

# ACTS STUDENT CONVENTION GUIDELINES HANDBOOK

## **PURPOSE**

Hundreds of students representing many states and foreign countries will be gathering for competition and leadership training. The purpose of the ACTS Student Conventions is to give Christian young people opportunities to develop leadership skills. God's Word states that Christian youth should not only be different from the world (Romans 12: 1 & 2), but also set a standard of excellence! Contestants should keep this in mind as they plan and prepare for the Convention. Selection of material, quality of performance, appearance, attitude, and attentiveness at the rallies should reflect the character objectives of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Student Convention helps to promote school spirit and excitement about Christian education. Those who attend usually return with a greater determination to improve their local school program.

## **PREPARATION**

Participation in the ACTS Student Conventions should be the climax of months of drill, practice, and preparation. Principals and supervisors have a tremendous opportunity to teach character through careful goal setting and preparation for the Student Convention. Awards are exciting, but they only have lasting effect when they are earned as a result of the contestants' diligence.

# How to Prepare

(NOTE TO SCHOOL STAFF: It is suggested you copy this page, along with the rules and judge's form for the particular event, and distribute to student preparing for Student Convention.)

**1. Select Your Event**

The program includes more than 130 events in nine divisions. Choose those events that will best develop your talents and gifts for Christian service. (Read Contestant Guidelines carefully for proper selection.) Your parents and supervisors may also suggest new areas where they see potential in your life. Note: All vocal and written entries must be in the English language. Any Bible quotations must be from King James Version (not new King James Version)

**2. Plan and Schedule**

A wise man said, "Those who fail to plan, plan to fail." The Progress Control Form (CF9) is your key to successful planning. With it, you and your supervisor can plan and schedule the steps you need to follow to make your entry the best it can be.

**3. Seek Advice**

When you have selected your event, seek the advice of Godly adults in your family and church who have expertise in your area. They can give you valuable advice that will help you now and in future service.

**4. Practice, Practice, Practice**

If possible, practice in a setting similar to actual competition. You might ask your pastor if you can practice before a group at your church or school. Not only will this accustom you to performing before a group, it will help you test the effectiveness of your entry.

**5. Pray**

As you prepare, pray that your performance will bring glory to the Lord. Also pray that the Student Convention will be a blessing to you and the others who attend. Pray that lives will be transformed and that many will commit their lives to service.

**6. Do Your Best**

"Good, better, best, never let it rest, 'til your good is better, and your better is best." Evidence reveals that almost any group of young people, with concentrated effort, can excel in almost all entry areas. Remember, the results will never exceed the investment.

**7. Have Confidence**

Don't think that you can't do well in competition. Size of school and age of contestant are not the important things. What counts is your commitment to practice. Some of the most outstanding winners have come from small schools of only a few high school-age students. You, too, could be among the top three place winners. **Give it a try!**