

Mar Thoma Sunday School Southeast Regional Talent Fest Guidelines

General Guidelines:

- Decisions made by the judges are final.
- The group divisions shall be based on the school grades effective at the time of Talent Fest.
- Only one participant per Sunday school will be allowed for individual events.
- Time limits will be strictly enforced.
- There shall be a minimum of 3 judges in each competition category.
- Participants are not allowed to use cell phones or electronic devices during the sessions at the Talent Fest.

Solo Song (English and Malayalam)

- Solo song participants should adhere to the notations and lyrics provided for the songs, unless otherwise instructed.
- 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:

1.Intonation	Accuracy of Pitch based on notes
2.Rhythm	Timing/Tempo
3.Diction	Articulation and Pronunciation, Breath Control (Starting and Stopping Appropriately)
4.Voice Quality	Steadiness of Voice power and projection, Dynamics (Soft and Loud), tone

Group Song

- Malayalam Group Song will be Mandatory and English group song will be creative (your choice selection). Mandatory song will alternate yearly between Malayalam and English.
- All songs must be Christian songs.
- Each Sunday school can have one choir participate in Group Song category.
- The group must have a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 students from grades 5 to 10.
- A pitch pipe can be used to identify the starting musical note.
- 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.
- Special arrangements on introduction and ending would be allowed when it does not exceed the length of the chorus.
- Participants shall be graded on five categories:

1.Intonation	Accuracy of Pitch based on notes
2.Rhythm	Timing/Tempo
3.Diction	Articulation and Pronunciation, Breath Control (Starting and Stopping Appropriately)
4.Voice Quality	Steadiness of Voice power and projection, Dynamics (Soft and Loud), tone
5. Harmony	Blending, how the different voices converge

Story Telling

- The story shall be in English and based on a 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 (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.
- Stories shall be graded on four categories:

1. Content	How well the story adheres to the Biblical passage it is taken from
2. Clarity	Voice strength and steadiness
3. Life application	Moral of the story and how it applies to our life and the world
4. Presentation	Memorization, audience contact, pace and voice modulation.

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 9th and 10th 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.
- Elocution shall be graded on four categories:

1. Content	Based on structure, organization, opening, transition of ideas, and closing.
2. Clarity	Annunciation and pronunciation of words; voice strength and steadiness
3. Life application	Application of the elocution and connecting the relevance to the life of the speaker
4. Presentation	Memorization, audience contact, pace and voice modulation.

Bible Quiz

- Bible quiz will be based on NIV Bible version 2011
- One team of students from each Sunday School from grades 5 to 10, not exceeding 3 students.
- The team is expected to write the answer on paper provided.
- The quiz master shall make final decisions if there are conflicting views on the question, answers or grading.

TIME KEEPERS REPORT

Purpose-Intended to recognize better time management by the participants, keep control of scheduled activities, and to ensure compliance with this guideline.

GUIDELINES

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 shall be placed above the green sheet.
 - C. At 2 minutes and 50 seconds, a red sheet shall be placed above the yellow sheet.
 - D. At 3 minutes 5 seconds, a white sheet 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 could result in disqualification.