

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

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- (1) Overall performance
- (2) Originality, Creativity
- (3) Technique and Rhythm



- (4) Style and Difficulty
- (5) Stage presence.

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

Percussion Instrument List

Congas	Maracas
Drum set	Wood Blocks
Cow bells	Triangle
Bongo	Xylophone
Timpani	Tambourine
Un-conventional percussion items	Chimes

.

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

INSTRUMENTAL

Areas of Participation—

- Instrumental Solo
- Instrumental Ensemble (limited to 6 persons)



CATEGORY RULES

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 minutes.
2. The copyrights to any music compositions shall be secured by the author prior to the Expo. Any original music compositions should be noted as such.
3. An instrumental soundtrack may be used. No vocals or accompaniment will be allowed.
4. Because the District cannot provide an acoustic piano, electric keyboards will be permitted at the District Expo, however contestants placing First with Qualification must be prepared to play the provided acoustic piano at the National Talent Expo.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

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

APPROVED INSTRUMENT LIST

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

***Acoustic guitar
Dulcimer
Acoustic Bass
Cello
Harp
Woodwinds
Acoustic piano***



JUDGING CRITERIA

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

Technique – breathing, rhythm, and accuracy of notes.

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

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

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES

1. Effective stage presence is important in the ministry of music. Good stage presence transforms stage fright into confidence. This becomes possible when the instrumentalists define their purpose as performing for God's glory. This gives the listening audience and judges the impression that the musician is delighted to minister.
2. The selection and arrangement of music is a significant factor.
 - A. This area was designed to feature instrumentalists working together for harmony. The design is to develop the "dynamics" of music through learned and rehearsed skill. The performance should feature each instrument during the performance as well as "symphony." No vocals will be allowed during the performance.
 - B. The music should be within the proper extremes of the contestant's instrumental range.
 - C. The choice of music should be appropriate for setting with a focus on ministry.
 - D. It is better to perform an easier selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The quality of a contestant's performance is paramount to the level of difficulty of their selection.
3. Interpretation refers to the personal touch the contestant brings to the music. Style refers to the distinctive manner the composition is performed giving it personality.
4. Phrasing in music corresponds to sentences in speech. The contestant should strive to phrase naturally and seek for the music to flow. Phrasing also refers to the ability to know where to accent (a more full sound, more crisp, or in a softer tone.)



5. Tone results when strings, drumheads, etc. vibrate. The goal for good quality is to produce a tone that is clear and full.
6. Intensity projection refers to the prominence of the piece. Finger dexterity is used in judging instrumentals. Is the musician using the fingers smoothly and quickly? Disciplining the hand with finger exercised brings greater dexterity.

THE NATIONAL TEEN TALENT EXPO PROVIDES

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

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION INTERPRETIVE DANCE

Areas of Participation

Solo Dance
Group Dance

CATEGORY RULES

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and/or themes and must not exceed 5 minutes. Time will begin at the beginning of movement or music.
2. Soundtracks may be used. You must provide a CD media case.
WARNING: If the judges determine background vocals or duplication of the solo instrument on the soundtrack distracts or interferes with the performance, 5 points from each judge may be subtracted from the score.
3. The District Youth Department suggests that you only use original CDs in your performance. Any CD that is not original (ex. burned CDs, invalid music file formats, etc.) are not guaranteed to work in our systems and is not the responsibility of the District Youth Department or District Teen Talent Expo. The participant assumes all risk of possible soundtrack



malfunctions! Back-up soundtracks are recommended.

4. Group entries are limited to 15 persons.
5. Choreography will be based on and should convey the intended message of the piece.
6. Neither choreography nor costumes should at any time compromise Christian ideals (i.e. be suggestive, vulgar, revealing, etc.)
7. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
8. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.
9. Any and all props must be hand-held only (i.e. scarves, hats, ribbons, etc.). No other stage props are permitted.
10. The focus of the category must be dance and fit into a subset of the Dance category. Mime or sign language does fit into a dance category.
11. See also General Rules.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. STAGE PRESENTATION:

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

2. TECHNIQUE:

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



3. CHOREOGRAPHY:

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

4. MINISTERIAL EFFECT:

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

5. OVERALL:

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

What judges want:

1. Creative and age-appropriate choreography
2. Good clean technique
3. Stage presence
4. Well-rehearsed choreography
5. Dancers who are comfortable with all elements of the number
6. Clean numbers with choreography that is well suited for the dancers
7. Original ideas



8. A clean professional look onstage: good costume, hair and makeup
9. Technique: Make sure that you do not give them any reason to deduct points.
10. The human quality: They are looking for real people with real emotions.

