

YEAR-ROUND (Advanced) SONG LEADING

PURPOSE

To prepare young men to be accomplished song leaders by encouraging them to lead songs at worship assemblies, Bible classes, devotional groups, or other appropriate audiences, such as civic clubs or schools.

EVENT PARTICIPATION

Grades 3-College (not to exceed 23 years of age) may participate.

EVENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

- A. Prepare not less than 12 different songs to lead before an audience. Students who participate more than once may not use prior songs led in this event, but must prepare 12 different songs. Lead these songs locally. There will be no convention participation in this event.
- B. Students may do an accelerated program or the program may be started in any month of the year. However, all work must be done within one consecutive 12-month period. The recommended procedure is for groups of songs to be spaced throughout the year with each group presented no less than one per month.
- C. Lead each of the 12 songs at least twice to different audiences. It is preferred that the first and last song leading times be spaced apart for improvement opportunity. The student may lead more songs, but a minimum of 12 songs led twice each is required to receive an award. Each song led before a different audience receives 1 point. Award levels are as follows:
 - 24-35 points receive a **Bronze** award.
 - 36-47 points receive a **Silver** award.
 - 48 or more points receive a **Gold** award.
- D. It is recommended that each song contain more than one verse. The student may lead as many verses as appropriate, but two verses (or twice through a song with one verse) is the absolute minimum per song.
- E. It is also recommended that students choose a variety of songs with different tempos, time signatures, starting pitches, and meanings (Prayer, Lord's Supper, Praise, Devotional, etc). The overall purpose of this event is to expand the students' repertoire of songs that can be comfortably led, and to have a greater understanding of the situations when certain types of songs should be led. An additional benefit for the students is for them to gain experience and understanding in working with others in planning songs for worship, devotionals, etc.

DOCUMENTATION

To qualify for the award, each student must maintain the following documentation. **A record must be maintained and may be kept at the home congregation. The participant must be registered for this event before the Convention registration deadline. Group leaders are to electronically verify each participant of this event in the registration system.** The National Service Center will use this to verify that the requirements are completed.

****Verification forms/lists do NOT have to be mailed to the National Service Center.****

- A. Students must keep a log for each song. The log must contain the following documentary information:
 - Date
 - Title of Song
 - Place (e.g., church name)
 - Type of audience (e.g., Bible class, devotional, worship service)
 - Full name, signature and phone number of adult witnessing (e.g., parent, youth director, team leader)

- B. A 200-300 word statement telling what the Advanced Song Leading Program has meant to the student.
- C. A judging sheet for at least two instances (first and last) of each song led.
- D. The official verification form from the Entry Forms and Log Sheets section of the Rules Book page of our website.

JUDGING

- A. Local Judging
 1. Judging should take place throughout the period of the time the student works in the Advanced Song Leading program; however, only the initial and final time each song is lead should be recorded. This is to show progress the student should gain throughout this program, from beginning to end. Judges should use the official Local Judges' Score Sheet. Ask someone in the audience (e.g., song leader for the congregation, youth director, minister, mentor) to judge the song from the audience and rate the student as good, excellent, or superior. This same judge should be used for both evaluations, first and last.
 2. Judges should be supplied with a score sheet that the student should retain for his records. Ratings are: Superior: 85-100; Excellent: 70-84; Good: 50-69. These ratings do not reflect the level of award that the student receives. Rather, they are to help show the student the areas in which he did well and the areas that need improvement.
 3. The two judge's sheets are required and must be included in the completed Advanced Song Leading file folder. One will be for the initial evaluation of the songs. The other will be for the final evaluation of the same songs. More than 12 songs can be judged, and the student can include more judges' sheets in the file.
- B. Convention Judging
 1. The Convention judge will review the necessary materials submitted for judging, including the Local Judges' sheets to look for improvement and the 200-300 word statement. He will make sure the copy of the log is at least 90% complete.

AWARDS

Awards will be given at Convention for the levels of Bronze, Silver and Gold.

CONGREGATION SUGGESTIONS

Have a qualified song leader at your congregation work with the students in this program throughout the year. Review their Local Judges' Score Sheets and make recommendations to help them improve.

LOCAL JUDGES' INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Be sure to completely fill out the student's name, group name, and participating grade. Please designate the type of audience(s) that the songs were lead to (e.g., worship service, devotional, nursing home service) and whether this particular sheet is the initial evaluation or the final evaluation. Also, please include your name on the sheet.
- B. Please work with the student to ensure their opportunity to lead the songs in a forum that allows optimal learning experience. The initial evaluation is for you to see how well they can lead at the beginning of this event. After reviewing the initial evaluation with the student and working with them to improve weak areas, then plan additional opportunities for the student to show improvement. Ideally, the final evaluation should be performed just prior to the convention deadline for these forms to give maximum time for student participation and improvement.
- C. Use a separate judging sheet for each time a song is lead. There is room to also record the song title if you find that helpful. The student will be keeping a log of these same songs, so it is not mandatory. Please ensure the sheet marked "Initial" is used for all first time evaluations of songs, and the sheet marked "Final" is used for all final evaluations of the songs.
- D. For each evaluation category, here is a quick statement of the intent behind the title:
Announce Number/Title - The proper announcing of the song number or title must be distinct where everyone can hear.

Appearance/Poise - The participant's neatness and appropriateness of dress, proper poise and posture while leading song must be evident.

Pitch Awareness - The ability of the participant to start the song on the pitch for which the song was written.

Maintenance of Pitch - The ability of the participant to maintain the same pitch.

Voice Projection - The ability of the participant to project his voice in relation to the size of the room and size of the audience.

Tempo Awareness - The awareness and implementation of the proper tempo.

Maintenance of Tempo - The ability of the leader to maintain the established tempo throughout the song (not rushing or dragging).

Transition of Next Verse - The ability of the leader to execute a smooth transition from one verse to another.

Hand Sign Use Effective - The consistent and effective use of the hand signals.

Leading the Audience - Control of the audience throughout the song.

- E. Since the rules state leading more than one verse, a penalty should be assessed for any song in which only one verse was led.
- F. Once you have completed your initial evaluation, plan some time to sit down with the student and go over the areas in which improvement can be achieved. Encourage practice at home and in sessions with small groups for enhancement of skills.

Year-Round (Advanced) Songs of Praise Verification Form

Church Name/City/State _____

Name _____

Grade _____

All work for this event is done locally. Keep all information for the student's records. Registration must be completed and verified in the online registration system by the registration deadline.

****DO NOT MAIL ANYTHING TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE CENTER.****

Have you attached the following to this form?

- Log (including dates, titles, places, audiences, and witnessing adult signature)
- Judges' Sheets (at least 2 – initial and final)
- 200-300 Word Statement (one page)

Score sheets will not be returned to anyone.