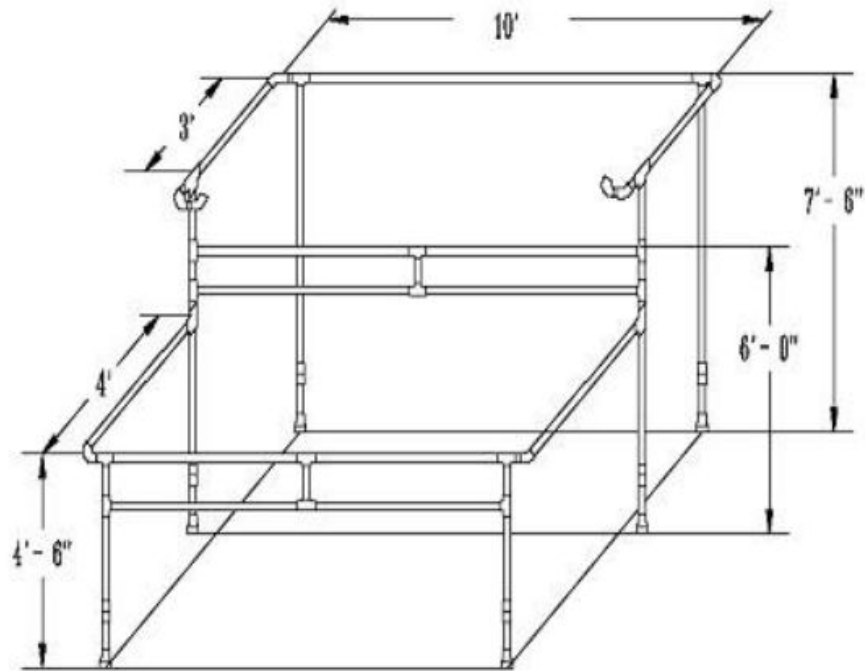
1. This is a team event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants. A team may not exceed 12 participants. Teams are evaluated at the level of the participant with the highest grade.
2. The length of the performance will be no less than 6 minutes minimum and 12 minutes maximum. This will include set up, performance and exiting the stage area. Performances that do not adhere to the time limit are penalized during evaluation.
3. Puppet teams need to arrive at least 15 minutes before performance and should be waiting in the designated Puppet waiting area.
4. Each team will enter with props and puppets from room door after they are announced. The timing will begin at that time. The last team member to the room door when exiting, will say “*Clear*” and timing will stop. Adults may help in set-up and take down of props. Adults shall be clear of the stage area during the performance.
5. Select an appropriate puppet script to be presented live, reflecting the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
6. Each puppet skit shall be presented live. Tape recording of the special effects is allowed, but no tape recording of dialogue will be allowed.
7. The puppet teams may use no electrical plugs; all tape players and lights need to be run by battery. There are to be no fireworks of any kind (smoke bombs, etc.)
8. A performance stage will be provided at Convention. The stage will be supplied with one walk board on the back stage and four chairs on the front stage. The walk board and chairs may be moved during a presentation but must be replaced at the end of your performance. A diagram of the stage can be found on the website.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participants either “Meets,” “Partially Meets,” or “Does Not Meet” each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme & Biblical Application: The presentation contains a Biblical application with the main point reflecting the current ERLTC theme in some manner.*
- *Speech & Sound Clarity: Voices project well with clearly spoken dialogue. Clarity in the voices helps to hear and understand the words spoken.*
- *Animation: Puppets are life-like in their actions and mannerisms.*
- *Lip-Sync: Spoken words are in-sync with puppet’s mouth action.*
- *Special Effects/Props: Use of any special effects and/or props is effective and adds to the presentation.*
- *Interaction & Appearance: The puppets interact with one another and do not sink while on stage.*
- *Teamwork: Team members display cooperation with each other throughout the set up, the performance, and the take down.*
- *Time Limit: The length of the presentation is no less than 6 minutes minimum and no more than 12 minutes maximum, which includes the set up, the performance, and the exiting of the stage area.*

Puppet Stage Information



ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE FROM THE TOP RAILING

PUPPET STAGE PARTS LIST:

12 PIECES OF 10FT. 1 ½ PVC

18 OF 1 ½ T JOINTS

8 OF 1 ½ 90 DEGREE ELBOWS

6 OF 1 ½ X 1 ½ ADAPTER CUPLINGS

6 OF 1 ½ X 3 ADAPTER CUPLINGS

1 BOX OF ¼" PHILLIPS HEAD SCREWS (DRILL A HOLE AT EACH CONNECTION AND PUT IN A SCREW TO MAKE CONNECTION SECURE. DON NOT GLUE OR TAPE TOGETHER) THIS WILL MAKE STORAGE EASIER.

