

## Signing for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

### Purpose

- Develop and grow in the knowledge of American Sign Language for the purpose of reaching out to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing in your congregation and church gatherings, giving glory to God and His Church.

### Process

Each participating congregation will:

- Ensure participants select the best signing system for the Deaf/HOH in the congregation. **ASL (American Sign Language) is the language of the Deaf in the United States and Canada**, therefore if you have no Deaf/Signing members to guide you, it would be the best choice. However, some school-aged children and some adults use Signed English systems (such as SEE or CASE). The important thing is to be considerate of the people you are learning sign language for and use the system of their preference.
- **ASL (American Sign Language)** – is a visual-spatial language with 5 major components: Handshape, Palm Orientation, Location, Movement and Facial Expression. The grammar in this language is encoded in the non-manual markers like: facial expressions, head movements, shoulder raises and body movements, classifier use, as well as mouth morphemes. It is also shown through repetition and the length/brevity of the sign. For example, “SIT” would be one short sign and “CHAIR” would bounce twice. ASL uses different word order, grammar and syntax than the English language. A sample sentence in English: The boy has the book, would be signed in ASL with these signs: BOY HE, BOOK HAVE HE.
- **SEE (Signed Exact English)** – is English on the hands. It uses the grammatical structure of English, uses some regular and some modified ASL signs, adding suffixes, prefixes, etc. Rather than focusing on conceptual signs, it concentrates on correct English word and word order.
- **Reliable ASL resources:**
- **ASLConnect** <https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/> This site has FREE ASL courses from the only 4 yr deaf university in the world.
- **handspeak.com** –North American video dictionary of signs & culture.
- **ASL that!** (Joseph Wheeler – sign videos on just about any subject) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7fVfWv6FL7HeTFeSLz-muQ>
- **deafmissions.com** has ASL sermons, children’s programs, resources & the first ASL “translation” of the Bible on DVD.

**Deaf friend or community member.** Kansas School for the Deaf, Deaf Culture Center in the Kansas City/Olathe area offer classes & other ways to serve the deaf population. Use technology and people before sign language books

## Participant/Event Rules

- A participant may not watch other participants in the same level until he/she has completed his/her Signing event.
- Participants will sign to the recordings provided by the Event Coordinator at convention, which are the same recordings provided on the website. **No other recordings may be used at convention.**
- No signs or coaching instructions can be given to the participant while performing. In the event this should happen, the judges can request that the people involved leave the room for the duration of the performance.
- A solid color blouse/shirt/dress contrasting with skin tone shall be worn while signing. Jewelry should be minimal, and participant will want to take off their name lanyard while signing. No stripes, ruffles, etc.
- All participants will be pre-registered by their church coordinator. At registration, declare participants' grade category AND their level of signing. They will be assigned times by age group but will be judged according to the level they identify at. There will be 5 levels. This is to make it more challenging for those who have signed for several years and less intimidating for beginners of any age.
- If a participant has received a gold in the previous two years, they are encouraged to move to the next level. If less than gold, they should stay at the same level the following year. If all 5 levels are achieved, participants may confer with the Event Coordinator to develop an individual assignment which will be more challenging.
- If a participant's name is not on the list or other changes need to be made, see the Event Coordinator for resolution prior to the event.
- All participants must meet at their assigned room 10 minutes prior to their scheduled time.
- Participants will be judged on several elements, as listed in the rubric. Among these are: Preparation, Fingerspelling, Understandability/Sign Clarity, Expression, Vocabulary and clothing choice. A video will be available online at [hoaltc.org/sl](http://hoaltc.org/sl) to explain these categories.

## LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

- **Level 1** - Participant will fingerspell his/her first and last name. Participant will sign **EITHER** one (1) song **OR** one (1) scripture from this year's list, fingerspelling the name of the song or scripture reference first.
- **Level 2** – Participant will follow the rules for *Level 1* but choose one (1) song **AND** one (1) scripture from the list. Participant will sign “Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_.” before beginning.
- **Level 3** – Participant will learn **BOTH** songs **and** **BOTH** scriptures and judges will randomly select which two items will be performed. Follow *Level 1 and 2 rules* for fingerspelling and intro, beginning with a signed greeting, “Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_.” and “Thank you” at the end to the judges.
- **Level 4** – Participant will learn **BOTH** songs **and** **BOTH** scriptures from the list, giving a signed introduction of themselves before beginning. This should be *30-60 seconds* in length and include name, grade, where from and briefly why they are involved in Signing at LTC and thank judges at the end as in Level 3. Judges will randomly select one (1) song/one (1) scripture as in Level 3.
- **Level 5** –Participant must introduce themselves briefly (30-60 seconds telling name, grade, where from, and how many years they have signed at LTC) and thank judges at end as in Level 3. Then they will sign/interpret a **2-5-minute communion talk and prayer**. A recording of the talk must be made available to and be approved by the Sign Language Coordinator at least 4 weeks prior to convention.

The list of songs and scripture choices to select from are at [hoaltc.org/sl](http://hoaltc.org/sl)

## Submission Instructions

- Church Coordinator will register all participants in the proper grade and level/ division online on the registration portal at [hoaltc.org](http://hoaltc.org).

SIGNING FOR THE DEAF 2023 ~ HOALTC Heart. Soul. Mind. ~ The Book of Matthew			
	Exemplary	Meeting Expectations	Developing
<b>Standard Requirements</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed level requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice of apparel is excellent (solid, contrasting color).	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed most level requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Choice of apparel provides some contrast from the hands.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed on meeting level requirements more fully. <input type="checkbox"/> Choice of apparel doesn't provide enough contrast from the hands.
<b>Introduction &amp; Finger spelling</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Name & selection(s) very clear and easy to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/> Name & selection(s) are somewhat clear and easily understood.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed to make name & selection(s) clear and understood.
<b>Movement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand shapes and placement of signs are smooth and flowing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand shapes and placement of signs are moderately smooth and flowing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand shapes and placement of signs are sometimes smooth.
<b>Understandability / Sign clarity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> All signs are clear and distinct.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most signs are clear.	<input type="checkbox"/> Some signs are clear.
<b>Confidence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Signer well practiced and at ease with material and in front of an audience. <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent eye contact.	<input type="checkbox"/> Signer somewhat practiced and at ease with material and audience. <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate eye contact.	<input type="checkbox"/> Signer does not seem practiced and at ease. <input type="checkbox"/> Some eye contact.
<b>Expression</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial and body expression appropriate to selection(s) and greatly enhances meaning and understanding for the audience.	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial and body expression somewhat appropriate to selection(s) and enhances meaning and understanding for the audience.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed to make facial and body expression appropriate to selection(s).
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Signer clearly demonstrates complete understanding of the selection(s) meaning with word choice.	<input type="checkbox"/> Signer demonstrates moderate understanding of the selection(s) meaning with word choice.	<input type="checkbox"/> Signer demonstrates some understanding of the selection(s) meaning with word choice.
<b>What did you really well:</b> 1.  2. .			
<b>Ways to grow and improve next time:</b> 1.  2.			
Please help us improve these rules and rubrics each year by sending feedback by email to <a href="mailto:lrc@hoaltc.org">lrc@hoaltc.org</a> within 30 days of the end of the convention.			