



*Reference Manual
for 2012*

*Theme:
“Journey of Faith”
Genesis*

*Bible Bowl
Genesis 25:19-50:26
excluding lineage text in chapters 36 & 46*

*Convention Site:
The Westin Charlotte*

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Document History

Date of Change	Description of Changes
September 16, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated cover page with theme and Bible Bowl text. • Updated all pages with 2012 dates. • Updated contact information. • Added Graphic/Poster to Art Event. • Added new Convention event “Live Skits”.
March 1, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Evaluation Criteria has been updated in the Pre-Convention and Convention Events. • All evaluation criteria has been updated in the Evaluation Forms that are available online.
August 1, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated all pages with 2011 dates. • Evaluating Best Practices have been added. • Any wording that refers to scoring or rating has been replaced with evaluation wording. • Challenge events have been updated. • Leadership Challenge now offers gold, silver and bronze awards. • Service Challenge Suggestions placed on one page so can use as hand-out and includes additional suggestions. • Grammar and/or incomplete sentences have been corrected as well as clarity added where appropriate. • All references to LTC have been replaced with ERLTC except where not applicable.
September 30, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Rules have been updated. Please review.
October 21, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reference Manual for 2009.

General Information

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Statement of Purpose

Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) is an organization designed to stimulate and encourage spiritual, mental, and social growth among students in grades three through twelve. Its mission is to achieve this growth by developing skills in leadership, Bible knowledge, and Christian servant-hood. Skill development in each of these areas will be accomplished through participation in a variety of individual and group events. These events will take place within the context of a wholesome and supportive environment designed for the purpose of fostering enthusiasm and high achievement among the participants.

It is the goal and desire of the Eastern Region LTC that every young man and young woman use the talents and abilities God has blessed each with and with which God is cultivating for His glory and His service. Therefore, we strongly encourage each church to find avenues through which these young people can demonstrate this gift. We encourage leaders to think creatively and strive to cultivate (mainly through exposure and practice, practice, practice) these skills by finding and creating opportunities for the demonstration thereof (such as using young men to read during the worship and young men and young women to read during classes including adult classes as "guest readers"). We also encourage church leaders to be sensitive to the traditions and understanding of scripture of the membership while exploring the use of these young people in public forums.

Code of Ethics for Church Coordinators

- LTC is for the growth and spiritual development of our youth. The LTC preparation must be the student's own work. Guidance, resources, and encouragement must be provided so students can develop their own ideas.
- Church Coordinators must place their emphasis on participation and effort rather than on competition and winning. Lesser value comes from winning; maximum value comes from hard work and best efforts.
- Church Coordinators must emphasize servant leadership. It is not enough to teach public communication skills, but additionally, we must model and teach leadership through servant-hood.
- Church Coordinators 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 give them important roles and contribute to the church.
- Church Coordinators must communicate these ideas to all parents and church leaders.
- Church Coordinators need to strongly encourage participants to be involved in more than one event.
- Church Coordinators need to contact event coordinators in advance if a child in a church has special needs to be considered.
- Church Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that all participants are registered.

A Brief History of LTC

Since its origin, LTC has focused on making the annual convention an opportunity to challenge young people to develop in an increasing number of leadership areas. Since 1989, conventions were held in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. LTC has expanded and there are now ten conventions held annually in the spring:

North Texas LTC in Dallas, TX	LTC Southwest in Phoenix, AZ	Midwest LTC in Kokomo, IN
Central Texas LTC in Houston, TX	Great Plains LTC in Tulsa, OK	LTC West in San Francisco, CA
Black Hills LTC in Spearfish, SD	Southeast LTC in Mobile, AL	
Heart Of America LTC in Kansas City, MO	Eastern Region LTC in Charlotte, NC	



Church Etiquette & Participant Behavior Agreement

Due to the number of people involved in the Eastern Region Leadership Training for Christ Convention, it is necessary that some specific guidelines be put into effect so that everyone will have an enjoyable and safe experience while at the ERLTC Convention.

It is the desire of the ERLTC Board and the churches that participate, that above all else, God is glorified and our light shines.