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC SPEAKING

Areas of Participation

Persuasive Speaking

Christian Stand-up Comedy

CATEGORY RULES

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



JUDGING CRITERIA

Persuasive Speaking:

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

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

Contact-facial, eye and voice. Does the speaker make connection with the audience?

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

Written Outline/Resources-What is the quality of the outline presented to the judges?

Is the outline neat and in order? Is it easy to follow? Has the speaker defined all sources of research? How well has the speaker utilized these resources?

Here are some styles you may use in your presentation:

1. Verse Outline—Take 2 or 3 verses for your outline. Build your central thought from these.
2. Word Outline—Use a short text and highlight a word. For example: River, sin or faith.
3. Chapter Outline—Take a chapter from the Bible which focuses on your subject.
4. Topical Outline—This is the most commonly used outline where all subject matter supports the main topic.
5. Biographical Outline—This presentation comes from a character sketch which reveals a truth about the theme.
6. Contrasting Truths—This style develops when opposites meet. For example: Romans 6:23 speaks of wages and gifts, death and life.



Christian Comedy

Preparation – How well is the speaker prepared?

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

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

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

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

1. Your first element of public speaking is to develop a good outline. This is the heart of the presentation, and since you must keep to the outline, you will want to make it work for you. Talk with your pastor, youth pastor or teacher about outlining. Your outline should flow freely from your subject and text (if used.)
2. Have someone evaluate your presentation. Have them use the suggestions below.
3. Loudness and fast speaking are not always best. Blend the presentation with short thought-provoking sentences.
4. Be relevant in your presentation. Use current statistics from newspapers, almanacs, internet, etc. Remember to document your information.
5. Be sure the message is scriptural and leads the hearer to an appropriate decision about the Christian walk.



6. Be sure the presentation is no longer than 5 minutes. 30 points will be deducted from your overall score if you go over.

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

SHORT FILM

Areas of Participation—

- A. Short Film

CATEGORY RULES

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



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

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

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

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

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

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

1. Appropriate Theme—That which ministers to the audience.
2. Presentation of Theme—How good does the short film do in bringing the theme alive? Does it flow? Is it interesting? Is it relevant?
3. Cinematography—Does the camera tell the story? Is it creatively filmed? Is the mood experienced through the film work?



4. Sound & Lighting—Is the sound and picture clear?
5. Editing—Is it well cut? Is it organized and presentable?
6. Story—Is it believable? Is the message of the film conveyed through the theatrical roles? Is it creative?
7. Difficult Factor—The judges will observe closely how easy or difficult the entry is. It will not be too difficult to judge whether the short film has put time and practice in the presentation or not.

CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

VOCAL

Areas of Participation

Vocal Solo Female
Vocal Solo Male
Vocal Ensemble

CATEGORY RULES

1. The participant may or may not choose to use accompaniment music. Only the vocal performance will be evaluated. For those using CDs for accompaniment music, you must provide a jewel case.
2. The Youth Departments suggest that you only use original CDs in your performance. Any CD that is not original (ex. Burned CDs, invalid music file formats, etc.) are not guaranteed to work in our systems and is not the responsibility of the District Youth Department or National Teen Talent Expo. The participant assumes all risk of possible soundtrack malfunctions! Back-up soundtracks are recommended. Should this situation arise, the participant will be given the option to perform a cappella or be disqualified.
3. If the participant chooses to use live music, accompaniment is limited to a single instrument.
4. Background vocals are not allowed for vocal ensemble entry soundtracks.
5. Musical selections must not exceed 5 minutes.



6. To ensure sound level, microphones will be set prior to the District Teen Talent Expo by an official sound technician. Participants may not ask for special sound settings.
7. Entries cannot be altered between district and national competition. The only changes allowed are what is suggested and marked on the official scoresheet by the category judge.
8. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.
9. See also General Rules.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Effective stage presence is important in the ministry of music. Good stage presence transforms stage fright into confidence. This becomes possible when the vocalist or ensemble defines their purpose as performing for the glory of God. This communicates to the listening audience and judges that the participant is delighted to minister.
2. The selection and arrangement of music is a significant factor. Consider the following:
 - a. Most entries in the solo competition are vocal solos singing slower selections. This does not mean that you should not sing a slower song, only that whatever you perform, make it a unique selection that you will perform well and grab the audience's "attention."
 - b. The music should be within a comfortable extreme of the contestant's vocal range.
 - c. It is better to perform an simple selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The quality of a contestant's performance is paramount to the level of difficulty of their selection.

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

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

