Signing for the Deaf

Purpose

To develop the ability to communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing, thus glorifying God and his church.

Grade Levels

- There are five grade levels in this event: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12.

Process

- Ensure participants get a current copy of the event rules.
- Ensure participants select, register, and prepare for Signing Level 1, Signing Level 2, **or** Signing Level 3.

Rules

- Each first time participant and participants in grades K-2 must participate in Signing Level 1.
- Each participant in grades 3-12 can participate in either Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3.
- The Convention Event Coordinator will provide the recording to be used during the convention. No other recordings may be used.
- Another person cannot give signs or coaching instructions while the participant is signing.
- A solid color blouse/shirt/dress contrasting with skin tone should be worn while signing.
- All participants must meet in their assigned room ten minutes prior to their scheduled time. The participants are allowed to watch and encourage each other (not sign along with).
- Spectators may enter or exit the room at designated times between performances.
- All participants will be pre-registered by their churches, and placed in a specific room. If a participant's name is not on the list or other changes need to be made, see the event coordinator for resolution.

Signing Levels

Signing Level 1

- Participants will fingerspell first and last name.
- Participants will fingerspell or sign the title of the song selection.
- Participants will learn and sign one song choice.
- Example script: "Hello, my name is _____. I will be signing (fingerspell OR sign the name of your choice song)."

Signing Level 2

- Level 1 requirements PLUS
- Participants will learn and sign the Bible verse.

Signing Level 3

- Level 2 requirements PLUS
- Participants will learn all three songs.
- Judges will notify participants which song has been selected from remaining two songs. Participants will fingerspell or sign the title of the second song selection followed by the song.

Definition of Major Sign Language Systems

American Sign Language (ASL) is the language of the Deaf community. ASL "paints a picture" through the use of conceptual signs. Signs are chosen based on meaning and not necessarily the English word. ASL syntax (topic/comment) and grammar are used to convey meaning of an English expression. Some features of ASL include classifiers, directionality, placement and facial expressions.

Contact Signing (formerly known as Pidgin) combines the grammatical structure of English and the conceptual signs of American Sign Language. It is similar to spoken English with few syntactical changes.

Signing Exact English (SEE II) signs follow English word order and are literally a word for word representation of the English sentence. Many initialized signs are used as well as verbs, articles, word endings, prefixes, suffixes, etc.

Example

English: "I like to go to the movies."

ASL: "movie me like go"

Contact Signing: "me like go movie"

SEE II: "I like to go to the movies"

*There is often much confusion when it comes to which sign language system to use when signing songs. You do not have to identify which sign language system you will use on the registration form. As you begin to prepare for this event, it is important to think of the meaning of the song, and not necessarily the exact English words. Therefore, we recommend that you use ASL or Contact Signing.

Awards

There are three ratings available in each grade level – Gold, Silver or Bronze.

If the signing coach has any questions about the signing event, please contact the Convention Event Coordinator: Susan Stover (stoverbk@gmail.com). Instructional videos are available upon request.

Verse and Songs for Sign Language

Verse:

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Make Me a Servant (Beginner's Song)

Make me a servant, Lord, make me like You.
For You are a servant, make me one, too.
Make me a servant, do what You must do
To make me a servant, make me like You.

Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant, Lord, make me like You.
For You are a servant, make me one, too.
Make me a servant, do what You must do
To make me a servant, make me like You.

To love my brother, to serve like You do.
I humble my spirit, I bow before You.
And through my service, I'll be just like You.
So make me a servant, make me like You.

Open my hands, Lord, and teach me to share;
Open my heart, Lord, and teach me to care.
For service to others is service to You.
Make me a servant, make me like You.

Where He Leads Me I Will Follow

I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow Me."

Chorus
Where He leads me I will follow,
where He leads me I will follow,
where He leads me I will follow,

I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Chorus

I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Chorus

Goodness of God

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus
'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Chorus (x 2)

Signing for the Deaf

Name: Grade:
Congregation: Level::

Be sure to make comments explaining any scoring: if the work needs improvement, explain why; if the work is good, tell them what you liked about it; if the work is outstanding, say why. Remember, they are ONLY competing against themselves. Please make ALL comments positive and encouraging in nature!!



- Preparation
  Did the student prepare and pay attention to convention rules?
- Fingerspelling
  Does the student show clear formation and lack of bouncing?
- Sign Production
  Are the signs produced clear and accurate?
- Conceptual Sign Selection
  Does the student capture the meaning of the song visually?
- Confidence
  Does the student show an appropriate level of confidence? (consider age and level attempting)
- Expression
  Does the student's facial expression and body language match the mood of the song?

1	2	3	4	5
Basic		Solid		Advanced
1	2	3	4	5
Basic		Solid		Advanced
1	2	3	4	5
Basic		Solid		Advanced
1	2	3	4	5
Basic		Solid		Advanced
1	2	3	4	5
Basic		Solid		Advanced
1	2	3	4	5
Basic		Solid		Advanced

As a judge, I feel that this work deserves the following award (circle)

Gold Silver Bronze

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15

Other explanatory and encouraging comments:

Final rating to be given by the event coordinator is to be indicated below this line.