- Please be courteous to the hotel staff and the convention workers. Our actions and behavior reflect not only on ourselves, but our church, ERLTC and Christ.
- Do not bring coolers to distribute food or drinks to the participants in public areas of the hotel, i.e. Hallways, Lobby, Parking Lot, Public Meeting Space, etc. The sale of food or any other items are prohibited at the hotel.
- Do not throw ANYTHING off of the interior or exterior balconies at the Convention hotel.
- There is a general curfew for all convention participants at 11:00 p.m., both Friday and Saturday nights. Convention and hotel staff will strictly enforce this. Students must be in their own rooms after curfew unless accompanied by their parent or adult sponsor.
- Always be aware of the noise level in the hallways, foyers, and rooms and walk in the corridors and other public places.
- Allow others plenty of access to public facilities by properly using elevators and corridors. Do not ride the elevators up and down as a joy ride. Do not push the floor buttons on the elevators for any floor other than the one needed.
- Take special care to protect hotel and ERLTC property.
- Stay on the hotel property unless accompanied by a parent or an adult sponsor. Always stay in groups of 3 or more even on hotel property.
- 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.
- Be modest and neat while deciding what to wear.
- If a student is not actively participating in an ERLTC event, then he or she must be accompanied by an adult.
- If the ERLTC Board, Coordinators, Convention staff or the Hotel staff becomes aware of a participant disregarding any of these policies, that participant will be dismissed from any events that he or she is scheduled to participate in and all awards will be revoked.

Important Dates

September 1	- Student registrations and Hotel reservations begin
November 1	- T-Shirt entry deadline
January 10	- Deadline for Student registrations and Hotel reservations
February 1	- Registration fees, Hotel deposit, and T-Shirt payments due
February 15	- Student Registration Correction deadline - Registration is non-refundable after this date
March 1	- Challenge and Pre-Convention Events deadline
Easter Weekend	- Convention on Friday through Sunday
May 1	- Awards Correction deadline

Important Information located on the ERLTC website

- Listing of the ERLTC Board Members and their contact information.
- Listing of the Challenge, Pre-Convention, and Convention Event Coordinators and their contact information.
- Convention Schedule (subject to change up to one week before the Convention).
- Listing of Participating churches in the ERLTC.
- Links to other LTC Conventions throughout the United States.



ERLTC T-Shirt Design Contest

ERLTC is hosting a T-Shirt Design Contest.
The following is information concerning this contest:

The ERLTC T-Shirt Contest is open to all REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS of ERLTC.

The winning entrant will have their design adorning every ERLTC T-Shirt for the Convention.

Submission Guidelines

- On the back of the submission, include the registered ERLTC participant's name and address, IN PENCIL.
- The submitted design must be in accordance with the ERLTC theme for that particular year. The current theme can be found on the ERLTC website.
- Designs need to be done in black ink on white paper. Color versions can accompany the ink design to suggest color schemes, but the winning entry will be subject to editing to best fit on the ERLTC shirts.
- Keep in mind that the winning design is going to be printed as a single solid print color on a short sleeve T-Shirt of a different single solid color.
- The submitted design must be:
 1. An original composition of the team member(s).
 2. Rendered in black ink on white paper.
 3. Dimensions of the image (not the paper size) must be no larger than 11" x 17" and no smaller than 8.5" x 11" with at least a 1" border all around.
 4. Must be camera ready.
 5. Must be actual size for printing.
- Keep your design simple and stay away from small details that would get "lost" in the final printed T-Shirt design.
- At various stages while developing your design, take an honest, critical look at your artwork and imagine how your friends (at school and church) would respond if you were to ask them to wear a T-Shirt with your design. If you sincerely think they would, then you probably have a good idea.
- All entries must be mailed flat and not folded.
- All entries must be postmarked by November 1.
- Send entries to:

Donna Free
PO Box 154
Avon, CT 06001-0154
- The ERLTC Board of Directors' decisions concerning all matters related to this contest are final.





Torch Bearers Program

Torch Bearers is a program started to continue the spiritual growth of our young people as they finish High School and continue into College. The ERLTC Board wanted to harness the training that participants in ERLTC had received and use it to help ERLTC grow. After all, we are training leaders that could be future Board members of ERLTC or another LTC program.

