

SUMMIT FINE ARTS RULEBOOK

THEME: IDENTITY IN CHRIST

UPDATED AUGUST 2025

The Fine Arts competition for Summit 2026 is designed to give students an opportunity to grow their talents and abilities to further the kingdom of God. Serving in ministry does not require extraordinary talent, but we should be as excellent as possible in our service (Colossians 3:23).

That is why our judges indicate areas of strength and comment on areas to improve. We desire to see all students use their God-given abilities to the fullest for the purpose of furthering God's kingdom through their local church. We want to teach how to grow not only talent, but a passion for the arts, and learn how to use those gifts in worship.

We ask all participants to prepare their competition entries based on the theme for the year (see orange box above). You can also find the theme, theme verse and a list of supplemental verses on our Summit-Journey website under the information tab.

Please note that there have been some updates and changes to our rulebook as of 2025. PLEASE read through the rules and guidelines to ensure you perform and present to the absolute best of your ability.

There are five **Divisions** in the Fine Arts competitions:

Musical Division

The categories are...

1. Piano
2. Instrumental
3. Vocal

Biblical Presentation Division

The categories are....

1. Bible Message
2. Drama/Skit

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Expressive Arts Division (only one category)

1. Expressive Arts

Visual Arts Division

The categories are....

1. Drawing/Painting/Digital Art (Procreate, etc.)
2. Art Creation (ceramics, sculpture, sewing, woodworking, metal works, jewelry, leather)
3. Photography

Creative Writing Division (only one category)

1. Writing

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

A Scholarship and trophy will be awarded to the top entry in each **category**.

Medallions will be awarded to the bronze, silver, and gold achievers in each category.

Directions on claiming scholarships are found at the conclusion of the rulebook.

GENERAL ENTRY GUIDELINES

Students may participate once in each of the five divisions.

Individual performances will be judged according to the criteria stated in the specific category descriptions. Performances will be ranked as Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Participation according to their respective judging scales. Participants will receive a Fine Arts award corresponding to the rank they have achieved.

As of the 2025-2026 school year, the following changes have been enforced:

To be allowed to enter the fine arts competition, you must be a student who is present at Summit that year. This includes creative writing submissions. Should you send in a piece and not end up coming to Summit, you will be removed as a competitor.

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JUDGES CHOICE

Select submissions from various categories will be invited to participate during the closing session, Saturday evening, or the Fine Arts Showcase on Saturday afternoon. Students will be notified in advance so they can adequately prepare. An invitation to participate in Judges' Choice does not imply winning a Scholarship.

MUSICAL DIVISION:

Competition Guidelines

The musical categories are the following:

1. Piano
2. Instrumental (solo/ensemble 2-4 students)
3. Vocal (solo/ensemble 2-4 students)

Note: If selected to perform at Summit under the Judges' Choice, competitors are required to make arrangements for on-site accompaniment. If you cannot find someone, please reach out to Skylar ASAP.

PIANO: Competition Guidelines

1. Must submit one cover sheet (see Fine Arts page on Summit Journey website), an original copy of the musical selection, plus 3 photocopies of the music for the judges. (Photo-copying music is legal under the U.S. Copyright Rules for adjudication purposes only).
2. Piano – it is **mandatory** for pieces to be **memorized**.
3. Each copy of music must have every measure numbered so that judges may

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be specific in their adjudication.

4. Selections should be performed as printed, according to the music. This includes original compositions. Any deviations from the music need to be clearly noted and marked in each copy of the music.
5. Music selected for competition must be sacred. For the purposes of this competition, sacred music must be written for church and historically classified as "Sacred" (hymns, worship songs, contemporary Christian, etc).
6. All selections must be approved for ministry by the pastor of the participant's local church. The pastor must sign the cover sheet demonstrating approval. Your registration will not be considered complete without this approval.
7. Judging will encompass the following criteria:
 - a. Note accuracy/memorization
 - b. Dynamics
 - c. Technique (fingering, pedaling)
 - d. Rhythmic accuracy
 - e. Interpretation/tempo
 - f. General musicianship (expression, phrasing)
 - g. Stage presence (posture, appearance)
 - h. Difficulty of musical pieces (runs, trills, key changes, etc.)
 - i. Compliance with the rules of competition and support of the theme. (This will be enforced more as of 2025).

