

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

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

1. The Judges are to be given the same document given to the Sunday Schools in the competition preparation phase.
2. Any additional guidelines resulting from questions from the Judges or due to logistics have to be addressed in the public forum i.e., in the presence of the competitors, teachers, parents that are present for the particular event.
3. The Southeastern Sunday School president, or his designee shall make the ruling on all operational issues with the majority consent of the officials. The president may call an emergency meeting of Southeastern Regional Committee if needed.
4. Significant modifications, as judged by the office bearers, to these guidelines would require an approval of the southeastern Sunday school committee.
5. The Regional competitions are reserved for Sunday school students representing the parishes in the region in accordance with the regional guidance.
6. The group divisions shall be based on the school grades effective at the time of regional competitions.
7. Any violation from this guidance, noted by two or more competition officials including the program coordinator and judges, would be processed in accordance with Section 2.3 for possible disqualification.
8. Each Parish shall provide a judge, (judges are not required to be independent of the Mar Thoma Churches in this region) for judging the Solos for grades 5 to 10 and Group Songs .

3.0 SCORING AND TABULATION

1. The southeastern Sunday School president or his designee, shall be responsible for scoring, and tabulation of results.
2. There shall be a minimum of 3 Judges in each competition category.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The participant with the most points will be first and the second high points for the second and the third to follow.
 6. The president shall designate a Tie-breaker Judge and/or use a timers report for breaking the tied scores.
 7. The final computation and the announcement of results will be independently checked in the tabulation room, before the results are announced.
 8. The participants shall be recognized in 1st, 2nd, 3rd places and a participation certificate will be issued for all other participants.
 9. 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.

4.0 INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP SINGING

4.1 PURPOSE

Instill in our children the value of worship and witnessing through Christian singing. Motivate our children to learn and excel in singing. Recognize them for their accomplishment that reflects commitment and hard work.

4.2 SOLO

1. Participants are to sing two Christian songs in English; one given song as provided and a song of choice.
2. The song of choice shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs without chorus.
3. A pitch pipe, or any other suitable device, can be used to identify the starting musical note.
4. In order to assess an individual's natural voice and skill, no amplifying devices, accompanying instruments or external direction shall be used.
5. There shall be no hand actions or other dramatic expressions other than voice variations.
6. Deviation from the given musical notes will not result in disqualification, but may be subjected to reduction in points by judges. **

4.2.1 GRADING

Presentation : 10 points based on tone, appropriateness of pitch, voice control.

Musicianship : 10 points based on rhythm/tempo, effects, diction.

The same grading system will be used for both songs.

4.3 GROUP SINGING

1. Participants are to sing two Christian songs in English and two in Malayalam; one given song as provided and a song of your choice in each category. You may verify the compliance of the choice song to the guidance by providing the full lyrics, including repetitions, to the secretary before starting the preparations.
2. Each group shall have a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 students from grades 5 to 10.
3. The song of choice shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs without a chorus. Special arrangements on introduction and ending would be authorized when it does not exceed the length of the chorus.
4. A pitch pipe, or any other suitable device, can be used to identify the starting musical note.
5. Harmonizing of the music is optional.
6. In order to assess the group's natural vocal and musical skill, no amplifying devices, accompanying instruments or external direction shall be used.
7. There shall be no hand actions or other dramatic expressions other than voice variations.

4.3.1 GRADING

Presentation : 10 points based on tone, appropriateness of pitch, voice control.

Musicianship : 10 points based on rhythm/tempo, effects, diction.

Same grading will be used for both songs.

4.4 MALAYALAM SOLO

1. Participants are to sing one given song as provided.
2. The song shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs without chorus.
3. A pitch pipe, or any other suitable device, can be used to identify the starting musical note.
4. In order to assess an individual's natural voice and skill, no amplifying devices, accompanying instruments or external direction shall be used.
5. There shall be no hand actions or other dramatic expressions other than voice variations.
6. Deviation from the given musical notes will not result in disqualification, but may be subjected to reduction in points by judges **

4.4.1 GRADING

Presentation : 10 points

based on tone, appropriateness of pitch, voice control.

Musicianship : 10 points

based on rhythm/tempo, effects, diction.

