Communication Division Guidelines for Short Sermon

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Communication Division may submit entries in the following categories:
- Short Sermon
- Spoken Word
- Short Film
- Bible Memorization (Grades 3-8)
- Speech –Patriotic
- Speech – Poetry
- Speech – Dramatic Quotation (Grades 6-12)

Short Sermon Guidelines

1. An entry in Short Sermon is the art of verbally communicating a biblical message that includes Scripture quotations or readings presented by one eligible student.

2. Scripture reference must be cited with all scripture quotations or readings.

3. Short Sermon entries have a time limit of 5 minutes.

4. All presentations must be in harmony with the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies God. A copy of the Statement of Fundamental Truths is available online at www.lcstoday.org.

5. All entries must be original material, not just a memorization of someone else's sermon. Participants are permitted to use illustrations personal testimonies, statistics, stories, etc. Sources must be cited.

6. Participants are allowed to use notes. The sermon does not need to be memorized.

7. Participants may only use a Bible, notes, a podium and handheld visual aids. The festival provides only the podium.

8. All aspects of the sermon must take place within the boundaries of the stage.

9. The wearing of costumes is not permitted.

10. The use of audio or audiovisual devices is not permitted. Neither flammable nor liquid visual aids are permitted.

11. All presentations must be given with due reverence for God and His people and must not be a cynical or satirical portrayal of any form of the ministry.

Short Sermon Evaluation Criteria
Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

• **Selection**
  o Christian message – presents a solidly Biblical perspective with ministry effectiveness in mind.

  o Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival

• **Communication**
  o Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

  o Posture – effective stance appropriate for public speaking, stage presence, and proper breath support.

  o Expression/body language – use of nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, hand and arm gestures) that enhance the delivery of the sermon.

  o Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort. o Timing – the ability to move from point to point smoothly and with a sense of pacing; effective use of allotted time spent on opening, main points and conclusion

  o Vocal clarity – appropriate volume for audience; proper pronunciation of words with appropriate tone and inflection.

• **Presentation/Technique**
  o Use of Scripture – Scriptural text/quotations foundational to overall presentation; reference(s) cited.

  o Structure of content – effective, logical organization of thoughts communicated for understanding, believability and remembrance.

  o Opening/conclusion – use of quote, question, illustrations, or story is used to capture audience's interest in topic of sermon; the conclusion recaps the main points and calls for a final response.

  o Transitions – statements that bridge the main points of the sermon.

  o Use of illustrations – incorporates vivid image, examples, testimony, statistics, or quotations as reinforcements to sermon topic with proper recognition of sources.

  O Elicits response – demonstrates purpose of sermon with a question for a response in conclusion.

• **Effectiveness**
  o Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion. o Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.

  o Relevance – appropriate and relevant application.

  o Understandable concept – the sermon selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.