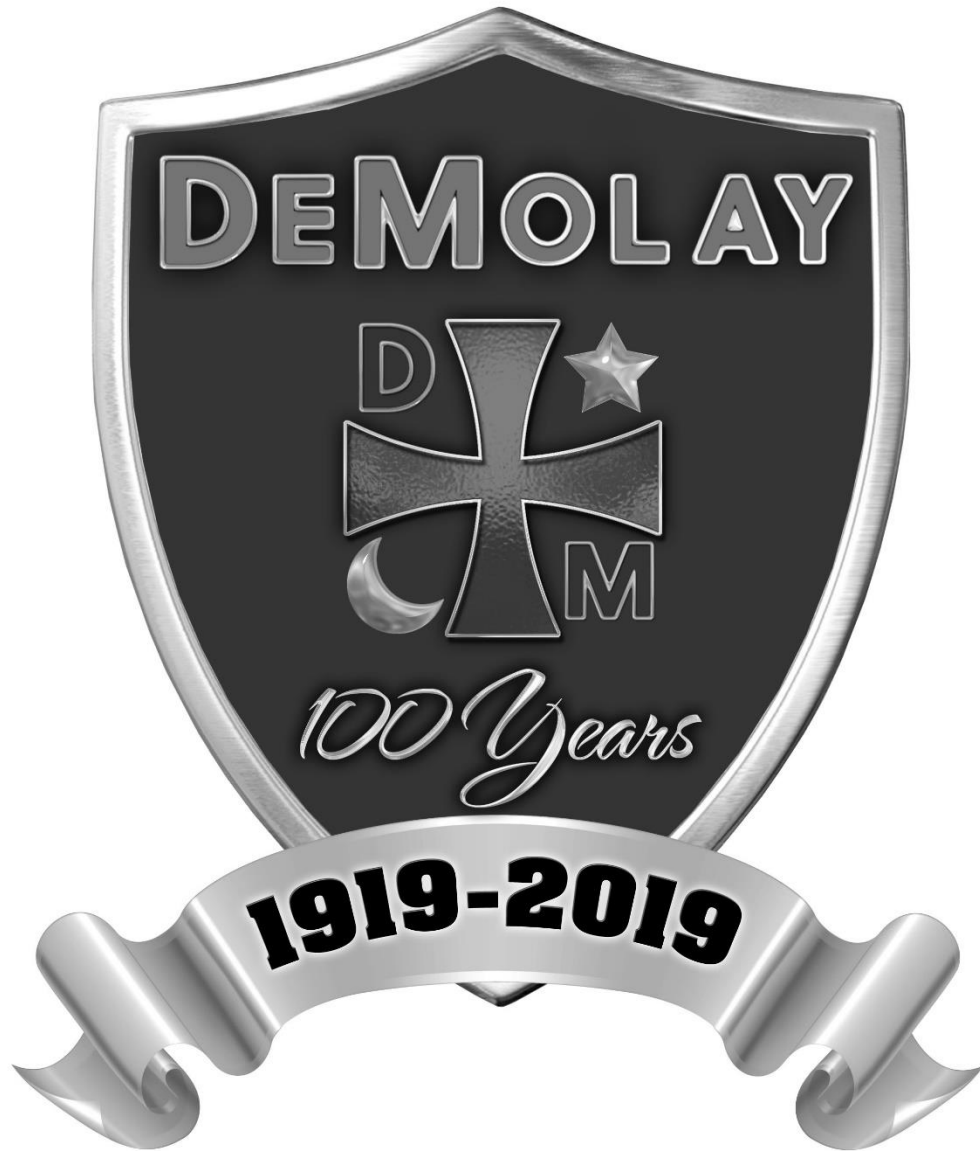


Centennial Ritual Competitions



Rules, Information and Specifics

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DeMolay International Centennial Ritual Competitions

Rules & Information

Introduction

The Centennial Ritual Competitions is an event to be held in conjunction with the DeMolay International Centennial celebration, honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of our Order. These competitions will be held under the strict observance of the Rules, Information, and Specifics contained herein.

1. **SPECIFICS:**

- A. The **SPECIFICS** give required work which is for clarification or to make a change only for the purpose of competition.
- B. Competition will follow the SPECIFICS for all Team, Best Part or Individual Competition Ritual Contests.
- C. An example of a Specifics reference on an individual contest is RW01.b. (Required Work, Item 1.b.)