HEAVY POLY COTTON BLACK FABRIC (BLACK ONLY) VELCRO

- CURTAINS DO NOT HAVE TO BE ALL THE WAY TO THE FLOOR ON THE SECOND & THIRD TIER
- REDUCE TIER HEIGHT 12' FOR 3RD & 4TH GRADER. THIS CAN BE DONE BY ADAPTER AT THE BOTTOM OF EACH LEG. SIMPLY TAKE THE FOOT ADAPTER OFF, REMOVE THE BOTTOM PORTION OF EACH LEG AND REPLACE THE FOOT, WHICH WOULD MAKE THE MEASUREMENTS BE BOTTOM TIER HEIGHT 3'6" AND MIDDLE TIER 5' AND TOP TIER 6'6".
- SHOULD ONLY USE 1 ½ PVC PIPE, NO SMALLER

Song Leading **A Convention Event**

Purpose: To encourage the development of song leading skills.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register each participant on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Song Leading Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the scheduled registration time.
- Submit one (1) song leading evaluator for every two (2) participants entered.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Participant will choose one song to lead. The song chosen must reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
3. Two (2) stanzas and only two (2) stanzas of the chosen song are to be led.
4. It is the responsibility of the song leader to provide copies of the chosen song for the audience. An overhead projector will be provided so that the song can be displayed using a transparency. Copies must be provided, or a transparency used.
5. The CCL # must be noted (contact the ERLTC Board Chairperson if a CCL# is needed).
6. Before starting the song, the participant will provide an introduction that gives: (a) their name, (b) the song title, and (c) which verses leading.
7. The participant will follow the criteria rules of Pitch, Tempo, Volume, Beat and Verse Transition as outlined in the Evaluation Criteria listed below.
8. Spectators may not enter or leave the room while participants are singing.
9. Any video or audio equipment must be set up prior to the event, and must be stationary.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Introduction: The song leader provides the proper introduction by giving: (1) their name, (2) the song title, and (3) the verses leading.*
- *Pitch: The song leader pitches the song so that all four parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) are sung comfortably.*
- *Tempo: The tempo (slow/fast) reflects the mood and message of the song.*
- *Volume: The song leader's voice has good volume and diction when announcing the song, when starting the song, and when leading the song.*
- *Beat: The song leader indicates the beat of the song with either a 4/4 or a 3/4 type pattern, or in some manner by their hand.*
- *Verse Transition: The song leader moves well from one verse to the next and lets the audience know their intention.*
- *Verses/Stanzas: The song leader leads two verses/stanzas, and only two.*
- *Copies/Overhead: Copies or a transparency for an overhead of the chosen song are provided with the CCL # included.*
- *Leadership: The song leader shows confidence and is able to get the audience to follow their direction. The song leader uses assertiveness as appropriately needed.*

Speech A Convention Event

Purpose: To develop verbal communication talents and public speaking skills as they relate to Biblical principles.

Process:

- The Church Coordinator must register each participant on the Registration website.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Speech Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the scheduled registration time.
- Provide at least one (1) evaluator for every two (2) participants. If less than two participants, one evaluator will be required.

Rules:

1. This is an individual event that is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Adult involvement in the conceptualization and writing of the speech will differ as participants grow and develop. It is permissible for Adults to assist younger participants (3rd-6th grades). However, it is expected that participants will be heavily involved. By the 7th-9th grades, the work should primarily be that of the participants. By the 10th-12th grades, all work should be researched and written by the participant. Adults will be expected to set the example for participants by enforcing this principle.
3. Each speech should reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner. However, participants in 3rd-7th grades may choose to speak about a Bible character as the topic of their speech. Another speaker may not repeat the same speech.
4. Speeches shall be 3.5 to 5 minutes in length for the 3rd-7th grades and 4.5 to 6 minutes in length for the 8th-12th grades. Speeches that do not adhere to the time limits will be penalized during evaluation.
5. Participants will greet their listeners and state their name.
6. Speeches should not be read, however, note cards are allowed.
7. Spectators may not enter or leave the room while participants are speaking. Any video or audio equipment must be set up prior to the event, and must be stationary.

