

Talent Competition Rules

Deadlines:

Local – To be completed before Zone

Zone – To be completed by February 17, 2024

Churches turn in participants by February 20, 2024

BLAST 2024, March 1st and 2nd - Lubbock

Rules and Guidelines

1. There will be two (2) divisions of Competition

Primary – Grades 1, 2 and 3

Junior – Grades 4, 5 and 6

2. Primary division will be able to compete in two categories not including choirs.

Junior division will be able to compete in three categories not including choirs and academics.

3. There will be 61 categories of competition in each division.

4. RULES TO PAY EXTRA ATTENTION TO:

Any child that participates at the zone will be eligible to compete at BLAST.

All live performances must have copies of performance material to give to judges at time of performance.

Please remember that all vocals using accompaniment tracks must only use background vocals.

There is no specific scripture for Poetry. Any scripture reference is acceptable. As long as the power point song is a song that is a song of religious nature, it will be accepted.

Instrumental Solo – Woodwind

1. Solo only
2. Woodwind instrument (clarinet, etc.)
3. Selection must be religious or UIL approved music
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Does not need to be memorized
6. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Solo – Brass

1. Solo only
2. Brass Instrument (trumpet, etc.)
3. Selection must be religious or UIL approved music
4. 1 Minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Does not need to be memorized
6. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Solo – String

1. Solo only
2. String Instrument (Violin, etc.)
3. Selection must be religious or UIL approved music
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Does not need to be memorized
7. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Solo – Percussion

1. Solo only
2. Percussion Instrument (Drums, Bells, etc.)
3. Selection must be religious of UIL approved music
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Does not need to be memorized
6. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Solo – Keyboard

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious or UIL approved
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Selection needs to be memorized
5. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Solo – Organ

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious or UIL approved
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Selection needs to be memorized
5. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Solo – Electronic Instrumental

1. Solo only
2. Any instrument that uses batteries or an electrical plug for its basic function (excluding Organ)
3. Selection must be religious or UIL approved
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Selection needs to be memorized
6. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Ensemble – Small

1. Minimum of 2, maximum of 4
2. Instruments may be of one type or mixed
3. Selection must be religious or UIL approved
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Provide copy of music for judges

Instrumental Ensemble – Large

1. Minimum of 5, no maximum
2. Instruments may be of one type or mixed
3. Selection must be religious or UIL approved
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Provide copy of music for judges

Bell Choir – Small

1. Minimum of 2, maximum of 9
2. Selection must be religious
3. Will be judged as a choir, not as primary or junior
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Bell Choir – Large

1. Minimum of 10, no maximum
2. Selection must be religious
3. Will be judged as a choir, not primary or junior
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. May have directors

Vocal Solo – Boy

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Provide copy of words for judges
5. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only

Vocal Solo – Girl

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

4. Provide copy of words for judges
5. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only

Vocal Duet

1. Two Participants
2. Selection must be religious
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Provide copy of words for judges
5. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only

Vocal Ensemble – Small

1. Minimum of 3, Maximum of 5
2. Selection must be religious
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only

Vocal Ensemble – Large

1. Minimum of 6, maximum of 10
2. Selection must be religious
3. 1 minute minimum, 5 minute maximum
4. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only

Vocal Ensemble – Small Choir

1. Minimum of 11, maximum of 20
2. Selection must be religious
3. May be an individual church or a Zone Choir
4. Ages to include kids K – 6th grade
5. Will be judged as a Choir, not primary or junior
6. 1 minute minimum, 5 minute maximum
7. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only
8. No DVDs

Vocal Ensemble – Medium Choir

1. Minimum of 21, maximum of 30
2. Selection must be religious
3. May be individual church or a Zone Choir
4. Ages to include kids K – 6th grade
5. Will be judged as a choir, not primary or junior
6. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
7. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only
8. No DVD

Vocal Ensemble – Large Choir

1. Minimum of 31, no maximum
2. Selection must be religious
3. May be individual church or a Zone Choir

4. Ages to include kids K – 6th grade
5. Will be judged as a choir, not primary or junior
6. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
7. Live accompanist or tracks with background vocals only
8. No DVD

Visual Signing Choir

1. Minimum of 11, no maximum
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be in ASL or SEE signs only.**
4. Ages to include kids K – 6th grade
5. Will be judged as a choir, not primary or junior
6. 1 minute minimum, 5 minute maximum

Individual Visual Signing – Girl

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be in ASL or SEE signs only.**
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Individual Visual Signing – Boy

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be in ASL or SEE signs only.**
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Small Group Visual Signing

1. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be in ASL or SEE signs only.**
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Large Group Visual Signing

1. Minimum of 6, maximum of 10
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be in ASL or SEE signs only.**
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Individual Dramatic Signing

1. Solo only
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be combination of sign language and motions**
4. 1 minute minimum, 5 minute maximum

Small Group Dramatic Signing

1. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
2. Selection must be religious

