

STATE/REGIONAL JUNIOR TALENT



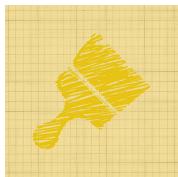
2026 COMPETITION
MANUAL



YD

This manual is designed solely for state and regional resourcing purposes. The official 2027 International Junior Talent Guidelines Manual will be released in August 2026. Please note that all participants advancing to the 2027 International Competition will be required to adhere to the upcoming official manual rather than the present document.





Art



Bible



Creative Writing



Drama



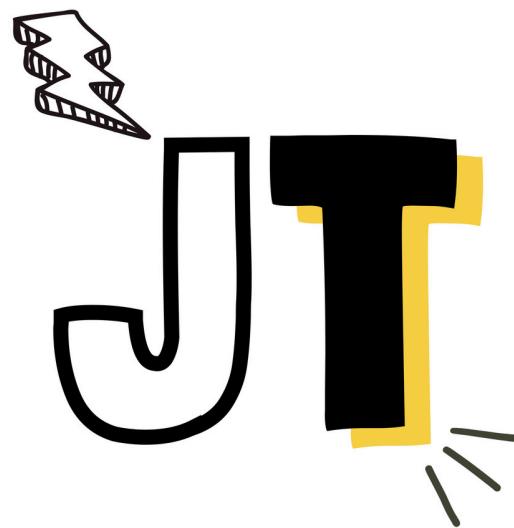
Multimedia



Music



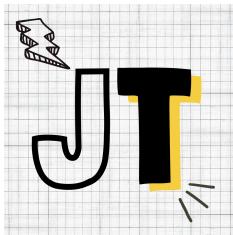
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junior talent

COMPETITION MANUAL





JUNIOR TALENT

... Church of God young people in action for the glory of God.

The Church of God believes in young people! Junior Talent has been one of the most exciting and rewarding programs sponsored by the Department of Youth and Discipleship. This program has been a means of leading students in recognizing and developing their abilities, preparing them for the Teen Talent program, and directing them toward reaching their fullest potential for Christ.

Junior Talent Objectives:

- To lead juniors into a personal relationship with God in Christ, directing them toward Christian maturity through their talents.
- To develop a sense of accomplishment, ministry, and communication for Christ through fostering an understanding of the nature and function of ministry.
- To motivate juniors to utilize their abilities in worship and in the evangelism ministries of the church, consecrating their talents for the purpose of Christian witness.
- To provide opportunities for teenagers to interact socially with other youth and enjoy Christian fellowship.
- To provide evaluative data on performances/entries to potentially serve as a guide for the continued development of skills and talents for the glory of God.

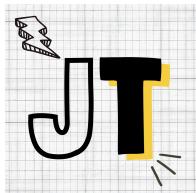


Contents

To view individual category manuals, please download from the Dropbox link provided.

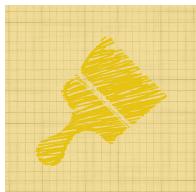
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JUNIOR TALENT GENERAL



- Part 1 Page & Performance Specifications*
- Part 2 Levels of Competition*
- Part 3 Participation Guidelines for all Categories*
- Part 4 Standards of Adjudication*
- Part 5 Explanation of Adjudication*
- Part 6 Recognition and Awards*

ART DIVISION



- Part 1 Participation & Requirements*
- Part 2 Description of Categories*
- Part 3 Where to Start*
- Part 4 Framing, Matting and Other Considerations*
- Part 5 Glossary of Terms*
- Project Information Sheet*
- Coloring Sheets*
- Score Sheet*
- Adjudicators' Summary*

CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

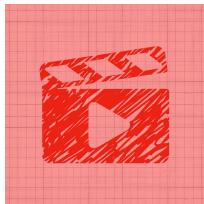


- Part 1 Participation Requirements*
- Part 2 Classification of Categories*
- Part 3 Description of Categories*
- Statement of Verification of Originality*
- Score Sheets*
- Adjudicators' Summary*

DRAMA DIVISION



- Part 1 Participation Requirements*
- Part 2 Description of Categories*
- Visual Chart*
- Score Sheets*
- Adjudicators' Summary*



MULTI-MEDIA DIVISION

Part 1 Participation Requirements
Part 2 Description of Categories
Project Information Sheet
Score Sheet
Adjudicators' Summary