INSTRUMENTAL: Competition Guidelines

Instrumental solo or ensemble (2-4 students)

1. Must submit one cover sheet (see Fine Arts page on Summit Journey website), an original copy of the musical selection, plus 3 photocopies of the music for the judges.
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2. It is **not** mandatory for instrumental pieces to be memorized.
3. Each copy of music must have **every measure numbered** so that judges may be specific in their adjudication.
4. Selections should be performed as printed, according to the music. This includes original compositions. Any deviations from the music need to be clearly noted and marked in each copy of the music.
5. Music selected for competition must be sacred. For this competition, sacred music must be written for church and historically classified as “Sacred”.
6. All selections must be approved for ministry by the pastor of the participant’s local church. The pastor must sign the cover sheet demonstrating approval. Your registration will not be considered complete without this approval.
7. Judging will encompass the following criteria:
 - a. Note accuracy
 - b. Dynamics
 - c. Tone quality
 - d. Technique (bowing, tonguing)
 - e. Rhythmic accuracy
 - f. General musicianship (expression, phrasing, blend-ensembles)
 - g. Stage presence (posture, appearance)
 - h. Difficulty of selection
 - i. Compliance with rules of competition and **support of the theme**.

VOCAL: Competition Guidelines

Vocal – solo or ensemble (2-4 students)

1. Must submit one cover sheet, an original copy of the musical selection, and 3 photocopies of the music for the judges. (Photo-copying music is legal under the U.S. Copyright Rules for adjudication purposes only).

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2. It is **mandatory** for pieces to be **memorized**.
3. Each copy of music must have **every measure numbered** so that judges may be specific in their adjudication.
4. Selections should be performed as printed, according to the music. This includes original compositions. Any deviations from the music need to be clearly noted and marked in each copy of the music.
5. Music selected for competition must be sacred. For the purposes of this competition, sacred music must be written for church and historically classified as "Sacred". Any lyrics must reflect this.
6. All selections must be approved for ministry by the pastor of the participant's local church. The pastor must sign the cover sheet demonstrating approval. Your registration will not be considered complete without this approval.

7. Judging will encompass the following criteria:

- a. Note accuracy/memorization
- b. Dynamics
- c. Tone quality (blend-ensembles)
- d. Technique (articulation, enunciation, vocal production)
- e. Rhythmic accuracy
- f. General musicianship (expression, phrasing)
- g. Stage presence (posture, appearance)
- h. Difficulty of selection
- i. Compliance with the rules of competition and support of the theme.

Accompaniment Guidelines (Musical Division)

1. **All accompaniment music must be a single instrument only.**

If you need accompaniment at Summit, you must contact the Fine Arts Coordinator at least 10 days BEFORE the beginning of Summit to try and assist in finding accompaniment.

BIBLICAL PRESENTATION DIVISION

Competition Guidelines

The categories are

1. Bible Message
2. Drama/Skit

These categories include presentations that express biblical truth with the use of verbal speech. (Mime and Sign Language must enter Expressive Arts)

Students may choose one category to enter in this division.

1. All performers must use the **BASED** filter. This means your presentation should answer the following questions:

Bible truth: What does Scripture say?

Apply: What should I do?

Specify: How can I do it?

Equip: What do I need to do it?

Disciple: Will you show me how?

2. The subject of each presentation should be salvation/evangelism or Christian living.

In your presentation, the gospel must be presented. The presentation length must meet the following criteria determined by the target audience:

- a. 6-8 minutes (K-2nd grade)
- b. 7-10 minutes (3rd thru 6th)
- c. 7-10 minutes (Teen/Adult)

3. Submissions

- a. Participants must provide judges with **three clearly typed outlines** describing the content of the presentation. This **must include** all sources they used, such as the publisher and title of the book.

