

RULES FOR ALL PRE-CONVENTION EVENTS

1. ***All items must be postmarked no later than the Pre Convention Deadline.***
2. **Each submission must be mailed to the appropriate Event Director.** Church Number and Team Numbers need to be included on submissions, if available prior to mailing. See Cover Page (last page of this section).
3. A 3-point deduction is allowed for failure to provide complete submission information as instructed.
4. In a team event a participant may move up to a higher grade division, but an older participant may not move down to a lower grade division. Each team in each event will participate at the grade division of the highest grade member. All team events will consist of more than one person.
5. Each individual award winner and each member of a winning team will receive an engraved plate for his/her participant's plaque.
6. Judge's score sheets and Awards will be placed in congregational packets to be picked up by the Church Coordinator at the end of convention.
7. Participants must be registered in their respective events and send in the registration fee to Registration on or before the Registration Deadline, whether they will be attending the CTLTC Convention or not in attendance. Do NOT send checks to event directors.
8. Church Coordinators will have until two weeks after the convention to apply for awards, corrections or updates. Any awards needed after this deadline will have to be secured by the Church Coordinator from a local business.
9. Copyrighted material received as an entry will not be judged. It will not be accepted for any event and will be returned to the sender.
10. A list of Pre-Convention Event Directors and information will be available on the CTLTC website (<http://www.clttc.net/>).

Brenda Slatton, Pre-Convention Coordinator (current information listed @ <http://www.clttc.net/>)

CHRISTIAN FICTION RULES

PURPOSE: In today's world, there is a need for fiction which conveys a Christian message as an alternative to the fiction of this age which is often atheistic and amoral in nature. This event encourages those who enjoy creative writing and drawing to use their skills in a Christian arena.

PROCESS: Each participant shall:

- Read and follow Rules for All Pre-Convention Events on Page 35 of manual.
- Write a short story that reflects the current year's CTLTC theme.
- Mail to the Event Director three (3) copies of the story on or before the Mail-in Deadline.
- Include a cover sheet following the format given below.
- Send a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you wish to receive confirmation of receipt

The Event Director shall:

- Send confirmation of receipt if requested.
- Organize stories for judging.
- Provide critique sheets for each entry.
- Report results to the Awards Committee.

RULES:

1. The story should be typewritten, double spaced with 1" margins, and three to five pages in length. For students sixth grade or younger, handwritten work is admissible though it must be, in the minds of judges, legible and neatly presented. If handwritten work is submitted, the story should be four to six pages in length.
2. The story may be written in any form of fiction (e.g., mystery, action, humor, fable, etc.) so long as it reflects the current year's CTLTC theme. The theme may be reflected anywhere in the story, climax, or conclusion, so long as it is clearly and accurately taught or presented.
3. The story should use correct grammar (including spelling) and proper punctuation. It should also include elements appropriate for fiction, such as plot and character development.
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. Each participant may submit only one entry.
6. The story can be illustrated (drawing, cartoon, photographs, or computer-generated) with original (no use of copyrighted) art work.
7. One person may write the story and another may illustrate. Team is limited to two participants. Teams consisting of participants from more than one level will be judged based on the highest level.
8. There will be three grade divisions in this event:

Grades 3-6, 7-9, 10-12

General Information for Fiction Writing:

Fiction is what it says. It is make-believe. The writer is free to construct his own reality. However, he must be careful that his fiction is **believable**. If one aspect is totally unable to ever happen or if it is just not ever likely to happen that way, then see if it can be revised to accommodate believability.

To be a story it must have certain elements. It must have a beginning, a middle, and an end. That seems rather basic but you'd be surprised how often this is forgotten. If it doesn't have that it is known as a "Slice of Life" which is rather like a moment in time.

You must have a main character (called a protagonist), one with whom we can empathize or identify. This character must be likable but should have at least one human frailty. Also, he should have something he wants or needs desperately or a goal he must attain.

Then there must arise problems in the path of the protagonist--something that keeps him from his wants, needs, or goal. These can be incidents or people who stand in his way (antagonists).