5.0 STORY TELLING

5.1 PURPOSE

Help our children to learn and retain biblical illustrations and historic facts to gain wisdom for Christian living.

5.2 GUIDELINES

1. The story shall be given in English.
2. The story shall be taken from the Bible.
3. The story must be memorized and not read.
4. Hand movements and facial expressions are encouraged but dramatization is prohibited. (The performer shall remain at one location.)
5. The duration of the story shall not exceed 3 minutes.

5.3 GRADING

Structure : 10 points	based on story development and content.
Presentation : 10 points	based on memorization, audience contact, body language, and gestures.
Life Applications: 10 points	based on connecting the relevance to our lives, Bible lesson, and the conclusion.

6.0 ELOCUTION

6.1 PURPOSE

To develop knowledge about the Bible, to develop capability to share biblical knowledge, and to do Christian witnessing with confidence.

6.2 GUIDELINES

1. The elocution shall be in English and the duration shall not exceed 3.0 min.
2. The subject shall be a biblical text.
3. The elocution on previously given subjects shall not be read from a script. However, the use of note cards shall be acceptable. Increased reliance on notes is recognized for speeches prepared in the prescribed duration of 15 min., currently applicable to grades 9 & 10. The use of one reference Bible is authorized for the preparation.
4. 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 pulpit during the entire speech.

6.3 GRADING

Content : 10 points	based on structure, organization, opening, transition
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Delivery :	10 points	of ideas, and closing based on body language, audience eye contact, gestures, and voice effectiveness
Life Application :	10 points	based on biblical lesson, relevance to our lives, and closing thoughts.

7.0 BIBLE QUIZ

7.1 PURPOSE

A structured program to build knowledge in biblical selections that form the basic foundation for Christian living. The familiarity with the Gospels and the records on the beginning of the early church is considered most applicable to students of Sunday school age. The questions would be set to be completely answered in the New International Version (NIV). (Mathew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts Chapters 1 -15 to be used in a cycle)

7.2 GUIDELINES

1. One team of students from each Sunday School, not exceeding 3 students, from grades 5 to 10.
2. One answer from each Sunday School.
3. The quiz master or the President of the Southeastern Region shall make final decisions if there are conflicting views on the question, answers or grading.

8.0 GROUPING OF GRADES

The following grades are grouped together for a suitable grading system consistent with the skills capabilities at the respective grade levels. The grade level mentioned for grouping is based on the students' grade at the time of the regional competitions.

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>
Grade 1	N/A	One Group,1 rep.	One rep.	One Group of 6 to 12 students for English and another Group of Same size for Malayalam	Grades 1 to 4 One Boy & One Girl	N/A
Grade 2	N/A	One Group,1 rep.	One rep.			N/A
Grade 3	N/A	One Group,1 rep.	One rep.			N/A
Grade 4	N/A	One Group,1 rep.	One rep.			N/A
Grade 5 Boys	Boys & Girls in one Group One rep.	N/A	One rep.		One Team not exceeding 3 students from Grades 5 to 10	
Grade 5 Girls		N/A	One rep.			
Grade 6 Boys	Boys& Girls in one Group One rep.		One rep.			
Grade 6 Girls			One rep			
Grade 7 Boys	Boys & Girls in one Group One rep.		One rep.			
Grade 7 Girls			One rep.			
Grade 8 Boys	Boys & Girls in one Group One rep.	N/A	One rep.			
Grade 8 Girls		N/A	One rep.			
Grade 9& 10 Boys	Boys & Girls in one Group Two rep.		Two rep.			
Grade 9& 10 Girls			Two rep.			

9.0 TIME KEEPERS REPORT

9.1 PURPOSE

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

9.2 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.

10.0 SCORING OVERALL POINTS

10.1 Purpose

In order to recognize the Sunday Schools that put together a concerted effort in encouraging and preparing children for all program items.

10.2 The overall points shall be allocated based on the following allocation of points:

Single Participant Programs	First Place	: 5 Points
	Second Place	: 3 Points
	Third Place	: 1 Point
Group / Team Programs	First Place	: 10 Points
	Second Place	: 6 Points
	Third Place	: 2 Points