



celebrating  
**25**  
years

**2012**  
**official rules/guidelines**  
**PCG National Youth Ministries**

NATIONAL TALENT





## **PCG YOUTH MINISTRIES**

Dear Talent Expo Contestant,

Discover! I love this word. I use it in the mission statement for my life. I always say it this way. Discover God, Impact journeys and Inspire others to do the same. That first word, discover, lays out the first step in our life pursuit of God. We have to discover Him. Find out what He is all about. In the process He shows us what we are all about.

Every year in the fall, hundreds of teens and kids from all across America begin to prepare themselves to compete in District Teen Talent Expos, hoping for the chance to compete in the National Teen Talent Expo. Through the opportunity presented by the National Talent Expo, students discover and develop their God-given talents, and take on the Great Commission given us to reach your world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You will dedicate yourself to endless hours of preparation, writing, sculpting, developing and practice to use your talents for His glory.

Lying within each one of you is a great desire to be a disciple of Christ that uses the extent of your talents and to run the race God has laid out for you, ever reaching for that prize (I Corinthians 9:24). We should not desire just an award of excellence, that is only earthly and will eventually pass away, but we do desire a prize that is worthy of laying at the feet of Jesus in humble praise.

I thank you for your commitment to run this race and use your talents for God.

The National Talent Expo program can be a truly rewarding experience for you. District and National levels offer to you incredible opportunities for personal growth, the opportunity to develop new friendships, the development of your talent(s) all while helping you to mature spiritually.

If you should have any questions concerning the National Talent Expo program, your Instruction Manual or opportunities available through the Expo, please contact our National Youth Ministries Office at 417-624-7050 x352 or [ym@pcg.org](mailto:ym@pcg.org). Remember, all the latest updates and information can be found on our website at [www.impactym.com](http://www.impactym.com).

Remember, it is for His glory that we perform using our talents. Discover your gifts, develop them, and then use them to change our world for Christ!

Impacting Journeys,

Joe Skiles  
National Youth Ministries Director

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## **STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE**

Since it's beginning in 1987, the National Teen Talent Expo has been one of the fastest growing ministries of the Youth Department. Teen Talent Expo has been the vehicle for teens to develop their talents toward their full potential for Christ.

Teen Talent Expo seeks to achieve the following objectives:

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

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

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



## **GENERAL RULES**

1. Each participant must have turned 13 years of age, but no older than 19, on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the competition year in order to be eligible for National Teen Talent Expo finals.
2. Each participant must have turned 6 years of age, but no older than 12, on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the competition year in order to be eligible for National Kid Talent Expo finals.
3. Each participant must come through their District Teen Talent Expo, and attend a Pentecostal Church of God church or a church affiliated in fellowship with the Pentecostal Church of God, or a youth group registered with the National Youth Department. Only ONE entry per person per category is allowed on the District level.
4. Each participant must have received a “First Place with Invitation” rating from their District Talent Expo. Should the First Place winner be unable to attend, the District, at it’s discretion, may choose to send the Second Place winner, providing they have scored high enough to receive an “Invitation” score of 225 points given from three judges.
5. Each participant must submit a National Teen Talent Expo entry form and a fee of \$25 per entry to their District Youth Ministries office. All National Teen Talent Expo entries must be submitted by or postmarked to the National Youth Ministries Office by May 1<sup>st</sup> or next business day with a registration form and a fee of \$25.00. Late registrations received after May 1<sup>st</sup> must pay \$50.00 per entry. No entries will be accepted after May 7<sup>th</sup>. All district entries are sent to the National Youth Office by the district leadership with a coversheet including names and complete addresses typed.
6. The National Youth Office does not provide refunds for cancellations.
7. Agreeing to and believing in freedom of expression and diversity of opinion, the participants in the Teen Talent Expo shall, in their presentation, take full consideration of areas of decency, modesty and Christian values. The District Youth Director must be fully aware of each performance and the appropriate appearance of each participant.
8. Each district may submit one entry from each of the categories in the National Teen Talent Expo.
9. A participant in the national finals may be disqualified if he/she fails to appear at the designated time and place for his/her performance.
10. A one-time 30 point overall deduction will be given in violation of any rules stated within this manual for any respective category.
11. Each participant has 2 minutes to setup and 90 seconds to tear down.



