

# 2021 Puppet Theater Rules

## Purpose

To train students to teach children biblical principles using puppets. Participants learn valuable team-working skills in their preparation and presentation. Great opportunity for participants to gain self-confidence in public presentations.

## Event Participation

Performances will be held in the following divisions. The team must participate in the division of the oldest member. Students may participate on only one puppet team. Students in grades Pre-K-2 may participate on third grade or older puppet teams. Grades may be combined as needed to have enough for competition.

- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Grade 6
- Grade 7
- Grade 8
- Grade 9
- Grade 10
- Grade 11
- Grade 12

## Event Rules and Guidelines

1. No in-person puppet presentations will take place at the 2021 L2L National Conventions. All rules and guidelines below apply to 2021 and have been updated to reflect the procedures for Puppet Theater for this year only.
2. Puppet Theater presentations shall be video recorded and submitted by **March 7, 2021 at midnight** (Central). If the video is complete by February 15, there is a space in the registration portal to enter the URLs for the video and script. It needs to be added to the registration of only one student for each team. Since registration will close on February 15, group leaders will need to email their teams' information (grade level and one name for each team to attach files to) and the URLs for the video and script (NOT the actual files) to [gary@lads2leaders.com](mailto:gary@lads2leaders.com) prior to midnight, March 7, 2021, if the video is not completed and uploaded by February 15.
3. By uploading the video and registering it in the L2L Registration Portal, L2L is granted authority to post the video to social media or the L2L website for public relations or training purposes.
4. Guidelines for recording:
  - a. The video must be a continuous, unedited recording of the show just as if it had been done at convention. You may perform and record the show multiple times until you are pleased with the recording, you may not take multiple recordings and edit them together.
  - b. If using a phone to record, please hold it landscape/horizontal so that the video will be wide screen.
  - c. Consider using an external microphone to ensure the best sound possible. Encourage the students to speak as loudly as possible.
  - d. It will be up to each group's local leadership as to whether they will be allowed to perform the puppet skits with or without their masks because of the autonomy of the local church. Since wearing a mask will muffle their voices, students should be encouraged to speak as loudly as possible during the recording.

- e. The video should start by showing the back of the stage to show that no one is already in place. The students shall walk in and set-up props just as they would do in person at convention. Adult leaders may assist in set-up and take-down. However, all adults must clear the stage area during the performance.
  - f. The team captain or adult leader must state “we are clear” or “clear” as the final team member exits the room, and the timekeeper will stop the stopwatch. When the last person exits the room, the time will be stopped - regardless of whether the clear statement is made or not. (See #6 below for more details on timing.)
5. A team may consist of no more than 12 members.
  6. Puppet shows must adhere to the announced Convention theme and teach a biblical message. The message being taught is more important than the performance.
  7. No team is to use the name or use any sign that would identify its congregation. There may be no title or ending credits added to the video.
  8. The puppet show (actual performance) must be a minimum of five minutes. Groups will be penalized two points for one to 30 seconds under five minutes; four points for 31 to 60 seconds under; etc. **At convention, a judge would normally serve as the timekeeper and notify the team when it gets close the end of their time limit. This year, groups will need to manage their own time. You need to make certain that the total time from entering the room to exiting the room is no more than 12 minutes. You also need to make sure that the time of the skit portion is at least 5 minutes.**
  9. Electronic devices may be used for special effects. However, students must use their voices for puppets. Pre-recorded script dialogue will not be permitted. Instrumental music **MUST NOT** be used for “church” or “religious” songs. It is recommended that musical instruments not be used even for secular songs. However, groups that choose to have musical accompaniment for secular songs will not be penalized. Special effects must not overshadow the message.
  10. All special effects (lighting, sound, etc.) must be controlled by team members rather than adults. The lights in the performance rooms **CANNOT** be turned off during any part of a performance. One narrator per puppet team may be used but must be in the same age division as the team. The narrator may stand to the side or front of the stage or may choose to be behind the curtain using a puppet.
  11. All stage props **MUST** be within the dimensions of the stage or attached to the stage. No attachment should extend more than 12 inches beyond the frame of the stage and must be attached to the frame at all times. No electrical power cords (extension cords) are allowed to extend from wall outlets to the stage/prop area.
  12. Public address systems will not be provided or allowed. CD players may be used but will not be provided. They must be battery-powered.
  13. Four standard chairs may be used in the front stage area and a walkboard (measuring 2” x 10” x 8’) in the backstage area. Any group choosing to not use chairs or the walkboard may leave them out of their setup.
  14. Puppeteering is not part of the worship service.
  15. The target audience for Puppet Theater is children.
  16. 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.