3. **Interpretation must be combination of sign language and motions**
4. 1 minute minimum, 5 minute maximum

Large Group Dramatic Signing

1. Minimum of 6, no maximum
2. Selection must be religious
3. **Interpretation must be combination of sign language and motions**
4. 1 minute minimum, 5 minute maximum

Individual Speech – Recitation

1. Material to be used:
 - a. A religious reading
 - b. A recitation of memorized Scripture passage
 - c. An original essay or poetry prepared by the participant of a religious nature
2. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
3. Provide copy of words for judges

Group Speech

1. Material to be used
 - a. A religious reading
 - b. A recitation of memorized Scripture passage
 - c. An original essay or poetry prepared by the participant of a religious nature
2. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
3. Provide copy of skit for judges

Individual Drama – Live (No Recorded Devices)

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Provide copy of skit for judges

Individual Drama – With Recorded Devices

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Small Group Drama – Live (No Recorded Devices)

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Provide copy of skit for judges

Small Group Drama – With Recorded Devices

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message

3. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Large Group Drama – Live (No Recorded Devices)

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. Minimum of 6, No maximum
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Provide copy of skit for judges

Large Group Drama – With Recorded Devices

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. Minimum of 6, No maximum
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Individual Drama – Mime

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Group Drama – Small Mime

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Group Drama – Large Mime

1. Dramatic presentation and interpretation of a religious work
2. Costuming is required which is appropriate to the presentation, purpose and message
3. Minimum of 6, No maximum
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Solo (No Recorded Devices)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Provide copy of words for judges

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Small (No Recorded Devices)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Provide copy of words for judges

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Large (No Recorded Devices)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. Minimum of 6, No maximum
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Provide copy of words for judges

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Solo (With Recorded Devices)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Small (With Recorded Devices)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Large (With Recorded Devices)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. Minimum of 6, No maximum
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Solo (Blacklight)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
4. Presentation must include use of blacklight

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Small (Blacklight)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Presentation must include use of blacklight

Puppetry / Ventriloquism – Large (Blacklight)

1. Presentation of a religious story, play, etc. using puppetry
2. Use of staging and props where appropriate
3. Minimum of 6, No maximum
4. 1 minute minimum – 5 minute maximum
5. Presentation must include use of blacklight

***** Art & Photography *****

All Pieces should have the following information taped to the back of the piece or secured to the piece in some manner for easy identification by the judges:

Name of the participant

Age

Church/Zone

Division – Primary or Junior with age of participant

Grade in School

Category

Art - Drawing

1. Use of pen, charcoal, pencil, markers or colored crayons
2. Original works by the participant
3. Must be of nature or religious theme
4. Must have Scripture reference to reflect the theme

Art – Acrylic

1. Use of oils of acrylic only
2. Original works by the participant
3. Must be of nature or religious theme
4. Must have Scripture reference to reflect theme

Art – Watercolors

1. Use of watercolors or pastels
2. Original works by the participant
3. Must be of nature or religious theme
4. Must have Scripture reference to reflect theme

Art – Crafts

1. Sculpture, craft or creative object
2. Original works by the participant
3. Must be of nature or religious theme
4. Must have Scripture reference to reflect theme
5. Works from kits **WILL NOT** be accepted

Photography

1. Original works by the participant
2. Must be of nature or religious theme
3. Must have Scripture reference to reflect theme
4. **One or two lines about what the pictures means to the participant and how it reflects the theme.**

Computer Art

1. Art must only be derived from the “Paintbrush” of “Paint” program found in most PC in Programs in the Accessories. Please state which program used and whether free-style.
2. No other computer art graphic program will be accepted.
3. Original work by the participant
4. Must be of nature of religious theme
5. Must have Scripture reference to reflect the theme
6. Both a printed “hard” copy of the art and a CD or thumb drive with the computer art saved must be turned in at the Registration Table

Poetry – Up to 65 Words

1. Based on a predetermined Scripture Verse selected by BLAST Children’s Festival:

Any scripture contestant would like to use.

2. A Religious writing
3. Original work by the participant
4. Can be typed, word-processed or hand written

Poetry – Over 65 Words

1. Based on a predetermined Scripture Verse selected by BLAST Children’s Festival:

Any scripture contestant would like to use.