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



## **Contestant Scoring**

Contestants will be judged in 5 different areas (see “Judging Criteria” under category rules). Each area is worth a total of 20 points, creating a maximum score of 100 points per judge. *(Please see sample score sheet in the appendix of this manual)*

Each contestant will be judged by 3 Scoring judges (creating a maximum score of 300 points), and 1 Technical Judge who is responsible for monitoring all rule infractions. A one-time 30 point overall deduction will be issued upon any General or Category rule infraction (s). *(see “General Rules” #9)*

## **On-site Orientation**

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

# **Equipment Provided List**

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

**\*All of these instruments are NOT guaranteed at the DISTRICT competition.**

# **Areas of Participation**

## **Teens:**

- Art & Dimensional Art
- Christian Band
- Creative Writing (Poetry, Short Story)
- Drama (Human Video, Theatrical)
- Drums & Percussion
- Instrumental (Solo, Ensemble)
- Interpretive Dance (Solo, Group)
- Public Speaking (Persuasive Speaking, Stand-up Comedy)
- Short Film
- Vocal (Female Solo, Male Solo, Ensemble)

## **Kids:**

- Art & Dimensional Art
- Creative Writing (Poetry, Short Story)
- Drama (Human Video only)
- Drums & Percussion
- Instrumental (Solo only)
- Interpretive Dance (Group only)
- Public Speaking (Persuasive Speaking, Stand-up Comedy)
- Vocal (Female Solo, Male Solo, Ensemble)

# **Approved Instrument List**

**Keyboards:** *piano, keyboard, synthesizer*

**Woodwinds:** *flute family, clarinet family, saxophone family, oboe, english horn, bassoon*

**Brass:** *horn family, baritone (t.c./b.c.)*

**Strings:** *violin, string bass, viola, harp, cello*

**Rhythm Strings:** *acoustic guitar, dulcimer, 12-string guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, bass guitar, electric guitar*

**Percussion (Traditional):** *drums (and cymbals), congas, hand bells, orchestra bells, tambourine, triangle, xylophone, bongo, djembe, maracas, sandpaper blocks, timbales, vibraphone, cajon, guiro, marimba, shakers, timpani (kettle drums), wood blocks, and NON-TRADITIONAL percussion.*

**Other:** *Harmonica*



## **CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION:**

# **ART & DIMENSIONAL ART**

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### **Areas of Participation:**

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

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

### **ART:**

1. Art entries can only be created by one person (group art is not allowed).
2. All entries must be created entirely by the participant and must have an appropriate theme. All entries must have been created since the close of the previous national competition.
3. Entries cannot be altered in any way between district and national competition except for minor touchups as recommended by the District Competition judges.
4. Each contestant is responsible for delivery of his/her entry to both district and national competitions and will assume full liability of any damage that may occur during shipping and competition.
5. The participant must present his/her entry with a TYPED information page stating the participant's name, picture and the theme of the presentation (handwritten pages will not be allowed).
6. You are responsible for picking up your ART ENTRY, or arranging for the pickup after the Talent Expo is finished. IMPACT PCG STUDENT MINISTRIES is NOT responsible for entries left at the expo.

### **DIMENSIONAL ART:**

1. Dimensional Art entries may be created by 1 or more persons.
2. All entries must be created entirely by the participant and must have an appropriate theme. All entries must have been created since the close of the previous national competition.