Awards: Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on evaluations where the participant either "Meets," "Partially Meets," or "Does Not Meet" each of the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme: The speech reflects the current ERLTC theme in some manner. (Participants in 3rd-7th grades have the option to speak about a Bible character.)*
- *Content: The content consists of supporting materials (e.g., verses, stories, facts, examples, illustrations, etc.) that are clear and lead to a logical conclusion.*
- *Language: The speaker uses good grammar, descriptive words, word pictures, similes, metaphors, and/or other colorful techniques to bring out the message.*
- *Voice: The speaker shows a balance in voice tone, volume, and speed throughout the speech.*
- *Delivery: The speech flows naturally and continuously without being read. Planned pauses effectively emphasize the key points.*
- *Gestures: The use of body movements and hand gestures enhance the words and the message delivered.*
- *Personality & Attitude: The speaker shows their personality and attitude through the words used, the smile on their face, the sincerity in their eyes, the tone of their voice, and the eye contact with the audience.*
- *Time Limit: The length of the speech is no less than 3.5 minutes to no more than 5 minutes for the 3rd-7th grades, and no less than 4.5 minutes to no more than 6 minutes for the 8th-12th grades.*

Forms Section

The following forms are provided to help in organizing your practice sessions and events on the local level. Most are also available on the ERLTC website as well.

Challenge Log Sheet

(use this log sheet for each event to help keep track)
This is to be used at the local church level and is kept by the Church Coordinator.

It can also be used as the Submission Log for the Platinum Challenge.
This log is turned in to the Challenge Event Coordinator.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

DATE	WHAT DID YOU DO?

Parent or Guardian or Church Coordinator Signature: _____

Participant Registration Form 2021

This is to be used at the local level. Actual registration is done online by the Church Coordinator.

Participant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____ Grade _____

Attending Convention: Yes _____ No _____

T-Shirt Size (please circle): YM YL S M L XL 2X 3X

Please check the following events in which you wish to participate.

Challenge Events (Due March 1)

- Audio / Video
- Bulletin Board/Class Room Door
- Daily Devotional
- Leadership
- Platinum
- Reading
- Scripture
- Service
- Signing for the Deaf
- Teaching

Convention T-Shirt Design* (Due January 15) - Please submit to Board of Directors)

Pre-Convention Events (Due March 1)

- Children's Book
- Christian Fiction
- Christian Essay
- Commercial Clip
- Communion Meditation
- Poetry
- Power Point
- Song Writing
- Video Drama
- Web Page

Convention Events

- Art - Drawing
- Art - Graphic Poster
- Art - Greeting Card
- Art - Painting
- Art - Photography
- Art - Scrapbooking
- Art - Sculpture
- Bible Bowl - Grades 3-7
- Bible Bowl - Grades 8-12
- Bible Reading - Grades 3-7
- Bible Reading - Grades 8-12
- Chorus
- Conversational Signing
- Drama
- Puppets
- Song Leading
- Speech

Pre-Convention Event Submission Form

*Church Coordinator submits 1 form per Entry for each Event.
All Entries will be taken to the Convention by the Event Coordinator.*

Church Name: _____

City/State: _____

Events: Check the box to the left of the named event.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Children's Book	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian Essay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Clip	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communion Meditation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poetry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Point Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Song Writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Video Drama	<input type="checkbox"/>	Web Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	

INDIVIDUAL Participant's Name: _____ Grade: _____

TEAM Name: _____

List All Members of Team: *Use back of form if need more room.*

	<u>Participants' Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____

ERLTC Hotel Reservation Form for 2021

This is to be used at the local level. Actual registration is done online by the Church Coordinator.

Name: _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Reservations for rooms must be requested by January 15, 2021.

Each Room Deposit (all deposits are non-refundable):

If postmarked by January 15, 2021 a \$50.00 deposit is required.

Otherwise, a \$100.00 deposit is required by March 1, 2021.

Checks should be made to your local church. The Church Coordinator will combine all deposits for all reservations and send a check made payable to ERLTC.

Please check the ERLTC website (www.erltc.org) for The Westin Charlotte Hotel information and directions. Note that all rooms are non-smoking rooms.