These College age young people come back, with friends, and help as door monitors, floor monitors, ushers, evaluators and general helpers for ERLTC. Torch Bearers come to provide leadership through being a servant to others. They have fun and provide much needed assistance in keeping things running.

Each year we offer the Torch Bearers their own Convention T-Shirt which identifies them as Torch Bearers. We hope this will give our graduates an avenue to continue growing spiritually as they gain additional experiences as leaders.

Evaluating Best Practices

The ERLTC Board of Directors has been focusing on improving the evaluation process in the events of the ERLTC. We have taken the new approach to “Evaluate” not “Judge or Rate” the participants.

Every event at 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 you to hold a meeting with your volunteers (evaluators) at your home church before the Convention and provide them with these Best Practices to follow.

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

1. Review and become familiar with the event rules and the score sheet 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 on their own merit. No participant is to be compared to another participant. Participants 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.
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 that would be negative in a harsh manner. We are training our young people, so be positive in a constructive 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 to be completed by March 1st.

Participant should follow the rules of the event.

Church Coordinator should:

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

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:

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

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.
- The Church Coordinator will bring a photograph of the Bulletin Board or Classroom Door (that includes participant or participants if possible), to the Convention to be displayed in the Art Area. A display board will be provided at the Convention for posting of the pictures.
- The Church Coordinator does have the option of sending the photos electronically to the Challenge Event Coordinator for readiness of displaying at the Convention. These must be received by March 15th.

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. A maximum of four (4) participants is allowed per team.
3. The participant may decorate a Bulletin Board and/or a Classroom Door.
4. The Bulletin Board and/or Classroom Door must be displayed in a classroom or other public area at the church building.
5. Adult assistance should be limited to that of advice and supervision. Actual work should be by the participant only.
6. The 3rd-7th grade participant may assist a teacher or ministry leader and the idea does not need to be the idea or creation of the participant.
7. For the 8th-12th grade participant, 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 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 and 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 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. Participant will record what Bible text was read in their Prayer Journal.

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. 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 a team event or three individuals preparing for an individual event.
4. The participant may work with an adult, but must take a major leadership role in the training. No more than two participants may work together with one team.
5. The participant will work under the guidance of the Church Coordinator who will certify completion of this event. The Church Coordinator may further define these requirements for their local church.

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:

- The Church Coordinator must submit a Challenge Log Sheet to the Platinum Challenge Coordinator by the Challenge Event deadline of March 1st.
- The Challenge Log Sheet will list and explain what the participant did for this challenge.
- The Challenge Log Sheet may be sent electronically or by mail.
- 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 Platinum 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.

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.
- The Church Coordinator will have each participant evaluated by at least one evaluator at their home church, using the same evaluation form used at the Convention for the Bible Reading Event.
- The evaluation criteria used for the Bible Reading Event at the Convention, should reflect the goals for the Reading Challenge Event participant.

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 30 seconds or less is required.
6. The introduction includes: (a) who is speaking; (b) identification of the passage; (c) the translation of the passage; and (d) why this passage was chosen.
7. The entire presentation of the introduction and Scripture reading is not to be more than 2.5 minutes in length.

Awards:

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

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Introduction: Identifies: (1) the passage, (2) the translation, and (3) the setting of the passage; should not exceed 20 seconds of the total time.*
- *Poise: The reader presents the reading with confidence and composure.*
- *Posture: Has proper posture by standing straight with both feet firmly on the floor. Any movement done was 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 must pronounce 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 doing the reading of the text.*
- *Time Limit: The entire presentation includes the introduction plus the text reading, is not less than 1.0 minute and not more than 2.5 minutes in length.*

Scripture Challenge

Purpose: To promote and encourage the habit of memorizing 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.
- 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 total of 50 verses of Scripture.
3. The 8th-12th grade participants are to memorize a total 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 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) to the chosen Scriptures.
8. The participant may use a list of Scriptures during the sittings, but may have no other notes.

Awards:

- 3rd-7th grades
 - Gold = 50 verses at 1 sitting
 - Silver = 25 verses at 2 different sittings
 - Bronze = 10 verses at 5 different sittings
- 8th-12th grades
 - Gold = 100 verses at 1 sitting
 - Silver = 25 verses at 4 different sittings
 - Bronze = 10 verses at 10 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 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.
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 - 3 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 -3 stanzas.
- Sign one 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 – 3 stanzas.
- Sign three 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 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 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 should 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.