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b. **Note:** You should be familiar with words used to explain the gospel, such as faith, believe, grace, eternal or everlasting life, sin, saved, and redemption.

4. Judging will encompass the following criteria:

- a. General appearance (dress or costume is appropriate to the topic)
- b. Presentation (enthusiasm, quality and volume of voice, body language, gestures, eye contact)
- c. How the speaker relates to the audience (confident, creative, audience's interest is kept, visual effectiveness)
- d. Use of Scripture in presentation (is it read or quoted, what passage is used, answered BASED Filter questions)
- e. Content (outline is provided, material is organized, introduced clearly and is scripturally based, the topic is identified)
- f. Presentation of the gospel (clear and complete)
- g. Delivery of presentation (points build progressively and logically)
- h. Compelling conclusion
- i. Use of the application in the lives of the audience
- j. Compliance with the rules of the competition and support of the theme
- k. Use of Visuals

EXPRESSIVE ARTS:

Competition Guidelines

This category includes presentations that express biblical truth **without the use of verbal speech**. Examples include mime, sign language, chalk art and wordless drama set to music.

1. The Expressive Arts presentation needs to be **four to five** minutes long.
2. The subject of each presentation should be salvation/evangelism OR Christian living. You will be asked to specify which subject you chose to the judges at the time of your Summit presentation.
3. Expressive Arts presentations must be appropriate for all ages.
4. Participants must provide judges with **three clearly typed outlines or music** describing the content of the presentation. Three cover sheets must be included with the outlines or music.
5. Judging will encompass the following criteria:
 - a. The extent to which the outline and/or music is followed
 - b. Communication and clarity of message
 - c. Presentation (creativity, audience relationship and delivery)
 - d. Clarity and overall flow of message (follows topic)
 - e. Ministry effectiveness of presentation, Bible based
 - f. Movements (exactness and timing)
 - g. Stage presence, appearance
 - h. Compliance to the rules of the competition and support of the theme.
 - i. Stayed within the team frame guidelines

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VISUAL ARTS DIVISION

Visual Arts Competition Guidelines

The objective of visual arts participants is to create a piece of artwork that illustrates or illuminates a Scripture verse or passage.

Participants may choose one of the following categories:

Photography, Drawing/Painting

Digital (ZERO use of AI is permitted. Any use of AI will result in disqualification from the competition.)

Photography (traditional film or digital)

Computer-enhanced (retouched digital photography or computer graphics)

Mixed media (any combination of traditional or non-traditional media.)

Painting (watercolor, oil, acrylic, gouache, tempera)

Drawing (graphite, color pencil, chalk, charcoal, pastels or oil pastels, pen/ink)

Art Creation (see list below)

Ceramics

Sculpture

Quilting/Sewing

Stained glass

Woodworking

Metal works

Jewelry

Leather

NOTE: NO Video or PowerPoint presentations will be accepted.

1. All entries, including photographs, must be original and not a reproduction of another artist's work. Please do not violate another artist's rights by entering a copy of his/her work or reproducing it in another medium.

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2. All entries must be finished for display.
 - a. **Photography or Painting/drawing** - framed and/or matted (maximum size of 24" on any one side)
 - b. **Art Creation** must be freestanding or prepared for tabletop display.
3. All entries must include a label with the following information:
 - a. **Student's name, grade, city, and state**
 - b. **Student's address**
 - c. **Type of art entered**
 - d. **Church, City, and State that the student is registered with.**

Firmly attach the 3X5 card to the back of the artwork. If the card does not fit on the back of the piece, contact the Fine Arts Coordinator.
(summitfineartscoordinator@gmail.com)
4. All entries must also include a typed sheet, **5x7 inches**. The following information must be on the typed sheet:
 - a. **Title of the piece**
 - b. **Student's name**
 - c. **Scripture chosen (verse and reference)**
 - d. **Brief summary stating how the piece relates to the chosen Scripture verse(s).**
5. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Communication of chosen Scripture verse(s)
 - b. Quality of presentation (Good artwork is diminished by a sloppy presentation)
 - c. Proficiency in chosen medium.
 - d. Perspectives and proportions.
 - e. Composition
 - f. Elements of design (use of line, texture, light and dark values, space, emphasis, and contrast)
 - g. Compliance to the rules of competition and support of the theme

Do NOT mail Visual Arts submissions! Bring them with you when you travel.