3. Entries cannot be altered in any way between district and national competition except for minor touchups as recommended by the District Competition judges.
4. Each contestant(s) is responsible for delivery of his/her entry to both district and national competitions and will assume full liability of any damage that may occur during shipping and competition.
5. The participant(s) must present his/her entry with a TYPED information page stating the participant's name(s), picture(s) and the theme of the presentation (handwritten pages will not be allowed).
6. You are responsible for picking up your CRAFT ENTRY, or arranging for the pickup after the Talent Expo is finished. IMPACT PCG STUDENT MINISTRIES is NOT responsible for entries left at the expo.

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

### **Art:**

1. **Appropriate Theme:** message; originality.
2. **Difficulty Factor:** easy, medium, difficult?
3. **Perspective:** correctness; symmetry.
4. **Color Scheme and Contrast:** liveliness; accuracy; blend.
5. **Composition:** overall beauty; ability; placard/cover sheet.

### **Dimensional Art:**

1. **Appropriate Theme:** message; originality.
2. **Difficulty Factor:** easy, medium, difficult?
3. **Design:** proportionate; symmetry; unity.
4. **Craftsmanship:** neatness; precision; effort.
5. **Appearance:** overall beauty; ability; placard/cover sheet.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

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

Art consists of many different elements. The most important elements are:

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

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

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# CHRISTIAN BAND

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Christian Band

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 minutes.
2. The copyrights to any music compositions shall be secured by the author prior to the Expo. Any original music compositions should be noted as such.
3. The participants must provide the song lyrics being performed in triplicate to the Category Chairman during orientation, so as to assess accuracy. Please make sure the lyrics note the author of the song and original compositions should be noted. Lyrics should include a title page with: the category, name of the song, group name and District of participants.
4. Band entries are limited to six persons. All participants must be within the age limits of the competition. Not every vocalist must play an instrument nor every instrumentalist vocalize the song.
5. Soundtracks are not allowed.
6. Judging shall be based on both vocalization and instrumentation of the song.
7. The talent expo will provide keyboard and drumset for all participants.
8. Students must refrain from any actions or language that may be deemed offensive or inappropriate during the presentation.
9. 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.
10. In emergency situations, a substitute of an individual in a group is permitted. No additions other than substitutions are allowed.

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Accuracy:** note accuracy; note values/temp accuracy; pitch accuracy and clarity
2. **Tone:** voice and instrument quality; voice and sound control; fullness of sound; balance/blend.
3. **Technique:** rhythmic accuracy; pronunciation of words; steadiness of tempo.



4. **Interpretation:** understanding of composition; conveyance of message; general effect; fluent use of harmony.
5. **Presentation:** stage deportment; posture; poise; ministerial effect.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

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

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# CREATIVE WRITING

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Poetry
- B. Short Story

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

1. The participant can write in each of the two categories: Poetry or Short Story (fiction/non-fiction). The essays for fiction and non-fiction must have a Christian theme and be between 500 – 1250 words in length. Poetry must be from 12 - 20 lines.
2. Each manuscript will begin with a title page including title, writing category choice, word count, the participant's name, address, age, the name of the participant's church, and the name of the participant's district.
3. Entry must be typed (at least 12 pt font) and double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11" paper. Please send four original copies of the short story or poetry. One copy for each judge as well as a "clean copy" for display. These entries are pre-judged. Your entry must be postmarked to the District Youth Office by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. The name of the participant must be in the upper left hand corner of each additional page.
5. The page number must appear in the upper right hand corner of each page.
6. Each participant in the Creative Writing Category must include a snapshot or photo of themselves (no larger than 4 x 6) along with their entry, as the participants in this category do not have to be present in order to win. The photo page should follow the title page, just prior to the short story or poetry. The photo needs to be attached to or printed on the photo page.
7. Winning entries will be submitted to *The Pentecostal Messenger* for publication.
8. Each manuscript becomes the property of the National Youth Ministries office and may not be returned.