2. **SOURCE:** All contests: Ritual of Secret Work, Fifteenth Edition, 2013.

3. **LANGUAGE:** All competitions will adhere to the English version of the source.

4. **ELIGIBILITY:**

- A. A qualified person is an Active DeMolay (as defined by DeMolay International) eligible to participate in competition who holds a current membership card in the Order of DeMolay, issued by the one Chapter he may represent in the contest.
 - 1) Dual Memberships – A DeMolay may represent a chapter for which he holds a dual membership as long as that dual membership was obtained as of January 1, 2019 and submitted to e-scribe by January 11, 2019.
- B. No person may fill more than one required part in a contest, except where specifically allowed in the CONTEST SPECIFICS.
- C. No required parts may be filled by more than one person in a contest except where specifically allowed in the CONTEST SPECIFICS.
- D. All required parts must be filled with qualified persons; any part not filled with a qualified person will disqualify the Chapter in that contest.
- E. Ritual Assistants, singers, accompanists, musical directors, technical personnel or spokesman need not be qualified persons.
- F. All teams must be composed of qualified persons ONLY and must represent a single chapter in which all team members maintain a current membership. Composite teams, or team represented across multiple chapters, will not be allowed.

5. **SPECIFIC COMPETITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**; Only the following competitions will be held during the Centennial Ritual Competition with only one (1) entry per Region per contest as certified by the Regional Representative at the time of registration:
- A. Initiatory Degree Team
 - B. DeMolay Degree Team
 - C. Ceremony of Light Team
 - D. Flower Talk Individual
6. **SPOKESPERSON**:
- A. Each competitor must have a spokesperson.
 - B. The member competing in an individual contest can be his own spokesperson or any member of a team can be the spokesperson.
 - C. The Ritual Advisor, any other Advisor, or anyone else can be the spokesperson. Spokesperson must be qualified to attend a tiled DeMolay meeting if the ceremony indicates the requirement.
 - D. The spokesperson is responsible for questions and answers for the competitor.
 - E. All questions regarding the contest must be asked by the spokesperson to the Chairperson of the Judging Panel if they are to have any official standing.
7. **JUDGING SHEET PLUSES, BRACKETS AND BRACES**: Any words or actions listed on the judging sheets within pluses “+ +” brackets “[]” or braces “{ }” are there for clarification or information and will not be judged.
8. **COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES**:
- A. Prepare the room, compete and clear the room within the time limit.
 - B. Prevent interruptions while competing.
 - C. Fully & correctly follow all SOURCE and SPECIFICS instructions.
 - D. Comply fully & correctly with all rules, Specifics, procedures & Judges’ rulings.
 - E. Fill the required parts and other optional parts with qualified persons.
 - F. Clothe all parts appropriately.
 - G. Present the complete, correct, required work.
 - H. Correctly and audibly say the words and make the sounds of the ceremony from memory; prompts are not allowed; cues are permissible only as set forth in the SPECIFICS of the contest.
8. **COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES (cont’d)**:
- I. Deliver the words with expression appropriate to the ceremony and to the part.

- J. Interpret and present the ceremony so as to achieve maximum good impression.

9. CONTEST PROCEDURE:

- A. Rituals, Monitors of Public Ceremonies or judging sheets other than those provided to the judging panels are not allowed in the competition room.
- B. Observers from other chapters during competitions are encouraged. Delegations may witness all competitions they desire, recalling that any misconduct or harassment of a competitor will subject their group to severe penalty and possible disqualification.
- C. A Spokesperson should check for time and place of competitor's briefing, if scheduled, which the spokesperson or representative thereof, should attend. At this briefing:
 - 1) The judging panels will be introduced.
 - 2) Announcements and schedule adjustments will be made.
 - 3) Questions of the judges may be asked.
 - 4) Entry forms for each contest may be obtained. These entry forms should be completed legibly & accurately.
- D. Parts, crew and doorkeepers should arrive at the place of competition at least 5 minutes early.
- E. Disturbances and interruptions will be penalized.
- F. Parts should arrive dressed appropriately for competition.
- G. Spokesperson will hand the Panel Chairman the entry form on entry whereby he certifies that all parts are filled with qualified persons. Any errors thereon which would affect the eligibility of any part will disqualify the competitor(s) in this contest. The Panel Chairman will inform the panel of the competitors name, chapter, jurisdiction and category of competition. The Panel Chairman will call the room to order and proceed with the Panel Ritual. After "TIME ON" is called by the Panel Chairman, the spokesperson may ask any questions they may have.
- H. Once "TIME ON" has been called, other than natural disaster, instructions from police, fire or building officials, no person may stop or delay the contest performance other than the competitor or Panel Chairman.
- I. Parts and crew arrange the competitive area. When preparations are complete and the competitor(s) is/are ready to start, the spokesperson or designate will say "BEGIN" at which time judging commences.