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 website.
- Help the participants follow the rules of the event.
- Email the Pre-Convention Event Coordinator for their mailing address in order to submit the entries.
- Complete and submit a Pre-Convention Submission Form for each entry to the Event Coordinator by the Pre-Convention Event deadline.

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
- Commercial Clips
- Poetry
- Song Writing
- Video Drama
- Web Page Design

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 graded member.

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

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 will be sure to register the participant(s) online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Children's Book Event Coordinator for their mailing address in order to submit the entries.
- The Church Coordinator will mail the completed work along with a completed Pre-Convention Submission form to the Children's Book Event Coordinator. The entry must be received by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. Write and illustrate a children's story that reflects the current ERLTC theme. The book should be labeled as fiction or non-fiction.
2. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
3. This may be a team event, with one person writing the story and the other illustrating. A team is limited to two participants in this event. Only one entry may be submitted. The entry will be evaluated at the grade level of the highest graded 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 story must be submitted in book form (bound with staples, thread, glue, etc.) Handwritten work is admissible if legible and neatly presented.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The book must be illustrated by drawings, cartoons, photographs, or computer-generated graphics. All illustrations must be original work. It is unlawful to use copyrighted works.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver, or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The biblical story presented relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Grammar & Punctuation:* The entry uses correct grammar, spelling, and proper punctuation.
- *Readability:* The story flows easily and has a logical sequence with clear transitions.
- *Illustration:* The illustrations are neatly done and connect with the story told.
- *Format & Submission:* The entry follows the rules as outlined in the ERLTC manual, for the required formatting and submission.
- *Storyline:* The storyline is original and well developed. The characters and plot are interesting and hold the reader's attention.

Commercial Clips

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. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Commercial Clips Event Coordinator for their mailing address and/or instructions to submit the entries.
- The Church Coordinator will mail the Video with the Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Commercial Clips Coordinator. The entry must be received 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 event 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. Create a short script which illustrates the current ERLTC theme. Then, provide costumes, props, and actors that are ERLTC participants. Videotape the commercial clip and edit the video (optional).
4. Like a television commercial, the commercial clip should be short, telling the story as compact as possible. It can be amusing or thoughtful.
5. Maximum length of the commercial clip is 2 minutes. Commercial clips that exceed the time limit will be penalized.
6. Submissions are to be DVD (preferred) or VHS format. Each submission shall be labeled with the following documentation: (a) year and theme; (b) church name and ERLTC church number; (c) highest grade level of all participants involved; and (d) title of the commercial clip.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The commercial clip clearly relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Continuity:* The storyline and dialogue flows smoothly.
- *Characters:* The speaking and interaction between characters is smooth and natural. Interaction uses good facial expression, 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 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.
- *Time Limit:* The length of the commercial clip is no more than the 2 minutes maximum permitted.

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 will be sure to register the participant online.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Poetry Event Coordinator for their mailing address to submit the entry.
- The Church Coordinator will mail three (3) copies of the completed work along with three (3) copies of the completed Pre-Convention Submission form to the Poetry Event Coordinator. The entry must be received by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Write a poem whose content reflects the current ERLTC theme.
3. Only one poem per participant will be accepted.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Poems shall start with a title line.
7. Each poem shall be typewritten and shall not exceed one page. Do not use fancy fonts.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The poem clearly and accurately presents the current ERLTC theme.
- *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.
- *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 contribute to holding the reader's interest from beginning to end.

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 will be sure to register the participant(s) online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Song Writing Event Coordinator for their mailing address in order to submit the entries.
- The Church Coordinator will mail 3 copies of the completed work along with 3 copies of the completed Pre-Convention Submission form to the Song Writing Event Coordinator. The entry must be received by the Pre-Convention Event deadline of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This event 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.
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 or Cassette. 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.
8. Do not staple the pages together, as they will be separated during the evaluation process. The use of paper clips is allowed.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The entry relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Structure:* The entry is consistent in style, balanced phrases, and flow.
- *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 lyrics and melody/music of the entry are original.
- *Format & Submission:* The entry follows the formatting and submission rules in the ERLTC manual.