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

### **Poetry:**

1. **Content:** originality; interest; logic and accuracy; support (specific and convincing).
2. **Organization:** thesis (purpose is clear throughout); introduction; body (main points clear, unified and supported/amplified and easy to understand); conclusion.
3. **Style:** sentence variety and structure; diction and imagery.
4. **Spelling/Grammar:** mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar); unity; coherence; emphasis (sentences clearly related to one another and all related to the thesis).
5. **Rhyme/Rhythm:** meter regular; rhyme smooth.

### **Short Story:**

1. **Content:** originality; interest; logic and accuracy; support (specific and convincing).
2. **Organization:** thesis (purpose is clear throughout); introduction; body (main points clear, unified and supported/amplified and easy to understand); conclusion.
3. **Style:** sentence variety and structure; diction and imagery.
4. **Spelling/Grammar:** mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar); unity; coherence; emphasis (sentences clearly related to one another and all related to the thesis).
5. **Details:** use of verbs; descriptive.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

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

1. Read the article aloud, rapidly, as if you were reading someone else's work. Ask: Is it interesting? Is it significant? Are there any blind spots? Does it have rapport?
2. Read the article a second time. Ask: Is the article logical? Does the ending tie to the opening? Can I tighten sentences? Can I improve word choice? Are transitions clear?
3. Read the article again. This time probe deeper. Ask: Is the

lead interesting? Is it interesting and relevant? Are action verbs used? Does it have a suitable end?

4. Read the article again. Verify quotations, facts, spelling, punctuation, etc.
5. Now ask someone you trust to read the article. Ask them to be honest with you. Watch for their initial reaction. If the article doesn't grab the reader, find out why.
6. Read the article again. Make sure sentences are not too long. Break long sentences with three or four word sentences. Make the entry "breathe."

### **The Article:**

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

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# DRAMA

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Theatrical Drama
- B. Human Video Ensemble

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

### Theatrical Drama

1. Only handheld props are allowed that are carried on/off stage by individual participants. (No setup time allowed for props).
2. Theatrical Drama groups are limited to a maximum of 10 performers with only five having a microphone.
3. No audio sound device is allowed during performance.
4. The time limit for Theatrical Drama is five minutes.
5. An outline (*does not have to be verbatim*) of the act will be required for theatrical dramas, and must be handed in triplicate to the Category Chairman during orientation. It should have a TITLE page including: category, group name, and the District of participants.

### Human Video Ensemble

1. Solo entries are not allowed.
2. No speaking parts are allowed.
3. Groups are limited to a maximum of 20 people.
4. The time limit for Human Video is seven minutes.
5. The musical track that accompanies Human Video entries must include lyrics (your song **MUST** have words). Voice-overs may be present in the recording but may not completely replace the lyrics.
6. The Human Video technique of “lip sync” must be present in the majority of the presentation.
7. The participants must provide the written song selection with words in triplicate to the Category Chairman during orientation, so as to assess accuracy. The title page should include the category, name of the song, group name and District of participants. If the drama is **NOT** an original, please cite your sources.

## Both areas of concentration

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

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Preparation/Presentation:** appropriate selection; appropriate introduction; relevance of the selection.
2. **Communication:** how effective is the interpretation of meaning and emotion content of the selection; message clearly delivered.
3. **Animation:** adequate voice projection and eye contact; appropriate articulation and dynamics; accurate pronunciation and enthusiasm; adequately conveys the message and use of expression.
4. **Characterization:** is character differentiation clear; is the topic of the drama consistent throughout.
5. **Visual Appearance:** appropriate for selection; face and body responsive to meaning of message; poise and completeness of message.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