9. CONTEST PROCEDURE (cont'd):

- J. Competitor(s) presents the required work for the ceremony from memory. Prompts and interruptions, unless specified, will be penalized. When the ceremony has been completed, the spokesperson or designate says “STOP” at which time the judging ceases.
- K. Parts and crew clear the area of competitive equipment.
- L. When the area is clear, the Panel Chairman says “TIME OFF”, ending the official timing period.
- M. After the results are announced, the spokesperson may obtain their judging sheets.

10. **STIPULATIONS:**

The competitive environment in DeMolay ceremony competitions poses many unique circumstances in facility management, paraphernalia use and safety issues that require deviation from actions required by the Source.

The competitor’s environment for competition may not be similar in layout to the home facilities where practices occurred. Competitors must be able to adapt to the competition environment within reasonable limits. Certain conditions, listed below, may warrant stipulations by the spokesperson which should be considered by the panel chairperson and members of the Judging Panel during the performance of their duties as non-penalty deviations to the Source requirements.

Failure to stipulate and/or simulate actions required by the source will be left to the good judgment of the Panel Members and may result in penalties.

The following are some of the “stipulations” included in this competitive system that may be necessary for the leveling of competitions:

- A. **Directionality of Room.** In lieu of clarification or direction by the Panel Chairperson, the directionality of a room may be stipulated by the spokesperson. (i.e. which way is East).
- B. **Physical Disabilities** may be noted when those disabilities may inhibit a required action. (i.e. A wheel chair bound competitor may not stand or walk. A competitor missing a right hand may not be able to properly salute the national banner.) These conditions must be noted to the panel chairperson by the spokesperson.
- C. **Environmental Obstacles.** Round altars prevent source required actions vs square/rectangular altars. School books may be positioned at Northeast edge since there are no corners. This exception should be stipulated by the spokesperson at the beginning of the contest.
- D. **The absence of required paraphernalia** or furniture (i.e. pedestals, gavels, gongs). Use of alternate items, the who and how, should be stipulated by the spokesperson at the beginning of the contest.

- E. **Gavel raps and knocks.** How the gavel raps and door knocks are being demonstrated and by who, if not specified by the Source, is performing them should be stipulated by the spokesperson at the beginning of the contest.
- F. **Safety Issues:**
- 1) The use of open flames is forbidden during contests governed by this document.
 - 2) Lights must remain on during all competitions. Competitors must be able to navigate the competitive area uninhibited by the lack of proper lighting and the judging panel must be able to observe the required actions and their judging sheets. Lowering and raising of lights and the lighting/extinguishing of candles as required by the source will be simulated. The who and how these actions are to be simulated must be stipulated by the spokesperson at the beginning of the contest.
- G. **Unauthorized Stipulations.** The following are examples irregular stipulations and will not be permitted:
- 1) Floorwork may not be stipulated as correct.
 - 2) Competitors may not stipulate that they are working from the Ritual of Secret Work, 14th Edition.
 - 3) Stations cannot be stipulated as being per Diagram One.
 - 4) The bible cannot be stipulated as opening by itself.

11. JUDGING PROCEDURES:

A. SCORING:

- 1) Each competitor starts a contest with a PERFECT SCORE of 1000 points. Every error is penalized and each PENALTY is worth 5 points. The FINAL SCORE is the perfect score less all penalty points. The winner in a contest is the competitor with the highest FINAL SCORE.
- 2) Competitors may earn a BONUS for being exceptionally good in a particular area of an individual performance category in the Individual Competition category. Each BONUS is worth 1 point. It is possible to score higher than the PERFECT SCORE. BONUS points are NOT awarded in team competitions.