Video Drama

A Pre-Convention Event

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

Process:

- The Church Coordinator will be sure to register the participant(s) online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Video Drama Event Coordinator for their mailing address and/or instructions to submit the entries.
- The Church Coordinator will mail the video with the Pre-Convention Submission Form to the Video Drama Event Coordinator. The entry must be received 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 event 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 using the current ERLTC theme. Provide costumes, props, and actors.
4. Videotape and edit the video (optional). The video drama may incorporate a dramatization of a Bible story that illustrates the current ERLTC theme. It may include a modern-day application, if desired.
5. Maximum length of the video drama is 10 minutes. Video dramas that exceed the time limit will be penalized.
6. Submissions are to be DVD (preferred) or VHS format. Each submission shall be labeled with (a) year and theme; (b) church name and ERLTC number; (c) grades of all participants involved; and (d) the title of the video drama. Failure to provide required documentation will affect your evaluation.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The video drama clearly relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Continuity:* The storyline and dialogue flows smoothly, particularly in the transition that must occur when a modern application is included.
- *Delivery & Poise:* The speaking and interaction between characters is smooth and natural. Movements and reactions of the characters are appropriate for the story and give 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 more than the 10 minutes maximum permitted.

Web Page Design

A Pre-Convention Event

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

Process:

- The Church Coordinator will be sure to register the participant(s) online. Each participant of a team will receive an individual award.
- The Church Coordinator will email the Web Page Design Event Coordinator for any instructions to submit the entries.
- The Church Coordinator will submit the entry to the Web Page Design Event Coordinator. The entry must be received by the deadline date of March 1st.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. A maximum of three participants may work on an entry. Evaluation of the entry will be at the level of the oldest participant.
3. Create a website on the internet. The website must reflect the current ERLTC theme.
4. 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.
5. Websites may be linked, but the participant(s) must specify exactly which URL's are to be evaluated.
6. Adult assistance shall be limited to advice and supervision. The website shall be the work of the participant only.
7. When submitted the entry, include the participant(s) name, church name and ERLTC number, participant(s) grade, and the complete 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 the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The text and graphics clearly relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Glorifies God:* The web page design clearly glorifies God, first and foremost, through the text, the graphics, and the animation.
- *Creativity:* The web page design displays original creativity with use of the text and/or graphics, and/or animation.
- *Content:* All content is accurate; appropriate copyright laws are observed; and proper credit is given to authors.
- *Technical:* The web page design has no broken links or orphaned pages. Pages load quickly. The linked pages are consistent with the purpose of the web page design.
- *Appearance & Readability:* Formatting (font styles, sizes, bullets, italics, bold, etc.) are consistent throughout or any variations enhance the content; making the web page design easy to read.

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 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.
- Will ensure that the Art work is submitted to the Art Event area at the Convention and that the work is picked up at the end of the Convention.
- Complete final registration at the Convention for those participants that are participating in the Convention events.

Convention Events are:

- Art
- 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 graded member.

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

Art

Purpose: To communicate faith and beliefs through art.

Process:

- There are 6 different categories for Art: 1) Drawing; 2) Graphic/Poster Design; 3) Greeting Card; 4) Painting; 5) Photography; and 6) 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 sculpture).
- 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, the artistic medium and the grade level of the participant.
- Submit 1 evaluator for every 5 entries. If less than 5 still must submit 1 evaluator.
- All entries must be picked up between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Saturday of the Convention.

General Rules:

1. A participant may submit 1 art piece in each of the 5 different categories of Art.
2. This event is open to 3rd – 12th grade participants. This is an individual event only.
3. Art entries must reflect the current ERLTC theme.
4. Adult assistance shall be limited to that of advice and supervision. Adults may assist freely in the framing of the Art (in the case of lower grades, adults may do the framing).
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) artist's name; b) grade level; c) church name and ERLTC number; d) caption quotation; and e) category and medium.
6. The caption quotation should include 2 to 5 sentences explaining the artist's thoughts and connecting them directly to the entry, or a scripture reference that indicates the passage being interpreted by the entry.

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.
4. Include a description of Category and Medium for each painting (example: Category = Drawing, and Medium = Charcoal).

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.