MUSIC DIVISION

Part 1 Participation & Submission Requirements
Part 2 & 3 Description of Categories
Part 4 Preparing an Entry
Score Sheets
Adjudicators' Summary



BIBLE DIVISION

Teaching, Preaching, & Testimony Description
Teaching, Preaching, & Testimony Terms
Lesson Plan
Score Sheet
Adjudicators' Summary
Bible Quizzing Rules & Description
Bible Quizzing Score Sheets & Brackets
Bible Quiz Study Guide



JUNIOR TALENT

GENERAL





PART ONE

AGE & PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

Each participant must be 7 to 12 years old within the calendar year (January 1 - December 31) of the Junior Talent Competition year.

Explanation: As long as a participant is 7 years old or 12 years old for at least one day of the calendar year of competition they are eligible for all levels of competition in Junior Talent.

Given the change in the culture and world around us, we felt it necessary for protection and clarity to make the following statement regarding prop weapons and the use of sexually graphic material in Junior Talent competitions on all levels.

- A “prop weapon” is defined as any item that can be used to harm an individual or group of people. These include, but are not limited to, guns (of any type), bows, arrows, crossbows, knives, swords, clubs, and bats.

- At no time will a “prop weapon” be used in ANY way.
- There will be no use of blanks, caps, or any other device that would audibly or visibly imply an explosion or gunshot.
- All gunshot-type sounds must be accomplished using a stage device such as a slap-stick.
- At no time will an actor/performer act out a sexually graphic event of any type.

Emergency During Performance Procedure

All performances are restricted to the designated area of the stage. Should there be a costume malfunction, injury, or sudden illness, the affected participant should exit immediately to the staging area located at the rear or side of the stage.

PART TWO

LEVEL OF COMPETITION

There is one level of competition in each division of Junior Talent for 2026.

State/Regional Competition:

The State/Regional Competition shall be under the direction of the State/Regional Director of Youth & Discipleship.

PART THREE

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF JUNIOR TALENT

Entry Requirements

- Each participant must be 7 to 12 years old within the calendar year (January 1 – December 31) of the Junior Talent competition year.
- A participant should represent in competition a Church of God Congregation in which he/she regularly attends.

PART FOUR

Standards for Adjudication

What standards of performance may an adjudicator reasonably expect of a participant or group of participants? The following comments are highly generalized. It is not the purpose of these descriptions to set up arbitrary standards. Each performance must be adjudicated on its own merit, and in the final analysis, each adjudicator must decide what rating each performance deserves.

Brief descriptions are given below of the type of performance that might be awarded the respective ratings in competition. These descriptions are offered, not as an attempt to pre-adjudicate any performance, but merely in the hope that they will provide background to assist the participant in understanding the adjudication process.

****NOTE: This definition of the Standards of Adjudication is the official standard for Junior Talent. They apply to all divisions except Bible Quiz, which uses a different rubric for determining winners.**

SUPERIOR (4.5 and above)

This rating represents the finest conceivable performance, worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best. While the adjudicator might find some minor points to criticize and make some helpful suggestions for further improvement, the remarks would generally be complimentary for outstanding work.

EXCELLENT (3.5 - 4.4)

This rating reflects a solid performance in many respects, but not one worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. Yet, it is a performance of distinction and quality. It is relatively easy for an adjudicator to comment on such a performance because the weaknesses stand out clearly against a generally first-rate background, and suggestions are usually focused on something specific and helpful.

GOOD (2.5 - 3.4)

This rating is awarded for a good performance, but one that is not outstanding. The performance shows accomplishment and marked promise but is lacking in one or more essential qualities. This rating indicates much room for improvement in several of the fundamental items listed on the adjudicator's scoring sheet. The participant would have some basically fine qualities, and there should be ample opportunities for the adjudicator to make suggestions for sound improvement in those fundamental factors in which the performance revealed weaknesses.

FAIR (1.5 - 2.4)

This rating describes a performance that shows some obvious weaknesses. These may simply reflect a lack of rehearsal time or preparation. This rating represents a performance that is generally weak and uncertain. There are numerous errors, and the performance reveals basic weaknesses in most of the fundamental factors listed on the scoring sheet. The adjudicator will probably not devote much space to pointing out specific errors in the performance. The comments, however, will likely be encouraging and contain helpful suggestions for overall improvement.