17. The video is to be uploaded to a video-sharing site like YouTube or Vimeo (similar to how Storyline is handled). The URL for the video shall be entered for one of the students on the puppet team's registration. This must be completed by the registration deadline of February 15, 2021 at midnight (Central).
18. Because of the potential challenge with hearing some of the students, a written script must be submitted. Save the script as a PDF and upload it to a file-sharing site like Dropbox or Google Drive. Enter the URL for the script in the proper space along with the URL for the video on the registration for one of the students.

## Judging

1. Judges must be knowledgeable of the rules for this event. Each congregation **MUST** supply at least one judge per team. Register the judges in the convention registration system.
2. Each grade (or grade division where some have to be combined) will have a minimum of three judges.
  - Judges may not score their own team.
  - Judges must use the official score sheet provided.
3. Score sheet terms explained:
  - **It should be noted by judges that there are no items for scoring related to the quality of the video. Since this is being done on short notice and some will have better equipment than others, you should not score anyone lower because of a lesser quality video. The message of the skit and function of the puppets are key areas of focus.**
  - Creativity – Using original ideas, costumes, effects, teaching methods.
  - Based on Convention Theme – Play must be based on the announced convention theme.
  - Biblical Message – Does it teach a biblical message?
  - Animation – Does the movement of puppets' mouths match the dialogue? Do the puppets have good position? Can the puppets be seen or are they sinking too low? Are puppeteers hidden, or do you see tops of heads? Are the entrances and exits done smoothly? Do the puppets look natural?
  - Sound quality – Are the puppeteers speaking loudly enough to be heard? Are the words clearly enunciated? **NOTE FOR 2021:** Because of the necessity to record on short notice and the wearing of masks, discretion is advised on the sound quality in the video.
  - Special effects – What is the quality of the props? Do the props and special effects enhance or detract from the play? Are the special effects excessive and take away from the Bible message?
  - Teamwork – Was the set up and take down smooth? Was there excessive noise or activity behind the stage not relating to the play? Do puppets relate to each other during the script (looking at who is talking, etc.)?
  - Overall Impression – Appeal, impression, biblical message.
  - Penalties – Each team will have a total of twelve minutes for set-up, show, and take-down. Groups will be penalized two points for one to 30 seconds over 12 minutes; four points for 31 to 60 seconds over; etc. The "message" or show must last at least five minutes. Groups will be penalized two points for one to 30 seconds under five minutes; four points for 31 to 60 seconds under; etc. Self-identification will be penalized 20 points. Special effects that detract from the message will be penalized 10 points. Risqué or inappropriate language or inappropriate humor will be penalized 10 points.

4. For more information on serving as a judge, check out the informative videos on our website here - <https://www.lads2leaders.com/judges-training>

### **Suggestions**

1. Remember team effort. Teamwork is important – leaders must work together as a team.
2. The biblical message should be clear and not lost in the theatrics.
3. Practice the complete program, including set-up and take-down.
4. Everyone has a job and must realize the importance of his/her responsibility.
5. It is best not to make props exactly the width or height of the stage. Some stages may vary slightly. Make props with hangers large enough to go over a 1-1/2" pipe and thick curtain.

### **Awards**

1. Team awards will be presented to the first, second, and third place winners in each division.
2. All participants on the winning teams will receive individual awards.