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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.
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.
5. Include a description of Category and Medium for each painting (example: Category = Painting and Medium = Watercolor).

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.

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).

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Identification:* Proper identification includes the: (1) artist's name, (2) grade level, (3) church name and number, and (4) caption quotation.
- *Presentation:* Proper support presentation needed for display (base, easel, frame, brace, scripture reference, explanation) as outlined in the manual.
- *Size:* Meets the required size parameters as outlined in the manual.
- *Interpretation of Theme:* The artist's interpretation of the chosen scripture reference and/or explanation, clearly relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *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; based on the age and grade level of the participant.
- *Neat & Orderly:* Art shows done with patience and in a neat and orderly manner.

Bible Bowl

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

Process:

1. Enroll five-member teams in grade level of highest graded member.
2. The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Bible Bowl Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
3. The study material for Bible Bowl relates to the current ERLTC theme.
4. All questions will be drawn from the text of The Holy Bible, New International Version by International Bible Society, Copyright 1984. Any information in the text may be asked, and some questions may cover information from more than one verse.
5. The Bible Bowl Event is a tournament consisting of two rounds for 3rd-7th grade participants and three rounds for 8th-12th grade participants.
6. 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 5 participants and a minimum of 2.
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 in your area.
3. If you have extra team members, please contact the Bible Bowl Event Coordinator before ERLTC weekend.
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.
5. Each participating team will provide a Scorer.

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 regarding an event.

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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. Each question will have a Scripture reference. 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 1984 New International Version (NIV).
2. A list of questions will *not* be provided in advance or at the Convention.
3. The Quizmaster will read each 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. A Scorer may not keep score for a team from his or her home church.
2. 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.
3. Each team scores one point for each question answered correctly.
4. After all scores are recorded, the Quizmaster will ask the next question.
5. No bonus or adjusted points are given for any reason.

Protests:

1. All protests will be logged with the Floor Monitor at the back of the event area.
2. Protests are received *only* from the Adult Coaches.
3. 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 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. Two 5-minute breaks will occur between rounds and not during them.
3. A perfect team score is 100.

Awards:

- Awards are determined by adding the score of the team members in both rounds.
- 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

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

Process:

- Choose a reading from Old or New Testament for each participant.
- Choose reading from a standard translation, no paraphrases.
- 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 1 evaluator for every 5 participants. If less than 5, still must submit 1 evaluator.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. A brief introduction is required. The entire presentation of the introduction plus scripture reading is not to be more than two and a half minutes in length. The participant will be warned when time is running out.
3. 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. Participant will be penalized if the identification and introduction exceeds 20 seconds or is omitted. Memorization is neither required nor encouraged; the ability to read the Scripture chosen is what is being evaluated.
4. Each participant will be evaluated by at least one evaluator.
5. Spectators may not leave or enter the room while participants are speaking. This is *not a "come-and-go" event*.
6. Any video or audio equipment must be set up prior to the session and must be stationary. No participant may be taped without his or her advanced approval and the appropriate notification to the evaluators.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Introduction:* Identifies: (1) the passage, (2) the translation, and (3) the setting of the passage; should not exceed 20 seconds of the total time.
- *Poise:* The reader presents the reading with confidence and composure.
- *Posture:* Has proper posture by standing straight with both feet firmly on the floor. Any movement done was 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 must pronounce 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 doing the reading of the text.
- *Time Limit:* The entire presentation includes the introduction plus the text reading, is not less than 1.0 minute and not more than 2.5 minutes in length.

Chorus

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

Process:

- The Church Coordinator will provide one evaluator or room monitor per registered chorus.
- The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Chorus Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
- Select and prepare the chorus group with appropriate a-cappella music.
- Determine that participants are performing in no more than two choruses, though not in the same time period.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Chorus size can be 2 or more participants.
3. 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.
4. Lighting levels in the performance rooms may not be altered. Music stands will not be provided.
5. Choruses need to arrive at least 15 minutes before performance, but do not need to stay until the end of the event. Chorus leaders must present the team sheet to the room monitor just prior to performance.
6. 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 the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Appearance:* The group should be dressed neatly and appropriately, not necessarily formally nor in uniform. Care in appearance should show.
- *Theme & Spiritual Message:* The current ERLTC theme is the center of the presentation, effectively delivering the spiritual message.
- *Stage Presence:* Group has appropriate facial expression and body movement, as well as visible ease at performing. Group looks energetic and happy.
- *Blending of Voices:* The voices of group blend well together; one or two voices should not overpower the group.
- *Diction:* Diction is clear and precise with the words pronounced clearly. Consonants are crisp and clear.
- *Dynamic Contrast:* The group has clear volume (loud/soft) contrast, with a dynamic range that expresses the mood and feeling.
- *Time Limit:* The group meets the time limit of 8 minutes that includes set up, performance, and clearing of the stage.

