

Speech

PURPOSE:

To provide opportunities for young people to develop their verbal communication talents by honing their public speaking skills and their ability to connect the biblical text to contemporary living.

GUIDELINES:

1. This event is a speech, and not a dramatic interpretation.
2. No speech may be repeated by another speaker.
3. Copies of an essay will not be accepted as an oratory speech (enforcement of this guideline upon the honor of each individual congregation coordinator)
4. Neither participants nor spectators may enter or leave the room while participants are speaking.
5. Any video or audio equipment must be set up prior to the event and must be stationary.
6. Men will not be allowed to listen to the girls' speeches.
7. Each speech shall be related to the current year's theme. However, students in grades three through six may choose to speak about a Bible character as the topic of their speech.
8. Speeches shall be three to six minutes in length; variances may negatively impact the evaluation.
9. It is understood that parent's or coach's involvement in the conceptualization and writing of the speech will differ as participants grow and develop. It is permissible for parents or coaches to assist younger participants (3rd - 6th grades). However, it is expected that participants will be heavily involved. By 7th - 8th grade, the work should primarily be that of the participants. By 9th grade and above, all work should be researched and written by the participant. Adherence to this principle cannot be monitored or evaluated by the judges or coordinators and no points are assigned to this area. Church Coordinators and parents will be expected to set the example for participants by enforcing this principle.
10. Props will not be allowed. Any article, either carried or worn, that is referenced in the speech will be considered a prop. The Bible is not a prop. Use of props will negatively affect the award evaluation.
11. Notes are allowed. Positive consideration is given to participants who memorize their material.
12. There will be separate divisions for boys and girls, with grade levels in each division: 3-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12.

AWARDS: Awards are given to reward preparation and hard work as well as to recognize excellence in presentation. There are three ratings available in each grade level – Gold, Silver and Bronze.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Content and Message - The content should relate to the type of facts, examples, illustrations, etc., used to lead to a logical conclusion. The message shall be related to the current year's LTC theme.

Language and Color - The speaker should use good grammar, descriptive words or word pictures, similes, metaphors, and other colorful techniques to bring out his message.

Voice - The speaker should show good variety in voice tone and word speed. He should speak clearly and pronounce words properly. His voice should show sincerity and enthusiasm.

Delivery and Gestures - A good speech flows naturally and continuously, but there is still room for dramatic pauses. Memorized speeches should be given with feeling. Gestures should also be natural and flowing. They should enhance the words and message of the speech rather than be an obligatory, unfeeling act.

Personality and Attitude - The speaker should allow his personality to show through the words he uses, the smile on his face, the sincerity in his eyes, the tone of his voice, and eye contact with the audience.

Overall Effectiveness - This is the intangible area where the judge considers the overall impression.

COACHES and CHURCH COORDINATOR:

- Make certain that the student is correctly registered in this event.
- Have each speaker at the proper room before the event begins with at least one encourager for support.