B. RITUAL CATEGORY:

- 1) Words spoken and sounds made (gavel raps, knocking on a door, etc.) are RITUAL. Items inside pluses “+ +” on the judging sheets are not judged.
- 2) Competitors must follow correctly the SOURCE text and any additions or amendments made by the SPECIFICS.
- 3) A DEVIATION is a penalty assessed for each word, syllable or sound that is:
 - a. Omitted, replaced by another (substitution), or mispronounced. A line drawn through it indicates the error (~~word~~). Reasonable latitude will be considered for regional accents.
 - b. Inserted. It is indicated by a caret (^) at the point of insertion. The point of the caret will be on the bottom of the line. A second insertion at the same point is indicated by a tally mark, as is each additional insertion at the point (^|) indicates two insertions. Any repeated words or stuttering are considered insertions.
- 4) MAXIMUM RITUAL PENALTY is 400 points.

C. DIRECTION CATEGORY:

- 1) Instructions of a ceremony are DIRECTION. Items on the judging sheets inside pluses “+ +”, brackets “[]” or braces “{ }” are not judged.
- 2) Competitors must follow correctly those directions that are provided in the SOURCE or any additions or amendments made by the SPECIFICS.
- 3) A LAPSE is a competitor’s failure to comply with an instruction by a part or in the placement or use of an object or prop.
- 4) If an instruction or tactic is attempted, the DIRECTION Judge will consider it done; how well the attempt is made is not assessed by the DIRECTION Judge.
- 5) MAXIMUM DIRECTION PENALTY is 300 points.

11. JUDGING PROCEDURES (cont'd):

D. PERFORMANCE CATEGORY:

- 1) Teaching the content of the ceremony with audible, visual and emotional impact which can achieve a favorable response is PERFORMANCE.
- 2) Assessments are made on a penalty subtraction basis for team competitions and on a variable evaluation scale for Best Part and Individual Competitions.
- 3) MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE PENALTY is 300 points.
- 4) PERFORMANCE – TEAM COMPETITIONS - All team competitions are judged on a penalty subtraction basis. Positive comments do not add points to the total score. Any Penalty must be validated by an appropriate specific comment on the judging sheet.

a. TEAM EVALUATIONS:

- I. IMPRESSION – the maximum effective use of facilities, music (if used) and cooperation of parts to achieve a favorable reaction. A maximum of 10 penalties on a sliding scale is assessed in each of the following areas, except music, for errors:
 - i. ATTENTION – following the action of the ceremony.
 - ii. COMPETITIVE AREA – effective use of the room, equipment and facilities.
 - iii. COORDINATION – sitting or standing together, walking, squaring corners, uniformity in posture, sitting or standing positions.
 - iv. PACING – speed with which the ceremony is performed. Does it flow well or does it drag on and on?
 - v. MUSIC – the favorable and appropriate use of selections. Does it fade in and out at the appropriate times or is it abruptly stopped. Does the volume distract from the performance. A maximum of five penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for errors. Music is optional and is not penalized if not used.
 - vi. OTHER – allows the judges to assess penalties for something not already covered by the existing Rules and Procedures. A maximum of 10 penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for errors not covered by the above sub-categories.

11. JUDGING PROCEDURES (cont'd):

D. PERFORMANCE CATEGORY (cont'd):

4) PERFORMANCE – TEAM COMPETITIONS (cont'd):

a. TEAM EVALUATIONS (cont'd):

II. INTERPRETATION – the choice of major points to be emphasized and the logical and tasteful means of successfully focusing that emphasis: a maximum of twenty-five penalties on a sliding scale are assessed for errors in each of the following:

- i. The emphasis of major points of the ceremony.
- ii. The presentation of points in a logical manner.

III. PROCEDURE – following the rules and contest procedures

i. PARTS SPEAKING THEIR OWN LINES – a competitor may deliver only the Ritual for his part from memory unless allowed by the Specifics of the contest. Fifty penalties are assessed for each occurrence.

ii. DECORUM – maintaining proper actions and language. A maximum of five penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for each occurrence.

iii. PROMPTS – an unsanctioned communication, whether verbal or visual, by competitors or from non-competitors during the judging of the contest. Ten penalties are assessed for each occurrence.

