

SIGNING FOR THE DEAF RULES

Please note there are different rules & selections for two separate events:

1. Interpreting for the Deaf
2. Signing for the Deaf

PURPOSE: To encourage students to develop the ability to sign so that they can minister to and develop relationships with the deaf and hard of hearing which will glorify God and his church.

PROCESS: Each participating congregation:

- Read and follow Rules for All Convention Events.
- Must insure participants get a full copy of the event requirements.
- Determine proper grade division, experience level and sign language.
- Be certain that signers are registered for signing and only signing for given time period. No one will be allowed to participate in an event if they have a conflict with another event.
- Will insure that all participants are in front of their assigned room 10 minutes prior to their schedule time.
- Provide a judge or an event helper for every 5 students registered in the Signing and Interpreting for the Deaf events. Send their name and phone number to the event Director no later than 3 weeks prior to the convention. Additional volunteers will be greatly appreciated.
- Will insure that the participant signs the selection using the words provided. This is the version of the song that will be used at the convention.
- Spectators may not enter or leave the room while participants are signing.
- Applause is appropriate as a display of appreciation.
- Please note on registration if interpreting services are needed and at what specific event/time, in advance.

The Event Director:

- Furnish the CDs to be used during the convention only.
- Organize the judges and rooms
- Report results to the Awards Committee
- Provide critique sheets for each participant
- Provide interpreters for main assembly and the Big Event
- Provide interpreters for other events (All requests must be received two weeks before the convention.)

RULES:

Grade and Experience Levels:

There are three grade levels in this event: Grades 3-6, 7-9, 10-12

Categories:

Participant selects:

- **Beginning experience** level is for all participants new to sign language.
 - **Sign a song**
- **Intermediate experience** level is for all participants with two (2) years experience with sign language, deaf ministry, or deaf friends and family.
 - **Sign a song and a scripture**
- **Advanced experience** level is for participants with over two (2+) years experience with deaf ministry, deaf family, and friends and/or fluency in sign language.
 - **Sign a song and a scripture, both will be chosen by the judges**

**** Please note on the registration form if the participant is deaf or hard of hearing ****

Participant Requirements:

1. Read and follow all rules for the Signing event.
2. Insure the version of the song you will sign follows the printed words in this year's **Signing** rules. Failure to comply with this rule will reduce the maximum award to a bronze.
3. The Beginning/Intermediate participant will finger spell his/her name and finger spell the selection he/she will be signing. Advanced will finger spell their name.
4. Sign to a recording to this years selection provided, by the Signing Director, at the convention.
5. A participant who has not been judged may not be a spectator in his/her experience level.
6. A participant may not watch other participants in the same event/level until he/she has completed his/her event.
7. The Event Director will provide the CDs for the convention only. No other tapes or recordings may be used.
8. For Participants in Advanced, the words will be provided on a podium in the assigned room.
9. A participant will be disqualified if any signs are given by another person while he/she is signing.
10. A solid color blouse/shirt/dress contrasting with skin tone shall be worn while signing.
11. All participants will be pre-registered, by their congregation, in thirty minute time slots in specific rooms. The list will be posted in a general area as well as in the signing area. If participant's name is not on the list, then go to the signing registration office for resolution.
12. Participants should be in front of their assigned room at least 10 minutes prior to their scheduled time.
13. Each participant shall note on his/her registration form:
 - Grade Division
 - Proper Experience Level
 - Signing Language

ASL/Conceptual Signing is visual, with its own syntax and grammar and is signing the correct meaning in the sentence (EX: "the lamb" sign "Jesus")

English Signing combines the grammatical structure of English and the signs of the American Sign Language, similar to spoken English.
16. Spectators may NOT enter or leave the room while participants are signing.
17. Applause is appropriate as a display of appreciation.

AWARDS:

Awards will be given as a reward for preparation and hard work, as well as to recognize excellence. Critique sheets will be provided to every participant.

There will be three levels of recognition:

Gold Silver Bronze

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Categories are listed in order of importance:

Beginning

Preparation
Movement
Finger spelling
Understandability
Confidence
Expression

Intermediate

Preparation
Movement
Understandability
Expression
Confidence
Finger spelling

Advanced

Preparation
Understandability
Movement
Expression
Confidence
Finger spelling

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