1. Theatrical Drama division was originally designed to develop the theatrical skills in an individual, not that of a group. The “role” or “character playing” is truly what theatrics is all about. While a small group may have a theme to convey a message, most of the theatrics are lost in presentation. Theatrics is designed for acting out portions of scripts already written, or short original scripts. These may be of Biblical characters or scenes. They may also be scenes from production.
2. Human video was originally intended to act out the message of a song.
3. Drama is the method by which characters relate to one another. Therefore, it is important that the drama be a convincing portrayal of characters. All the elements of speaking apply to acting (except maybe in Mime): gestures, movement, voice inflection and rapport. The key word to drama is believability. To create good drama, study people’s reaction to things they hear, and work toward a natural reflection in your characters. It is important that the primary objective is ministry, not just to entertain. Because the drama category is so diverse, seek to be creative in your presentation.
4. It is important to create a mood for ministry in drama. This means it is important for the participant(s) to begin in a positive and confident manner.
5. You have a variety of situations from which to choose:
  - a. One act play/script
  - b. Illustrated storytelling
  - c. Interpretation for the deaf
  - d. Mime
  - e. Game show style
  - f. Human Video
  - g. Etc.
6. With all these presentations available, the judges are looking for basic ingredients in good drama.
7. Appropriate appearance: Does the actor’s appearance complement what he/she is trying to say? Is extra effort made to dress or bring the presentation to character by props, makeup, etc?
8. Original pieces are encouraged.

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# DRUM & PERCUSSION

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Drum & Percussion

### **A. CATEGORY RULES**

1. Each contestant will have 5 minutes to perform a routine.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. This category will be limited to between 1 and 8 performers.

### **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Accuracy:** stick control; tempo accuracy; rhythmic accuracy and clarity.
2. **Technique:** use of accents; steadiness of tempo; projection/use of the whole kit.
3. **Interpretation:** use of different styles; expression of confidence; general effect.
4. **Presentation:** stage deportment; poise; appearance; stage personality.
5. **Other Factors:** level of difficulty; preparation of performance; choice of styles.

### **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

Participants are reminded that this is both a Drum *and* Percussion category, so entries do not have to be limited to a traditional drum performance on a traditional drum kit.

**A basic drum set will be provided with these pieces:**

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

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# INSTRUMENTAL

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Instrumental Solo
- B. Instrumental Ensemble (limited to 6 persons)

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

### INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 minutes.
2. The copyrights to any music compositions shall be secured by the author prior to the Expo. Any original music compositions should be noted as such.
3. An instrumental soundtrack may be used. No vocals or accompaniment will be allowed.

### INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE (Acoustic Instrument Only)

1. Participation is limited to the performance of Christian music and must not exceed 5 minutes.
2. Participation is limited to acoustical instruments only (see approved instrument list).
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.

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Accuracy:** note accuracy; note values/tempo accuracy; pitch accuracy and clarity.
2. **Tone:** quality; control; clarity; balance/blend.
3. **Technique:** rhythmic accuracy; use of articulation; steadiness of tempo.
4. **Interpretation:** understanding of composition; style/expressive marks; general effect; fluent use of harmony.
5. **Presentation:** stage deportment; posture; poise; ministerial effect.

## **C. 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.

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# INTERPRETIVE DANCE

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## Areas of Participation

- A. Solo Dance
- B. Group Dance

## **A. 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, points may be subtracted from the score.
3. The National Youth Department suggests that you only use original CDs in your performance. Any CD that is not original (ex. burned CDs, invalid music file formats, etc.) are not guaranteed to work in our systems and is not the responsibility of the National Youth Department or National Teen Talent Expo. The participant assumes all risk of possible soundtrack malfunctions! Back-up soundtracks are recommended. Should this situation arise, the participant will be disqualified.
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. Hand-held streamers, ribbon, banners, or flags are permitted but must not become the focal point of the presentation at the expense of recognized and legitimate dance technique. No other stage props are permitted.
10. The focus of the category must be dance.
11. See also General Rules.