This person must then overcome these problems and, if it is to be inspirational, along the way his inner character must change for the better or there must be changing of the frailty we mentioned.

To accomplish describing our protagonist or telling the story, the best way is to let dialogue reveal what we need to know. Dialogue draws the reader in more.

LET THE READER USE HIS SENSES. Let him hear the background noises or the knife cutting through the leather jacket, let him smell the cafeteria or the wet dog, let him feel the cold and rough concrete wall or that ace velour sweater, let him see Larry slip the money in his pocket or the tears in the teacher's eyes.

SHOW, DON'T TELL! Don't tell what is happening, show it.

WATCH YOUR VIEWPOINT. If you are telling the story from Larry's viewpoint, remember we can only know what Larry can see, hear, touch, smell, or find out from dialogue with others. If you use omniscient viewpoint it gives a broader scope but it will not be as personal as Larry's viewpoint.

Also, you need to know when to end. Let our characters and what happens to them illustrate the principle we are trying to get across. If I have done my job as a writer, the reader will already know the principle or truism I'm telling.

The fiction story boils down to your basic: "good guy, good guy gets in trouble, good guy gets out of trouble, happy ending."

Writing is like any other art, it takes hard work (the craft) with love (the art).

Have fun!

General Information for Fiction Writing Manuscript Format:

Make your manuscript READER FRIENDLY (so they won't stop reading).

The first page of a story should begin half way down the page with the title in caps and centered. This allows enough room for a judge to write comments. (Hint: Write your story first, then give it a catchy or intriguing title, something to bring the reader into the story.)

THE GREEN MONSTER THAT ATE DALHART, TEXAS

Pages which follow should be numbered at the upper right. The header on the upper left should be the title of the story or a short version of it. Drop two spaces and continue with story.

Use 1" margins all around and double space the body of the story.

Use dark, clear type, nothing fancy, just a plain 10 or 12 pt. font like Courier, Times Roman, Arial, Helvetica, or the like. Also, do not use fancy decorations or clipart. These only detract from the story. Your words should stand alone.

Buy a small Strunk & White's to look up things like where quote marks (") go, etc.

Remember, Spell Check won't catch everything. It ignores the worst errors. So you must edit. This is best done by reading it aloud.

SPELL IT RITE!

I HAS a spelling checker,

It comes with my PC.

It plainly marks for my revue,

Mistake I cannot sea.

I've ran this poem threw it,

I'm sure your please too no.

Its letter perfect in its weigh,

My checker tolled me so.

(Courtesy Lab news, Sandia Nat'l Laboratories)

SUBMISSION OF STORY:

Typed cover sheet should follow this format (see Cover Sheet on last page of this section):

<u>Format:</u>	<u>Example:</u>
Name	A. Christian
Grade	9th Grade
Congregation	Anywhere Church of Christ
Group Leader	B. Saved
Congregation Address	1234 Church Street
City, State, Zip	Any City, State 00000
Congregation Phone No.	512-555-1212
Title of Story	"YOUR TITLE HERE"

AWARDS:

Ratings and awards will be given to those who score 75 points or better.

Gold -- 95-100 points,

Silver -- 85-94 points,

Bronze -- 75-84 points

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- ___ (25 pts.) **Theme:** Is the CTLTC theme clearly and accurately taught or presented in the story?
- ___ (25 pts.) **Usage of Language/Punctuation:** Does the participant use correct grammar (including spelling) and proper punctuation? Does the story include elements appropriate for fiction, such as plot and character development?
- ___ (25 pts.) **Readability:** Is the story readable? Does the plot flow easily, or is the story confusing? Does the story catch and hold the readers attention?
- ___ (25 pts.) **Creativity/Illustration:** How unique is the story in plot, form or expression? How do the illustrations enhance the story line? (There are no point deductions for non-illustrated stories).
- (3 pt Deduction) **Format/Submission:** A 3 point deduction will be made should the participant not have followed instructions for formatting and submitting the entry.
- ___ (100 pts.) **TOTAL**