Each room costs \$123.00 plus taxes (lodging + state sales taxes) per night. You will be responsible for your final bill at check out time. A credit card will need to be given at arrival to the hotel for guarantee of any amenities incurred during your stay. Cash can be given in lieu of the credit card; however, amenities will be blocked. Any over-payments with cash will be refunded after the Convention from ERLTC.

Indoor Self-Parking is \$12.00 per day and can be added to your room costs by requesting it at check-in to the hotel.

There must be an Adult in each room. If there are more than 4 people in your family, please check with your Church Coordinator. Hotel rules require a maximum of 4 people in a room. You may need to get 2 rooms or make arrangements with another family to share a room.

Please complete the following for the days and rooms you need to reserve.

Occupants Names

_____ Adult Child

_____ Adult Child

_____ Adult Child

_____ Adult Child

Room Type: 1 King Bed 2 Double Beds

Nights to Reserve: Thursday Friday Saturday

Special Requests: _____



**Jimmy Crawford
Leadership Award 2021**

Deadline for Application Submission: March 15, 2021

The Jimmy Crawford Leadership Award is to honor our Brother Jimmy for the example of leadership and service in the church, in Leadership Training for Christ (LTC), and in the community. This award of \$500 is for a **High School Senior** who is a current participant in the Eastern Region Leadership Training for Christ (ERLTC).

Applicant Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

How Many Years Participated in LTC? _____

Plans After Graduation _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Current LTC Sponsor _____ Congregation _____

Complete the following and submit with this application.

- Leadership Activities: Submit a 450-500 word description of your leadership activities in which you developed your servant/leadership skills. The more detailed information the better. Skills must have been used in each of the following areas: church, LTC and community. Include any other personal information that you think will help. Include the following elements:
 - How your leadership impacted people and/or organizations you led; and
 - How being a leader has impacted you.
- This application must include references for nomination of this award from three different sources – a church leader, an ERLTC leader, and a community leader.
 - A church leader could be: a preacher, an elder, a deacon, a youth minister, or a Bible class teacher.
 - An ERLTC leader could be: a preacher, an elder, a deacon, a youth minister, or an ERLTC event coach or coordinator.
 - A community leader could be: a non-profit organization leader, or a community leader or supervisor.

**Email scanned copies of this application and completed requirements by the deadline date of March 15, 2020 to erltcboard@gmail.com. Then mail the application and completed requirements to the following address:

Eastern Region LTC
Attn: Britni Anderson
c/o Biltmore church of Christ
823 Fairview St
Asheville, NC 28803



ERLTC Christian College Scholarship Application
Deadline for Application: March 15, 2021

To apply for the ERLTC College Scholarship you must be a Senior and a registered student in the 2020 ERLTC Convention. How well you, the student, describe leadership contributions will be a very important factor. Participation in an activity is not evidence of leadership. The scholarships are for those who have demonstrated leadership in church, school, and community.

You are required to send two references recommending you for a scholarship. The recommendations must be from a church leader and a school leader. A teacher, coach, principal, or counselor can give a recommendation regarding school. A preacher, elder, youth minister, or Bible class teacher could provide information about your leadership at church.

ERLTC collects the Christian College Scholarship applications and determines who receives the award. The Christian College will determine the amount of the award. Most leadership scholarships from Christian Colleges are not combined with other leadership scholarships. They are, however, usually used in combination with other types of scholarships. Please consult the college for details.

School Selection (check one)

- Abilene Christian Harding University Freed Hardeman
 Oklahoma Christian Lubbock Christian Ohio Valley University

Applicant Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

How Many Years Participated in LTC? _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Home Congregation _____

Complete the following and submit with this application.

- Leadership Activities: A 400-500 word essay that describes in detail the leadership activities in which you developed your servant/leadership skills.
- LTC Activities: List the activities in which you have participated during your high school years (grades 9-12). List these activities for each year separately (i.e. 2021 list of activities, 2020 list of activities, etc.)
- This application must include your two references mentioned above.
- Email scanned copies of this application and completed requirements can be sent to erltcboard@gmail.com by the deadline of March 15, 2021.
- Mail to the following address in one envelope by the deadline of March 15, 2021 Send email advising application has been mailed.

Eastern Region LTC
Attn: Britni Anderson
c/o Biltmore church of Christ
823 Fairview St

ERLTC Manual 2021

Asheville NC, 28803