



Songs of Praise

Purpose

To encourage girls to prepare themselves to lead women in song in ladies' classes, devotionals, retreats, etc. It is not the intention of L2L to promote or encourage women in leading singing for mixed groups. The integrity of this purpose must be maintained by the participants, parents, group leaders, and elders of each congregation.

Event Participation

1. The Song Leading event will be held on a grade-by-grade basis for grades 3-12. Each student must participate in the academic grade in which she is presently enrolled.
2. Students in Pre-K through grade 2 and Bartimaeus participants may lead, but will not be rated.
3. Lesson 8 of the *Field Book of Leadership: Revised* provides basic instruction on Song Leading. The *Field Book of Leadership: Revised* may be ordered from the [L2L Online Store](#). It is very important that participants, parents, coaches, and judges watch the Event Training and Judging Videos on the L2L website: <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>

Event Rules and Guidelines

1. Girls will be allowed to use a songbook of the leader's choice or song sheets. Be sure to bring copies of the words and music to aid in participation if you are not using a songbook. If using a songbook, bring extra copies to aid in audience participation. Song leaders are responsible for providing their own books. If you choose to make copies, please ensure that all copyright requirements are followed. Unauthorized photocopying of music is an infringement of copyright and will not be allowed. L2L judges will not serve as "copyright police" to make sure that they were copied properly. It is up to each group to make sure that all copyright laws are followed. If it is determined that you need a CCLI license, you may contact them at 1-800-234-2446 or visit their website at www.ccli.com. If you bring extra song books for the audience you will not have to get copyright permission.
2. Students will lead TWO verses of ONE song. Medleys – where one verse of two different songs are led – may not be used. It is acceptable to lead a single verse song through twice.
3. The name and number of the song should be announced so that all can hear.
4. The song must be pitched and maintenance of pitch will be judged. Handheld electronic devices may be used to pitch songs.
5. Participants should project their voice to fit the room.
6. Proper hand signals must be used.
7. Proper transition from one stanza to the next will be judged.
8. Projecting the thought and meaning of the song will be judged.
9. Personal appearance is important. This includes not only appropriate dress, but also posture, poise, and neatness.
10. Rules regarding identification of participants:
 - Participants will not be introduced by name or congregation.
 - Participants will draw a number for the order in which they will lead. The number each draws shall be her identification. The judges should not know the participants' names, home congregations, or even geographical origin. Any self-identification by the participant, including apparel, shall be penalized three points.
11. A Finalist is defined as a student who leads her song a second time during a second/final round. If a grade uses only one room, and does not break out into a second room, there will be NO FINALISTS for that grade. Only the top three students will be called by name to the stage during the awards ceremony. When two rooms are used for a grade, the top three students in each room will come together again to lead their song a second time in the second/final round. These students are FINALISTS and should proceed to the stage when finalists for that grade are called.
12. No males will be allowed in the rooms where girls are participating in Songs of Praise. See page 95 of this rulebook for more information on this L2L policy. This policy does NOT restrict a mother from bringing her infant or toddler son into a girls' event room. Filming is allowed in this event so that family members and others may view them later. L2L reserves the right to withhold permission of filming in certain cases such as sensitive debate topics where the participant is giving the negative argument. Use of camera or cell phone cannot be disruptive to the event. Filming of other participants is prohibited unless permission is granted beforehand from the parents/guardians of the participant.

13. Refer to the Evaluation Forms section of this rulebook to see the forms that will be used by the judges in this event. This will help the student in preparation for the event to see exactly what the judges will be looking for.
14. More information on this event and others, check out the videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>
15. Non-Competitive Songs of Praise: Year-Round Songs of Praise provides opportunities for participants to earn these awards and are completely non-competitive. At convention, the Bartimaeus event (for special needs) is completely non-competitive. If a participant wishes to participate in a regular event but not be judged, they must still register for the Songs of Praise event as usual, but can tell the head judge in their room that they wish not to be scored. The non-scored participant will not be eligible for an award other than the "I Led a Song" ribbons.

Judging

1. Each congregation should provide one female judge for each three participants. If less than three students participate, a minimum of one female judge should be provided.
2. Every attempt shall be made to ensure fairness in evaluating the participants.
3. Although there are definite standards of good song leading practices, these are all matters of judgment as one attempts to score another's performance.
4. The preliminary round shall have no more than 15 participants.
5. No spectator may enter or leave the audience while a participant is leading a song.
6. An interval of at least a minute shall be allowed between participants.
7. The judges shall not be acquainted with any of the participants, if possible.
8. The judges must use the official Scoring Sheets furnished.
9. The judges shall be at different locations in the room. They should not be recognized or introduced until after the event is completed.
10. Each judge shall render her final decision of all participants without consultation with other judges or any other person. The result of a judge's decision shall be kept confidential.
11. **Feedback for participants: L2L does not give judges authority to provide feedback/coaching to participants in Songs of Praise at convention because, in some cases, this could be harmful to the participant. A judge who does not know your student cannot possibly know how to adequately provide such feedback. Students who participate in Year-Round Songs of Praise are given feedback during the course of completing these events by adults at their home congregation. Students who participate in Songs of Praise at convention should be provided feedback/coaching at the local level by group leaders and/or L2L coaches from the local congregation. This allows real feedback from someone who knows the student's circumstances and can give positive feedback that would be helpful toward improvement in the skill.**

Judges' Instructions for Songs of Praise

1. Song leading is to be judged on a 1-10 continuum with 10 points being the highest.
2. Judges will rate each participant upon the following criteria:
 - The proper announcing of the song number or title must be distinct where everyone can hear.
 - The participant's neatness and appropriateness of dress, proper poise, and posture while leading song must be evident.
 - The ability of the participant to start the song on the pitch for which the song was written.
 - The ability of the participant to maintain the same pitch.
 - The ability of the participant to project her voice in relation to the size of the room and size of the audience.
 - The awareness and implementation of the proper tempo.
 - The ability of the leader to maintain the established tempo throughout the song (not rushing or dragging).
 - The ability of the leader to execute a smooth transition from one verse to another.
 - The consistent and effective use of the hand signals.
 - Control of the audience throughout the song.
3. For more information on serving as a judge, check out the informative videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/training/>

Awards

First, second, and third place will be awarded in each division. Any participant who leads her song more than once will receive a finalist award. There will be only one round (no finalists) if only one participation room is used. All students will receive a participation ribbon in the room when they lead their songs. They are encourage to wear the ribbons so others at convention can congratulate them on having the courage lead a song in front of strangers at convention.