Conversational Signing

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:

- Ensure participants get a complete and current copy of the event rules.
- Spectators may not enter or leave the room while a participant is signing or interpreting.
- Please note on registration if interpreting services are needed and at what specific event/time.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Signing Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.

Participant Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. Participant must sign to the recording provided by the Signing Event Coordinator at the Convention.
3. No signs or coaching instructions can be given to the participant while performing.
4. A solid color blouse/shirt/dress contrasting with skin tone or ERLTC shirt shall be worn while signing.
5. All participants must meet at their assigned room 10 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time.

Event Rules:

- The participant will fingerspell their name and fingerspell the selection being signed.
- The participant will sign the selections to a recording provided by the Signing Event Coordinator at the Convention.
- Ensure the version of the song follows the publication in this year's Signing Rules.
- 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.
- Ensure that the participant is ready to interpret the selections as described below.

Rules for Conversational Signing I

- Use ASL Signing
- Fingerspell Name
- Sign "Good Morning"
- Participants choose 1 song or 1 scripture. 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
 - A Wonderful Savior #508
 - God Moves in a Mysterious Way #26
 - He Lives! #346
 - The Lord My Shepherd Is #126
 - A Mighty Fortress #10
- You can find an audible version of these songs on the ERLTC website.
- Choose from NIV or EVD "English Version for the Deaf." Choose a scripture from the text of the current ERLTC theme.
- Sign "Thank You"
- Once you have reached Gold status you must move to next level of signing.

Rules for Conversational Signing II

- Use ASL Signing
- Fingerspell Name
- Sign “Good Morning”
- Include a 30 second introduction such as telling about yourself, the church you attend, what are your hobbies, your favorite scripture, etc.
- Participants choose 1 song or 1 scripture. 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
 - A Wonderful Savior #508
 - God Moves in a Mysterious Way #26
 - He Lives! #346
 - The Lord My Shepherd Is #126
 - A Mighty Fortress #10
- You can find an audible version of these songs on the ERLTC website.
- Choose from EVD “English Version for the Deaf.” Choose a scripture from the text of the current ERLTC theme.
- Sign “Thank You”
- Once you have reached Gold status you must move to next level of signing.

Rules for Conversational Signing III

- Use ASL Signing
- Fingerspell Name and Good Morning
- Sign a 3-5 minute devotional thought or brief Bible lesson.
- Once you have reached Gold status for 3 years out of 4 and you are in the 10th or 11th grade, you will then move to the Platinum Challenge, unless this is your 1st or 2nd year of participating in this event and you are in the 10th -12th grade.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Preparation Vocabulary:* The signer follows the event rules 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.

Drama

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

Process:

- Select an appropriate modern-day life application drama of the current ERLTC theme.
- Have appropriate wardrobe, props and sound effects to support the drama.
- 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 schedule registration time.
- Submit the name of one evaluator for every drama team entered.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. The drama is a modern-day application of any Christian truth, with respect to the current ERLTC theme. This is not a Bible story re-enactment.
3. The length of the drama will be no less than 6 minutes and not more than 12 minutes. The 12 minutes will include set-up, performing, and clearing the stage. A performance that does not adhere to the time limits will be penalized during evaluation.
4. Each participant may only participate in one drama.
5. Each team must have at least 2 participants but not exceed 10 participants.
6. Props that are used must be easily carried on and off stage.
7. Stages will tentatively be 16' wide and 12' deep; this may change due to conditions beyond our control. Be prepared to adapt.
8. Drama teams need to arrive at least 15 minutes before performance.
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.)