2. A Religious writing
3. Original work by the participant
4. Can be typed, word-processed or hand written

Word Processor – Newsletter

1. Newsletter can be based on the functions of your home church, imaginary church or some Biblical Story (for example: a Newsletter pertaining to Noah’s Ark)
2. FRONT SIDE ONLY. Either 8.5x11 or 9x14
3. Entire work must be completely done by the participant. This includes but is not limited to the following: the word processing itself, inclusion of graphs, story lines, ink, newsletter themes, and other creative/technical ideas.
4. Printed “hard” copy and the saved work on thumb drive or CD must be presented to the Registration Table

Power Point

1. This is a multi-media presentation using Power Point – a Microsoft Product
2. Participants must use the predetermined music selections by the BLAST Children’s Festival
Use of any function within Power Point software is allowed
3. Entire work must be done completely done by the participant
4. Turn in the thumb drive or CD at the Registration Table. Have the participants name and local church on the label. Only the Power Point presentation should be saved on the thumb drive or CD.
5. **The first slide should have the participant’s name, age, church and zone. It may be on CD or thumb drive. Adult assistance should be limited to technical advice and supervision only.**
6. **Any song that is of a religious nature.**

Speed Math

1. This is divided into 3 divisions – 4th, 5th and 6th Grades
2. Participants must be currently in 4th grade to participate in the 4th grade division. The same is true for the 5th & 6th grades. However, a 4th grader may take the 5th or 6th grade Speed Math. A 5th grader may take the 5th or 6th grade Speed Math while a 6th grader may take **only** the 6th grade Speed Math. Special exceptions may apply. Please contact the BLAST Kids Fest Director for information.
3. There will be 100 mathematical problems with 3 tie-break questions.
4. The Speed Math will last 10 minutes
5. Speed Math will test Addition, subtraction, Division and Multiplication
6. Absolutely **NO CALCULATORS** will be allowed. Scratch paper will be provided
7. The overall winners will be based upon the highest number of questions answered correctly. Each correct answer is worth 5 point. Wrong answers or skipped answers will subtract 4 points from the score. If an answer is not legible, it will be counted as incorrect. Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals will be based upon an overall “Bell Curve”

Special

1. Any child eligible for Special Olympics would qualify for this category
2. They would be allowed to enter any talent category desired
3. All medals will be the same

Caravan

1. Any approved project from Caravan material may be entered
 2. Equal award to a boy and a girl
-
1. **A participant has the option of using the material throughout the competition (Local, Zone, BLAST), or they may choose something different. However, the participant must stay in the same category and must choose something different than they performed at last year’s BLAST Competition.**
 2. **A participant may enter two (2) categories if they are a primary and three (3) categories if they are a junior INCLUDING ART. Choir or Caravans are NOT included in these categories. A participant may enter the categories of choice AND/OR Choir, AND/OR**

Caravans. Speed Math, Computer Word Processing, Power Point or Poetry will NOT be counted towards the maximum limit of two categories for BLAST.

3. **All local entries may be allowed to compete at Zone Level. The local talent must have performed or presented at the local church during a church function (such as Children's Church, Sunday Service, etc.)**
4. **All participants at the Zone level may advance to the BLAST.**
5. **BLAST participants must have participated in Zone Competitions. NO EXCEPTIONS**
6. **Participants must be present at Zone Competition to be eligible to enter the BLAST.**
7. **Participants must be present at BLAST in order to compete at BLAST. This includes all Art, Computer and Creative Writing Talents. NO EXCEPTIONS**
8. **The participant will be judged according to the attached adjudication sheets. The judge's decision will be final.**
9. **All material used in the competition should be memorized with the exception of the instrumental solo talent. Keyboard selections must still be memorized. Points will be deducted from the participant's score if the material is not memorized. Also points can be deducted if "coaching" throughout the participant's selection is taking place. These deductions are at the discretion of the judges and/or Director.**
10. **Coaching or directing can be defined as follows, but not limited to the following: A constant giving of direction from person not performing in the event providing the people ("students") within the event a potential advantage to those students without such direction. A very small limited motion, cue or help on a line will not be construed as coaching. Any coaching or directing decision will be made by the judges in the room and/or by the Director – ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL. Any questions should be directed to the Director. The ONLY exception to this rule pertains to #16 below.**
11. **The judges should be furnished with duplicates of the material presented. WRITE THE CHILD'S NAME & HOME CHURCH ON THE MATERIAL. Acknowledgments should be made to the judges if freestyle material or where no additional copies of the material are available.**
12. **Ensembles composed of a mixture of Primary and Junior will be judged on the Junior Level. A Choir however, will be judged as an overall group inclusive of Kindergarten through 6th grade.**
13. **Only Large Ensembles and Choirs may have directors.**
14. **Suggested sources for judges: Students or Teachers from local schools, junior colleges**

and universities, music directors from churches in the city or area.

15. One single puppet stage will be used throughout BLAST and will be provided by BLAST.

16. Accompaniment tracks may be used with backup vocals only.

17. Awards

A. ZONE – No scoring. Awards for participation should be certificates

B. BLAST - Awards will be:

- **Trophies for the top point winners in each category.**
- **One trophy for ensembles and choirs. Both members of the Duets will receive a trophy. (Applies only to the Vocal Duet Category)**
- **Gold, Silver, or Bronze medals to all participants based on scores.**
- **Talent Entry Fees is \$30.00**

18. Each local church is responsible for the expenses of their participants in each level of competition (Zone and BLAST).

QUESTIONS: If you have questions, contact Elaine Nauert (806) 786-9414 or mnelainen@att.net