

Christian Podcast

Purpose

To encourage young men and women to express their spiritual experiences and insight using a medium that is powerful in today's world to connect with an audience. With that in mind, and in respect to the current year's theme, use the Christian Podcast to reach out to the community and encourage them with the message of Christ.

Grade Levels

Grades 6-12

Process

- Participants will:
 - Prepare an audio file featuring the student(s) discussing a topic of their choosing (the "Podcast"). The Podcast must be both "original" (as defined by copyright law) and unique (meaning it must have been created for the sole purpose of entering the event).
 - Complete the Pre-Convention Form
- The participant(s) must upload a publicly viewable and downloadable Podcast to a podcasting site between the day registration opens and the day registration closes. If a team of two or more participants records the podcast together, only one participant needs to upload it to the site.
 - If two or more participants record the podcast, download the Team Sheet from the PDF Forms menu on the [website](#) and submit with the entry.
- In addition to the audio of the podcast, the participant(s) must write an explanation of the Podcast (up to 250 words in doc, docx, or pdf format). This is not a verbatim script of the podcast, but an explanation of what is discussed.
- Christian Podcast, Pre-Convention Form, and the Podcast explanation should be sent to the SELTC office by the pre-convention deadline. (emailed to seltc.office@gmail.com).
- Judges sheets will be returned to the Church Coordinator at the convention.

Rules

- This event is available to any registered youth in Grades 6-12.
- There are two grade levels for this event: Grades 6-8 and 9-12
- Each participant should rehearse his/her Podcast with the Church Coordinator prior to recording and submission to check for any insensitive or potentially offensive material.
- **TIME:** The Christian Podcast must be between **3 to 6 minutes**.
- Podcasts must be created specifically for the event.
- Podcasts must be the original work of the participant(s). Adults, however, may help upload the recording.
- Podcasts must be uploaded by the student(s) to a podcasting site. The ability to download the submission should be enabled. Verify that links to downloadable material work by sharing with someone to make sure they are able to open it. Podcasts must comply with the site's Terms of Use. These sites should have a Basic level that is free.

- Podcasts must not contain material that violates or infringes another's rights (including, but not limited to, material that violates privacy, publicity, or intellectual property rights).

Helpful hints for first time podcasters:

- **Limit your podcast to 3 to 6 minutes.** Check the length of your audio file and make sure it is no longer than 6 minutes, or penalties will be assessed.
- **Manage your time well.** Your podcast must include a beginning, middle, and end to produce a complete listening experience. Beginnings often draw the listener in or provide context. Endings often offer a summary, raise a question, or act as a teaser for the next segment.
- **Target your approach:** Try not to do too much in your short podcast. Often the most rewarding podcasts are ones that dive into a specific issue or story.
- **Be open to different formats.** Popular podcast formats include, but are not limited to, interviews, conversations, non-fiction storytelling, and fiction storytelling. Popular podcast genres include, but are not limited to, comedy, news documentary, history, radio theater, and sports.
- **Ensure use of non-copyrighted sound effects or music.** You cannot use copyrighted sound effects or music for the sole purpose of making your podcast sound better. Instead, you can find royalty-free music and sound effects on Bensound or Freesound, or by doing a web search for royalty-free files. Or you can use audio editing software to create your own music or sound effects.

A Quick Guide to Creating a Podcast

- **Listen to podcasts.** Become familiar with different formats and genres. Figure out which podcasts you like best.
- **Figure out what you want to do in your podcast.** Do you want to entertain listeners or provide information, or both?
- **Create a podcast plan or outline**
- **Make sound recordings.** Whether you tell a story, have a conversation, or interview people, you'll need to create recordings. If you want original music or sound effects, you'll need to create those recordings as well.
- **Gather other sound files.** Will you be including other sound effects, music, or media clips? Find those files, but make sure you are not violating any copyright laws.
- **Make sure your podcast has a beginning, middle, and end.** While we're not saying what those sections must be or how long they should last, we want you to make sure your podcast is a complete listening experience. Be thoughtful about how you implement your podcast.

Awards

Gold, Silver, and Bronze