IV. INTERRUPTIONS – intrusions into the competitive area during the judging of the contest. The intrusion must be disruptive to the contest and/or competitor(s) in order to be penalized. The competitor is responsible for providing a doorkeeper to prevent interruptions. Ten penalties are assessed for each occurrence

b. PART EVALUATION – TEAM CONTESTS:

I. APPEARANCE - the aptness and correct interpretation of the part's grooming appearance, clothing and costume for the ceremony (how well it fits on each part, can the competitor walk without tripping on the hem and the maintenance of the garments, shoes, etc.), including its relation to that of the competitive team. Uniformity is assessed when a competitor attempts it. The value of the clothing will not be considered, only how well it looks on the competitor. This section also includes the grooming appearance of the competitor. A maximum of two penalties per part on a sliding scale is assessed for errors.

11. JUDGING PROCEDURES (cont'd):

- II. ACTING - is subdivided into six areas; a maximum of five penalties on a sliding scale is assessed for errors for each of the following:
 - III. MOVEMENT - action alone or with others.
 - IV. VOLUME - loudness or softness of voice. It is the competitor's responsibility to be heard clearly through the entire room.
 - V. EFFECT - sound for mood, illusion or characterization.
 - VI. GESTURES - natural or appropriate body motions as means of expression without detracting from the performance.
 - VII. PACING – fast or slow; choppy or smooth.
 - VIII. EXPRESSION – conveying characterization of a part and saying words with appropriate emotion.
 - IX. BALKS – fluency errors are unintentional, unnatural pauses in the process of delivering a part; one penalty is assessed for each instance in the ceremony (no limit on the number of penalties) and is marked in the performance judge area.
- 5) PERFORMANCE – INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES IN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION CONTESTS: Individual performance is judged using a judging matrix. Eleven separate categories are marked with plus or minus scores and validated with appropriate comments. All eleven categories must be scored. The range of “0” is considered the error free norm and require no comment. The competitor must be performing above the norm in order to achieve a positive rating in an Individual or Best Part Competition. There are no bonuses given for individual performances on a team Competition. The competitor must be committing performance errors to receive a negative rating. Each error negative comment is worth five points. Each positive comment (BONUS) is worth one point. Unless an exception is noted, a maximum of three penalties or bonuses on a sliding scale is assessed in each of the following:
1. APPEARANCE – the aptness and correct interpretation of the part's grooming appearance, clothing and costume for the ceremony (how well it fits on each part, can the competitor walk without tripping on the hem and the maintenance of the garments, shoes, etc.). The value of the clothing will not be considered, only how well it looks on the competitor. This section also includes the grooming appearance of the competitor. A maximum of two penalties per part on a sliding scale is assessed for errors.

5) PERFORMANCE – INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES IN A INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION OR BEST PART CONTESTS (cont'd):

2. ACTION AND EXPRESSION – the proper use of appropriate mannerisms and attitudes as they pertain to the degree. Examples could include but not be limited to: reverent actions, facial expression, expressions of madness, empathy, hostility, fierceness, gentleness, love, etc.
3. CONFIDENT AND RELAXED – expressing a feeling that the competitor not only knows the words but also has practiced the ceremony to the extent that a candidate would be favorably impressed.
4. ENUNCIATION – pronunciation of the words clearly and distinctly.
5. VOLUME – proper use of a volume loud enough for the entire room to hear and understand any specific interpretation at that moment in the ceremony. Proper volume includes the adjustment, up or down, due to acoustics or external noises which would necessitate a change from the competitor's normal delivery.
6. PACE – the proper speed for the specific ceremony. This speed ties into proper acting and expression and greatly affects enunciation. In some instances, this could be fast (e.g., DeMolay Degree parts) but in most instances would be a fairly even, moderate pace, but not monotone, allowing for good enunciation and volume.
7. PAUSES – the use of appropriate breaks in the delivery of the ceremony in order to enhance the mood, illusion or characterization. This category is not used for fluency errors which are shown elsewhere on the judging sheet.
8. EYE CONTACT – the use of eye to eye contact at the correct time. In all ceremonies, this area includes not only talking to the candidate, but to other parts of the room at large where appropriate. In the DeMolay Degree, this area is liberally interpreted for acting.
9. GESTURES - the appropriate use of hands without distracting to enhance the mood or impression of the ceremony.
10. BODY MOVEMENT – your posture, required movement and body language should be appropriate for the ceremony without distracting.
11. BALKS - fluency errors are unintentional, unnatural pauses in the process of delivering a part; one penalty is assessed for each instance in the ceremony (no limit on the number of penalties) and is marked in the performance judge area.

