

# *Mar Thoma Sunday School Southeast Regional Talent Fest*

## *Guidelines & Rules*

### **1.0 Purpose of Regional Talent Fest:**

To provide a Christian environment to motivate our children in the development and advancement of their God given talents for the glory of the Lord.

### **2.0 General Guidelines:**

In order to maintain public acceptance of this program, it is very important to keep our participants and teachers fully informed of the guidelines, criteria used, the process, and the method of assessments.

- Decisions made by the judges are final.
- Group divisions are based on school grades effective at the time of the Talent Fest.
- Only one participant per Sunday school will be allowed for each individual event.
- Time limits will be strictly enforced.
- There shall be three judges for each event.
- Participants are not allowed to use cell phones/electronic devices during the event.

### **3.0 Scoring and Tabulation - Individual Items**

1. Each Judge will evaluate the participant by assigning a whole numeric value (no decimals points) ranging from 1 to 5 based on the criteria provided.
2. The highest value (excellent) is 5 and the lowest value (poor/not achieved) is 1. The points in between are as follows: Very Good (4), Good/Achieved (3), Fair/Partially Achieved (2).
3. For each participant, the tabulation office will add up each of the Judge's score and assign an Award (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Participation certificate).

#### **i. Individual items Award Scoring Scale**

- ii. Gold 17-20 points
  - iii. Silver 13-16 points
  - iv. Bronze 9-12 points
  - v. Participation Certificate 0-8 points
4. The tabulation office will determine the final placement award for each participant by selecting the median award score. The median award score will be established based on the award score given to the participant by each of the three Judges.

### **4.0 Scoring and Tabulation - Group Choir**

1. There shall be a minimum of 3 Judges for group choir.
  2. The judges shall sign each sheet of the scoring sheet, note any violations from this guidance, and present it folded to the designated staff member.
  3. The tabulation office shall process the scores as follows:
    - A. Identify first, second, and third according to each judge.
    - B. Assign 4 Points for first, 3 for second, and 2 for 3rd place according to each judge.
    - C. Compute the fourth position only if necessary.
  4. The choir with the most points will be first and the second high points for the second and the third to follow.
  5. The final computation and the announcement of results will be independently checked in the tabulation room, before the results are announced.
  6. The group choir shall be recognized in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places.
- Each Sunday School is offered an option to appoint an observer at the tabulation office who shall remain at tabulation office for the duration. The processing and the tabulation of the results shall be performed only by the staff members appointed by the office bearers.

## 5.0 **Solo Song (English and Malayalam)**

- Solo song participants should adhere to the notations and lyrics provided for the songs, unless otherwise instructed.
- The participants are required to sing the given song. A decision has been made this year to eliminate the song of choice.
- A pitch pipe can be used to identify the starting musical note.
- In order to assess an individual's natural voice and skill, no amplifying devices, accompanying instruments or external direction shall be used.
- The given song shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs without chorus.
- Participants shall be graded on four categories (5 points each):
  - Intonation - Accuracy of Pitch based on notes
  - Rhythm - Timing and Tempo
  - Diction - Articulation and Pronunciation of words, Breath control

- Voice Quality - Steadiness of voice, Projection and Power, Tone, Dynamics  
(soft/loud)

## 6.0 **Group Song**

- In 2017, Malayalam group song will be mandatory and English group song will be creative choice (your selection).
- Mandatory song will alternate yearly between Malayalam and English.
- All songs must be Christian songs.
- Each Sunday school can have only one choir participate in Group Song category. The choir must sing both English and Malayalam songs.
- The group must have a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 students from grades 5-10.
- A pitch pipe can be used to identify the starting musical note.
- No amplifying devices or accompanying instruments allowed.
- The given song shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs without chorus.
- Special arrangements on introduction and ending would be allowed as long as it does not exceed the length of the chorus.
- The choir is expected to follow the given notes. For the mandatory song, no deviations or improvements are allowed from the notes given (melody and harmony). Improvements may be permitted for the song of choice.
- Participants shall be graded on five categories (5 points each):
  - Intonation - Accuracy of Pitch based on notes
  - Rhythm - Timing and Tempo
  - Diction - Articulation and Pronunciation of words, Breath control
  - Voice Quality - Steadiness of voice, Projection and Power, Tone, Dynamics  
(soft/loud)
  - Harmony - How the voices converge and blend

## 7.0 **Story Telling**

- The story shall be in English and based on any Bible passage.
- Duration of the story shall not exceed 3 minutes.
- The storyteller is to memorize the story.
- The participant must remain standing in one location. This means no running around or jumping.

