

IFCA INTERNATIONAL • YOUTH CONVENTION

NATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE MINISTRY TRAINING AREA (MTA)

Rules & Guidelines

➤ **PURPOSE**

To encourage and strengthen the desire and abilities of students to use sign language in the local church (Neh. 8:8).

➤ **RULES**

1. All entries must choose a Christian hymn or song used in corporate worship or a short recorded message (a spoken devotion, passage of Scripture being read, part of a sermon, etc.) that is no more than 5 minutes in length. The interpretation must be one that would be used in the context of corporate worship in a local church.
2. This MTA can be presented either as an individual or as a team of two or more.
3. There are two categories for this Ministry Training Area – Novice and Senior. The Novice Category shall consist of those in which the individual or all members of the team have had two (2) years or less of signing experience. The Senior Category shall consist of those in which the individual or one or more members of the team have had more than two (2) years of signing experience. (An entry is considered a Senior entry when any member of the group has had more than two years of experience.)
4. All entries should use ASL grammatical structure as the form for the signing. While some measure artistic interpretation is acceptable, the focus should be on the accuracy of interpretation.
5. All entrants must provide three (3) copies of the script, along with three (3) copies of a correctly filled-out evaluation form. **These three (3) copies of all MTA submission materials must be presented at registration on the first day of convention.** The final deadline for all MTA materials to be received in the Convention Office is no later than 8pm the first day of Convention.
6. The same presentation and team must be used throughout the Regional and National Ministry Training Area events. In the event of an emergency, substitution can be made in the entry, but only with the approval of the Youth Council.
7. The presentation must be one for which none of the participants have been previously evaluated at the IFCA National Youth Convention.
8. Presentation Attire Guidelines
 - All clothing must be **modest**—appropriate for the worship environment. Any questions or concerns can be directed to mta@ifcayouth.org.
 - **Young Men:** Dress pants (no jeans), dress shirt with collar, belt and dress shoes; no flip-flops. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed.
 - **Young Ladies:** Dress or blouse with skirt or dress pants (no jeans). Dress shoes or sandals; no flip-flops. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed

➤ **EVALUATION**

1. A panel of 3 persons will evaluate each entry. There are 6 categories of evaluation on the Apologetics Ministry Training Area Evaluation Form. Each evaluator will assign a division 1, division 2 or division 3 rating for each category. The overall score will be calculated by taking an average of the scores awarded from all 3 evaluators.

<u>Final Division Rating</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Division 1 (best)	1.0 – 1.5
Division 2	1.6 – 2.4
Division 3	2.5 – 3.0

Note: The National Ministry Training Area evaluators are advised to consider the age and experience of the entrant in the evaluation process and score accordingly.

2. An introduction must be made by the presenter(s), which includes their name(s), church, IFCA region, and the title of their presentation.
3. The lead evaluator will be the designated timekeeper. Each entry needs to be no longer than 5 minutes with no minimum for both Novice and Senior divisions. Time does not include the introduction before the presentation or prayer.
4. Evaluators will meet with presenter(s) to give verbal feedback in addition to their written feedback. Evaluation forms and music will be returned to students via their church leaders at the end of Convention.

➤ **HINTS**

1. Study ASL and determine the proper grammar for your presentation. It is best to find a coach or consultant who is fluent in sign language to ensure that your sign choices are the best possible option.
2. Synchronization for a team presentation is key to making your presentation more appealing. Rehearse together with a coach to ensure similar hand placement and motion.

➤ **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships may be awarded to those in 11th and 12th grade who receive an overall Division I rating.

<p style="text-align: center;">Questions? Contact: Pastor Andy Huber NATIONAL MINISTRY TRAINING AREA COORDINATOR (913) 727-5006 • mta@ifcayouth.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Revised Jan. 2024</p>
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