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Stage Presentation:** entrance/exit; use of stage; costumes; confidence; etc.
2. **Technique:** accuracy; precision; timing; etc.
3. **Choreography:** originality; appropriateness; variety; etc.
4. **Ministerial Effect:** effectiveness; anointing; conveyance of message; etc.
5. **Overall:** difficulty level; energy; rapport; effectiveness; etc.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

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

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Persuasive Speaking
- B. Christian Stand-up Comedy

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

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

\*The **THEME** for PERSUASIVE SPEAKING for the 2012 National Talent Expo is: "THE NEED"

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Subject:** sticks to subject; clear purpose; clear thesis.
2. **Analysis of Topic:** topic understood; issues developed.
3. **Organization:** adequate introduction; body organized; adequate conclusion.



4. **Support:** reasoning valid; evidence adequate.
5. **Language/Delivery:** spontaneous expression; fluent expression; language clear; original; vivid; specific; direct; clear articulation; correct pronunciation; purposeful bodily action; good use of voice.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

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

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Short Film

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

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. Your entry must be submitted to your District Youth Office, and the District Youth Office will be responsible to have the film postmarked with its approved formats to the National Youth Office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The entry must be submitted in 2 forms:
  - a) Formatted as a DVD (on a DVD disk)
  - b) An approved file format (on a CD, DVD, or Jump Drive), formatted for high resolution. Approved file formats are: .wmv, .avi, .mp4.
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.

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Technical:** cinematography; editing; sound quality; effects.
2. **Theatrical:** characterization; acting ability; consistency.
3. **Story:** communication; believability; message conveyed; set design.
4. **Presentation:** content; effort; organized; well prepared.
5. **Difficulty Factor:** was overall film: easy, medium, difficult, well directed.
- 6.

## **C. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTRIES**

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.

# CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

# VOCAL

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## Areas of Participation:

- A. Vocal Solo Female
- B. Vocal Solo Male
- C. Vocal Ensemble

## **A. CATEGORY RULES**

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

## **B. JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. **Accuracy:** note accuracy; note values/tempo accuracy; pitch accuracy and clarity.
2. **Tone:** quality; control; clarity; balance/blend
3. **Diction/Technique:** clearness of diction; naturalness; purity of vowels/consonants; rhythmic accuracy; steadiness of tempo; use of articulation.
4. **Interpretation:** understanding of composition; style/expressive marks; general effect; fluent use of harmony.
5. **Presentation:** stage deportment; posture; poise; ministerial effect.

## **C. 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 vocalist or ensemble defines their purpose as performing for the glory of God. This gives the listening audience and judges the impression that the participant is delighted to minister.
2. The selection and arrangement of music is a significant factor. Consider this criteria:
  - a. Most entries in the solo competition are vocal solos singing slow selections. This does not mean that you should not sing a slower song, only that whatever you perform, make it a unique selection and your chances are greater of getting the judge's "attention."
  - b. The music should be within the proper extremes of the contestant's vocal range.
  - c. It is better to perform an easier selection well than to perform a difficult selection poorly. The quality of a contestant's performance is paramount to the level of difficulty of their selection.

# [SAMPLE SCORE SHEET]

## VOCAL SOLO CATEGORY TALENT SCORING SHEET

NAME OF CONTESTANT \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE OF SELECTION \_\_\_\_\_

*To the Contestant: Following are comments and suggestions on your performance that may assist you in developing your talent for the glory of God.*

<b>JUDGING CRITERIA</b> <small>17-20 Superior; 13-16 Excellent; 9-12 Good; 5-8 Fair; 1-4 Poor</small>	SCORE	COMMENTS
<b>1. ACCURACY</b> -Note accuracy -Note values/tempo accuracy -Pitch accuracy and clarity		
<b>2. TONE</b> -Quality -Control -Clarity -Balance/Blend		
<b>3. DICTION/TECHNIQUE</b> -Clearness of diction; naturalness -Purity of vowels; consonants -Rhythmic accuracy; steadiness of tempo -Use of articulation		
<b>4. INTERPRETATION</b> -Understanding of composition -Style/expressive marks -General effect		
<b>5. PRESENTATION</b> -Stage deportment -Posture; Poise -Ministerial Effect		
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>		

Additional comments (may continue on other side): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