- Hand movements and facial expressions are allowed and should be appropriate to the context of the Biblical story.
- The story, including its title, can be paraphrased.
- No costumes allowed.
- Participants shall be graded on four categories (5 points each):
  - Content - How well the story adheres to the Biblical passage it is taken from
  - Clarity - Voice strength and steadiness
  - Life Application - Moral of the story, how it applies to our life and world
  - Presentation - Memorization, audience contact, pace and voice modulation

## 8.0 **Elocution**

- The elocution shall be in English and must not exceed 3 minutes.
- The elocution on previously given subjects shall not be read from a script. However, the use of note cards shall be acceptable.
- For 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders increased reliance on notes is recognized for speeches prepared in the prescribed duration of 15 minutes. The use of one reference Bible is allowed for the preparation. Use of smart phones or electronic devices prohibited.
- The style should reflect a traditional sermon given in the Mar Thoma Church during a worship service from a pulpit.
- The speaker is expected to remain at the podium during the entire speech.
- Hand movements and facial expressions are allowed and should be appropriate to the context of the Christian speech.
- Participants shall be graded on four categories (5 points each):
  - Content - Structure, organization, opening, transition of ideas, and closing.
  - Clarity - Annunciation/pronunciation of words; voice strength/steadiness
  - Life Application - Application of the elocution and connecting the relevance to our daily lives.
  - Presentation - Memorization, audience contact, pace and voice modulation

## 9.0 **Bible Quiz**

- Bible quiz will be based on the NRSV Bible translation.

- Only one team of students can represent each Sunday School
  - Each team can have a maximum of 3 students selected from grades 5-10.
- The team is expected to write the answer on paper provided.
  - You can only use a blue or black ball pen to write your answers.
  - If any answer is not legible or difficult to read, it will be marked wrong.
- If there are conflicting views on the question, answers or grading, the quizmaster shall make the final decision.

## **10.0 Time Keepers Report**

- The intended purpose is to recognize better time management by the participants, keep control of scheduled activities, and to ensure compliance with this guideline.

Guidelines for Time Keeping:

1. The timing begins when the first word is uttered by the participant(s)
2. In case of a 3-minute activity, timing shall be indicated as follows:
  - A. At 2 minutes, a green paper shall be placed at a visible location.
  - B. At 2 minutes and 30 seconds, a yellow paper shall be placed above the green.
  - C. At 2 minutes and 50 seconds, a red paper shall be placed above the yellow.
  - D. At 3 minutes 5 seconds, a white paper with the word OVER shall be clearly printed on the sheet, shall be placed over the red sheet.
3. The time keeper shall record the duration until the last word is uttered.
4. The time keeper shall present the report to the tabulating office.
5. Violations from these guidance will be noted.

## **11.0 Comments /Student feedback**

- In addition to evaluating the participants, the judges are strongly encouraged to write comments in the space provided on tabulation sheet.
- The purpose of comments/feedback for student performance is to help the student understand where there is room for improvement.
- If a comment section is requested by a Sunday School for a particular student then it will be provided.

## **12.0 Closing Ceremony/Award Distribution**

- Our Goal is to acknowledge participants and recognize their talents.

- **Individual items:** Medals will be awarded for Gold, Silver or Bronze recipients. Certificates to recognize participation are available to all other students, if requested.

The students will be acknowledged by church. Churches will be called in alphabetical order.

- A summary of bronze, silver and gold recipients will be announced.
  - For example, X Sunday School received total of 10 Bronze, 5 Silver, and 3 Gold.
  - For each award the name and category will be announced. Upon calling the names (Bronze, Silver, and Gold only) the students come forward and form a line and remain there until all the students from that church is called.
  - Then ALL the participants from the Sunday School will get a chance for one group photo.
  - Please hold applause until all the names from that church is announced.
- **Group Items:** First, second, and third place trophies will be awarded to top 3 scores.
  - **Overall Awards** will be determined by ranking each Sunday Schools based on the awards received. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded.
    - Scoring formula
      - Individual items: (Gold x 3) + (Silver x2) + (Bronze x1).
      - Group choir and Bible Quiz: ( 1<sup>st</sup> x6) , (2<sup>nd</sup> x 4), (3<sup>rd</sup> x 2)
      - Overall Points = Combined scores of individual items + group items

**Group Arrangements and Representation (rep.) from Each Parish**

	<i>Elocution</i>	<i>Story Telling</i>	<i>Solo</i>	<i>Group Song</i>	<i>Malayalam Solo</i>	<i>Quiz</i>
<b>Grade 1</b>	N/A	One rep.	One rep.		Grades 1 to 4 One Boy & One Girl	N/A
<b>Grade 2</b>	N/A	One rep.	One rep.			N/A
<b>Grade 3</b>	N/A	One rep.	One rep.			N/A
<b>Grade 4</b>	N/A	One rep.	One rep.			N/A
<b>Grade 5 Boys</b>	Boys & Girls in one Group.	N/A	One rep.	One Group of 6 to 12 students for Group Choir	Grades 5 to 10 One Boy & One Girl	One Team not exceeding 3 students from Grades 5 to 10
<b>Grade 5 Girls</b>	One rep.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 6 Boys</b>	Boys & Girls in one Group.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 6 Girls</b>	One rep.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 7 Boys</b>	Boys & Girls in one Group.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 7 Girls</b>	One rep.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 8 Boys</b>	Boys & Girls in one Group.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 8 Girls</b>	One rep.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 9 Boys</b>	Boys & Girls in one Group.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 9 Girls</b>	One rep.	N/A	One rep.			
<b>Grade 10 Boys</b>	Boys & Girls in one Group. One rep.	N/A	One rep.			