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Character Development:* Characters stay in character throughout the drama presentation and are believable.
- *Clarity of Principle:* The spiritual message delivered relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Delivery & Interaction:* Lines spoken by the characters are loud and clear with proper voice inflections to show emotions and to express ideas. 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.

Live Skits

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

Process:

- Select an appropriate modern-day life application drama skit of the current ERLTC theme.
- Have appropriate wardrobe, props and sound effects to support the live drama skit.
- Register each live drama skit team by the registration deadline.
- The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Live Skits Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
- Submit the name of one evaluator for every live drama skit team entered.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. The live drama skit may include participants from different grades; however, evaluation will be at the level of the highest grade participant.
3. The live drama skit should be short, telling the story as compact as possible. It can be amusing or thoughtful.
4. Maximum length of the live drama skit is 3 minutes. The 3 minutes will include set-up, performing, and clearing the stage. Live skits that exceed the time limit will be penalized during the evaluation.
5. Each participant may only participate in one live drama skit.
6. Each team must have at least 2 participants but not exceed 4 participants.
7. Props that are used must be easily carried on and off stage.
8. 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.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The live skit clearly relates to the current ERLTC theme.
- *Continuity:* The storyline and dialogue flows smoothly.
- *Characters:* The speaking and interaction between characters is smooth and natural. Interaction uses good facial expression, gestures, enunciation, movements, and reactions as appropriate for the story.
- *Costumes, Set Design, Props:* The costumes, set design, and props are appropriate and add to the live skit 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.
- *Time Limit:* The length of the live skit is no more than the 3 minutes maximum, which includes set up, performance, and the clearing of the stage.

Puppets

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

Process:

- Select appropriate puppet script to be presented live, related to the current ERLTC theme.
- Register team by grade level of oldest participant on the team.
- Be certain that puppet teams are registered for puppets.
- The Church Coordinator confirms team registrations at the Puppets Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
- Submit one evaluator for every puppet team registered.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants. Each team will have no more than 12 participants. Teams are evaluated at the level of the participant with the highest grade.
2. Each team will have 12 minutes to set up, perform and exit the stage area. Performances that exceed the time limit are penalized during evaluation.
3. Puppet teams need to arrive at least 15 minutes before performance.
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. Each puppet skit shall be presented live. Tape recording of the special effects is allowed, but no tape recording of dialogue will be allowed.
6. 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.)
7. A performance stage will be provided at convention. Diagrams of the stage are available online at the ERLTC website. 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. Any team who does not leave the stage as it was set up will be penalized during evaluation.

Awards:

- Awards of Gold, Silver or Bronze based on the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme & Biblical Application:* The presentation contains a biblical application with the main point expressing the current ERLTC theme.
- *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 more than 12 minutes, which includes the set up, the performance, and the exiting of the stage area.

Song Leading

Purpose: To encourage the development of song leading skills.

Process:

- Register each participant in proper grade level.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Song Leading Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
- Submit one song leading evaluator for every two participants entered

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. There are separate divisions for boys and girls.
3. Participants will choose one song to lead. The song chosen must reflect the current ERLTC theme in some manner.
4. Two stanzas and only two stanzas of the chosen song are to be led.
5. It is the responsibility of the song leader to provide copies of the chosen song for the audience. The CCL # must be noted when applicable. An overhead projector will be available if participant chooses to display the song by transparency.
6. Participant will state their name, the song title, and which verses leading before starting the song.
7. Spectators may not enter or leave the room while participants are singing.
8. 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 the following evaluation 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.
- *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

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

Process:

- Register by proper grade level.
- Have each speaker at the proper room before the event begins.
- The Church Coordinator confirms participant's registration at the Speech Event registration table on Friday of the Convention during the schedule registration time.
- Provide at least one evaluator for every three participants. If less than three participants are participating in speech, one evaluator will be required.

Rules:

1. This event is open to 3rd–12th grade participants.
2. There are separate divisions for boys and girls.
3. 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.
4. Each speech shall be related to the current ERLTC theme. 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.
5. 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.
6. Participants will greet their listeners and state their name.
7. Note cards will be allowed. Consideration will be given to participants who demonstrate thorough preparation by memorizing their material.
8. 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 the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Theme:* The speech relates to the current ERLTC theme. (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.