

## ***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: Kiera Stover ([kierastover7@gmail.com](mailto:kierastover7@gmail.com)). Instructional videos are available upon request.

## *Verse and Songs for Sign Language*

### Verse:

“So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” – Luke 1:35

### Jesus is Lord

#### **\*Beginner 1st verse only**

Jesus is Lord, my Redeemer  
How He loves me, how I love Him.  
He is risen, he is coming,  
Lord come quickly, Hallelujah!

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

He was born to die on Calvary  
To redeem a lost humanity  
Conquered death he rose triumphantly  
Now He reigns for all eternity.

**“Beautiful One” ([Zoe Group](#))**

Wonderful, so wonderful  
Is Your unfailing love  
Your cross has spoken mercy over me  
No eye has seen no ear has heard  
No heart could fully know  
How glorious, how beautiful You are

(Chorus)

Beautiful One I love  
Beautiful One I adore  
Beautiful One, my soul must sing

Powerful, so powerful  
Your glory fills the skies  
Your mighty works displayed for all to see  
The beauty of Your majesty  
Awakes my heart to see  
How marvelous how wonderful You are

(Chorus 2 times)

You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew  
You captured my heart with this love  
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You  
You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew  
You captured my heart with this love  
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You

(Chorus 2 times)

And You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew  
You captured my heart with this love  
Because nothing on earth is as beautiful as You

**“[In Christ Alone](#)”**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath.  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## Signing

Name:  
Grade:  
Congregation:  
Event:

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	

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

***one): Bronze Silver Gold***

"Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him, who is the head, that is, Christ" - Eph 4:15

*Other explanatory and encouraging comments:*

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