

Song Writing

PURPOSE:

To develop the ability to express spiritual thoughts and feelings in the form of song. It provides an outlet for a young person's musical interest and talent in the context of the Lord's service. Our hope is that some of these participants will grow up to write compositions suitable for publication and use by future worshipers.

GUIDELINES:

1. 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. The lyrics must adhere to this year's LTC theme. You may, instead of writing original lyrics, set a scripture text to music, which must be noted on your title page.
2. When you have finished your composition, sing it in someone else's hearing to be sure it is as singable as you think it is. Then try teaching it to someone.
3. Harmony is not required, although proper harmonic chords may enhance the composition. Two-part harmony at least is encouraged in the older grade levels. A composition will not have points deducted for being melody only. Improper harmonic chords may result in lower scores.
4. More than one student may work on a composition, but the song will be judged in the division of the oldest. It is intended that all writers of both words and music be student participants. (If done as a team, print a team sheet from the registration website and send it with the entry.) No team number is necessary for this event.
5. Submit your entry on paper that is 8-1/2" x 11" or smaller. 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. Do not staple the pages together, as they have to be separated during the judging process.
6. Grade levels 3-12

SUBMISSION OF SONGS: Typed cover sheet shall follow the format of this example:

Name	A. Christian
Grade	9th Grade
Congregation	Anywhere Church of Christ
Congregation number	999
Congregational Coordinator	B. Saved
Congregation Address	1234 Church Street
City, State, Zip	Any City, State 00000
Title of Composition	"(your title)"
Scripture text (if used)	Book X:XX
Congregation phone number	214-555-1212

AWARDS: There are three ratings available in each grade level – Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Music** -- Comfortable range, high to low (if parts, each range appropriate); intervals, easy to master; originality (creative use of accidentals, perhaps); pleasing to the ear
- **Lyrics** -- Adherence to the theme; originality; aesthetic value; fit melody, syllables, stress on right beat, etc.
- **Cover Sheet** – Complete as described above.
- **Song Copy** – Neatness, readability of copy, adherence to size requirement

COACHES AND CHURCH COORDINATORS:

- Guide the students as they compose a song that reflects the current year's LTC theme.
- Make certain that the student is correctly registered in this event.
- Help the students prepare and mail a typewritten cover sheet (described above) with two copies of the song and title page (print a team sheet from the registration website, if the entry is a team effort) to the Event Coordinator on or before the [Pre-Convention One Event deadline](#).
- Be certain to pick up the work at the Convention.