POOR (1.0 through 1.4)

This rating indicates a performance that reveals much room for improvement. It indicates a performance in which participants reveal almost a complete lack of preparedness and understanding. In some cases, this may be due to contestants attempting to perform material that is far too advanced for their ability. The adjudicators will point out any commendable features and the basic weaknesses in the performance and will make suggestions for improvement. These comments should encourage the participants to work toward improvement so that they may qualify for a higher rating in the future.





PART FIVE

Explanation of Adjudication

Samples of scoring sheets for each category are provided in this manual. These are the same forms that are uploaded into the computers used by the adjudicators during competition.

Note: Bible Quiz operates under a different system of adjudication, therefore these explanations do not apply to this category.

Scoring the Participant

The contestant's performance is evaluated according to certain specific factors that are listed on the division/category scoring sheet. Each factor on the adjudication sheet is evaluated and scored on the following basis:
Superior = 5 points;
Excellent = 4 points; Good = 3 points; Fair = 2 points, and
Poor = 1 point.

Tallying the Score

After the judging has been completed, the scoring sheets are collected. The Adjudicator's Summary Sheet: Scoring sheets from all the adjudicators for a participant are averaged together to determine the provisional rating for that participant. This average is listed in the Summary.

- Superior 4.5 and above
- Excellent 3.5 – 4.4
- Good 2.5 – 3.4
- Fair 1.5 – 2.4
- Poor 1.0 – 1.4

Determining the Final Rating

The prepared summary of each participant's performance, with the corresponding scoring sheets attached, is returned to the adjudicators for final analysis.

Winners will be determined, not on an individual point basis, but by the mutual agreement of the evaluators. The scoring sheets are a guide to assist the evaluators in making their decisions. In this way, the adjudicators can study all of the entries on a comparative basis and come to a mutual decision rather than just rating each piece numerically. All decisions of the adjudicators concerning both winners and category designations are final.

Adjudicators' Evaluation of the Participant

Space on each scoring sheet is provided in which the adjudicator may write comments and suggestions to the participant(s) as a current evaluation of their performance, and as a guide for the continuing development of their skills in the future.

Within a few weeks after the competition, the State/Regional Youth and Discipleship Department should mail each participant(s) a copy of the written comments and evaluations from each adjudicator. Through this procedure, the adjudicators have an opportunity to communicate to the participant(s) any observations they wish to make concerning their strengths and weaknesses, and areas that need attention. Potentially, this adds a further learning experience to the Junior Talent program.

PART SIX

Recognition and Awards

There is one level of competition in each division of Junior Talent for 2026.

State/Regional Competition:

- The State/Regional Office will hold an awards ceremony at the completion of the event which shall be under the direction of the Director of Youth and Discipleship.
- First, second, and third places will be awarded in each category.



What **GOD SAYS** About YOUR TALENT

ART & MULTIMEDIA

We know that God appreciates beauty. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." God delights when we use our gifts to make this world more beautiful. In Exodus 35:35 God tells the Hebrews through Moses that "every gift of skill, including designers, is given to them from Him." God is the source of our skill and creativity. It is a form of worship when we use those talents "For His Glory."

BIBLE

The foundation of our faith is the infallible Word of God. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness," 2 Timothy 3:16. Crucial to teaching and training in righteousness is "hiding His Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him," Psalm 119:11. Studying the Bible is key to living our lives, day in and day out, "For His Glory."

CREATIVE WRITING

Throughout the Bible, God charges His prophets and apostles with "writing all the words that I have spoken to you," Jeremiah 30:2. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all record Jesus's time on Earth. Yet, each writer brought new dimension and life to their shared story of Jesus. God still speaks to His people. Let us continue to write what He and His Word inspires in our hearts "For His Glory."

DRAMA

Drama ministry is a form of worship and storytelling. This medium enables us to tell visual stories and emphasize our worship. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 says, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." Every dance, skit, and drama presentation is a display of our unique gifts to use "For His Glory."

MUSIC

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing," Psalm 100:1-2. The book of Psalms is dedicated to praise and worship through music. 2 Chronicles 5:13 describes the Ark of the Covenant entering the Temple where singers and instrumentalists joined together to give praise to God. Through Christ's sacrifice we are able to be in God's presence at any time. He deserves our songs of praise "For His Glory."