

## Reading Challenge 2025

**Purpose:** To provide an opportunity for young people to develop skills through the oral reading of the Scripture.

### Process:

- Choose a reading from Old or New Testament for each participant.
- Choose reading from a standard translation, no paraphrases.
- Complete the Bible Reading before coming to the convention, judged at the student's home congregation.
- This is an individual event, not a team event.

### Rules:

1. A brief introduction is required. The entire presentation of the introduction and scripture reading is not to be less than one minute or more than two minutes in length. Student's rating will be penalized for any time less than one minute or over two minutes. Therefore, aim for one minute and thirty seconds. After the two-minute time limit, the reader will be stopped.
2. Participants should not attempt to explain or interpret the passages. However, participants should place major emphasis on the actual Bible reading and not on prepared statements. The identification of the passage, the translation, and the setting of the passage together shall not exceed 20 seconds.
3. Participants will be penalized if the identification and introduction exceeds 20 seconds. Participants will also be penalized if they omit identification of the passage and translation. Memorization is neither required nor encouraged; the ability to read the passage is what is being judged.
4. Each participant will be rated by at least one judge.
5. Reading may be done in English or Spanish.

### Awards:

Ratings and awards of gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention will be given according to the judging criteria listed.

### Judging Criteria:

- **Poise** - Proper composure and self-confidence while reading will be rated.
- **Posture** - Proper posture while reading will be rated. One should stand straight with both feet firmly on the floor. Any movement done should be to emphasize a point.
- **Voice Tone** - The proper voice tone will be rated.
- **Voice Volume** - The proper voice volume will be rated. Can the speaker be heard clearly in relationship to the room size and audience?
- **Rate and Flow** - Does the reading flow well?
- **Articulation and Enunciation** - Are the words pronounced clearly and distinctly?
- **Eye Contact** - Proper gestures and eye contact will be rated. To give emphasis to the reading, does the reader have the ability to look away from his text and look at the audience?
- **Introduction to the Passage** - The effectiveness of the participants in: (1) the identification of the passage, (2) the translation, and (3) the setting of the passage will be rated. The identification and introduction should not exceed 20 seconds of the total time.
- **Reading Time** - The entire presentation of the introduction and scripture reading is to be neither less than one minute, nor more than two minutes in length including the introduction.
- **Overall Impression** - The overall impression of the reader and reading will be rated. This will include appropriate dress.