12. MINIMUM PROFICIENCY: Minimum proficiency standards are listed in the Contest Specifics of each contest. These must be met in a contest in order to win an award in that contest. If the minimum proficiency standard is not met in a contest, no award will be made in that contest.

DeMolay International Centennial Ritual Competitions

CONTEST SPECIFICS

SOURCE: All contests: Ritual of Secret Work, Fifteenth Edition, 2013.

1. **INITIATORY DEGREE (Team)** PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 750
JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance
- A. **REQUIRED WORK;** The Initiatory Degree as it appears in the SOURCE **except** as noted below:
- 1) Room to be set as in Diagram One, except the only stations necessary are those of the required parts. The following required **items** must be used as listed in the SOURCE:
 - a. **Holy Bible** lying open near center of Altar.
 - b. **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of Altar.
 - c. **Gavels** at the stations of the Master Councilor & Senior Councilor.
 - d. **Seven Candles** are lighted.
 - e. The **Crown of Youth** is lying on a pedestal near Master Councilor's station.
 - f. **Gong.**
 - 2) Omit instructions for handling large classes.
 - 3) Senior Steward for each Candidate (if used) makes all the verbal responses for Candidates, including "I" and speaking name(s). The obligation is not repeated and the Master Councilor may omit the pauses.
 - 4) After the Master Councilor says, "Brother Senior Deacon, you will conduct the new brothers to seats", the Senior Deacon and the Stewards do so, then go to their respective stations. The Master Councilor raps once and all sit down ending the ceremony.
 - 5) The ritual of the Scribe is required, but may be given by the Standard Bearer or Chaplain.
- B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Master Councilor, Senior Councilor, Junior Councilor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Marshal, Chaplain, Standard Bearer, and seven (7) Preceptors for a total of seventeen (**17**) required competitors. Additional required **ritual** is the part of the Scribe. Candidates may be imaginary or real. If real, they must be qualified persons. If imaginary, required parts must pantomime Candidates existence whenever they are escorted, conducted, addressed, presented or otherwise acknowledged.
- C. **TIME LIMIT:** 60 minutes.
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2. **DeMOLAY DEGREE (Team)** PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 750

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

- 1) The DeMolay Degree, First Section & Orator's lines only of the Third Section, as they appear in the SOURCE.
- 2) **Spokesman will inform the Panel Chairman whether the Chapter will follow a stage or lodge arrangement.** Instructions not peculiar to one arrangement apply, regardless of where they appear.
- 3) Stage directions in parentheses in the text are suggestions only and are not included on judging sheets.

1. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Master Inquisitor, Senior Inquisitor, Junior Inquisitor, Senior Guard, Lord Constable, Marshal of the Commission, Jacques DeMolay, Geoffrey de Charney, Godfrey de Goneville, Hughes de Peralde, Scribe, Orator, and at least one additional guard for a total of thirteen (**13**) required competitors. Additional, non-speaking parts are at the competitor's discretion.

2. **TIME LIMIT:** 60 minutes.

3. **CEREMONY OF LIGHT (Team)** PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

- 1) The Ceremony of Light, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The following are the required items:
 - a. **Holy Bible** lying open near the center of the Altar.
 - b. **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c. **Seven Candles** lighted.
 - d. **National Flag** in appropriate place.
- 4) The Speakers begin and end from the same seated positions. (Source reference 9418).
- 5) The Speakers talk to the room at large.

B. **REQUIRED PARTS:** Minimum of **3** Speakers, each of whom must present a minimum of **2** of the stations. A station is defined as the portion of the ceremony where there is a logical break and/or the speaker is required to move from one point to another. If 4 or more Speakers are used, each

speaker must represent at least 1 station. There can be no more than 8 Speakers. There are no Candidates.

C. **TIME LIMIT:** 20 minutes.

4. **FLOWER TALK (Individual Competition)** PROFICIENCY MINIMUM: 900

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual and Performance

A. **REQUIRED WORK:**

- 1) The Flower Talk, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
 - a. The 5th word “just” of the first sentence should be used indicating that the ceremony is being presented to a new initiate.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The following are the required **items**:
 - a. **Holy Bible** lying open near the center of the Altar.
 - b. **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c. **Red & white flowers** are arranged on the Altar so as not to touch the Bible.
- 4) The Speaker talks to the room at large.

B. **REQUIRED PART:** The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes.