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Due to the nature of examining art, students will be required to bring their submissions to be judged at Summit.

All entries must be brought to Summit and checked in at the Visual Arts station. Visual Art pieces can be submitted from 1:45 to 3:00 pm. Please help us by submitting your art piece during this time.

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CREATIVE WRITING

Competition Guidelines

Two parts are involved in the creative writing contest.

First, an entry must be submitted by mail or email to the Fine Arts Coordinator, Skylar Everett. (See contact information).

Second, an on-site writing contest will take place at Summit during the Fine Arts competition. This will take place on Thursday afternoon. Scores from the on-site portion will be combined with the scores from the submitted entry for total scoring.

Submitted piece

1. The first creative writing entry may be either a fiction or non-fiction story.
2. The entry must be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.
3. Your entry must include at least one verse of Scripture from this year's Summit Theme Verse List. You will find the theme, theme verse, and a list of supplemental verses on the theme page on the Summit website.
4. Subject for submitted piece is "**Identity in Christ.**"
5. Submitted entries must be **typed and double-spaced**. Handwritten pieces will not be accepted.
6. Entries must include a cover sheet (available on the website). The first writing entry needs to be emailed to summitfineartscoordinator@gmail.com
7. **All Creative Writing (1st writing) entries must be received by February 20, 2026 to the Fine Arts Coordinator.**
8. **NO use of Artificial Intelligence is permitted. Use of AI will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.**

On-Site Piece

1. On arrival day at Summit, students will gather at 3 PM to write their 2nd creative writing. The topic of this composition will be announced at that time (**No one**

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will be given advanced notice).

2. **Students need to bring writing utensils and composition paper for the on-site composition.** A proctor will be in the room to monitor students.

Adjudication

1. Judging will encompass the following criteria:
 - a. **Structure and Originality** (clear story, flows together, strong plot)
 - b. **Clarity of theme**
 - c. **Characterization** (short stories)
 - d. **Expression** (vivid imagery, descriptive language)
 - e. **Biblically based** (used at least one scripture)
 - f. Use of language (proper grammar, correct spelling, good choices of vocabulary)
 - g. **Narrative Technique** (effective use of dialogue, well-visualized characters)
 - h. **Impact and Persuasiveness** (the prose effectively engages the reader and evokes an emotional response.)
 - i. Compliance to the rules of the competition and support of the theme.
2. Participants will receive adjudication forms at the end of Summit.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION ADDRESS

* Email: summitfineartscoordinator@gmail.com (preferred)

***Questions: Contact Fine Arts Coordinator

Skylar Everett (719) 406 - 4494

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Scholarship Winners

Scholarships are awarded to the top student in each category. They must achieve a gold rating to receive a scholarship. If the winning entry is a group or ensemble, the funds are divided equally among the participants. Scholarships are held for 10 years – if not claimed in 10 years, by the end of that 10th year, the scholarship money will no longer be available. When requesting scholarship funds earned, all requests should be emailed to:

summitjourneyscholarships@gmail.com

Or mail required info to:

Summit Scholarships c/o WCHC
10580 McCarran Blvd, Suite #115
PMB 567
Reno, NV 89503

Students will need to provide the following:

- Your name (when earned)
- Summit year earned
- Name of School
- Student ID number for school
- Mailing address for proper crediting to your tuition/account (call and confirm with the school)

Scholarships are only paid **DIRECTLY** to the recipient's school/college of choice.

Thank you, and we're looking forward to a great year of worship!