

Surviving LTC Start-up

A “How to” Guide For New Congregations

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Introduction

Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) is a wonderful program that is designed to help a local congregation train the young people (grades 3-12) to use their talents for the Lord. There are many different activities that the young people can participate in. These activities are designed to challenge the young people and cause them to grow in their spirituality. The events are broken down by age groups to facilitate training at the appropriate maturity level.

This guide is designed to assist a congregation in getting started. If you have already downloaded/received the LTC Manual, it may appear more than a "little" intimidating. The manual is well over 100 pages. However, keep in mind that it is not necessary for any one person to do it all and it is not necessary for any one child or any congregation to participate in all events. Some congregations chose to start with just a few events and after the first convention, when enthusiasm has built, it is easier to get more parents and children involved in more events. Pick a level of participation you are comfortable with and start there. You may even want to send several key individuals to the next convention even if your congregation is not participating. This will help your congregation to make an informed decision.

I know that there will be many questions that you may have. I urge you to contact me either by email, telephone, or snail mail. I have provided my contact information below for you to use. While I have been involved in LTC for 13 years as an observing parent, a Church Event Coordinator, a Church Coordinator, an LTC Event Director, and a Board Member, I can not promise to know the answer to all your issues. But, I can help you to locate someone who does.

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Let's take a deep breath and start to answer some possible questions. Remember. God is faithful. He will always bless His people that are striving for a closer walk with Him and with those who are training His little ones.

Startup Activities

Definitions

Before we get into it, we probably need a few definitions. There are several words that we use that may be confusing. Below is a list of terms you should know.

Event

A specific spiritual talent/activity the young person will demonstrate. For example, some events that relate to spiritual talents are obvious (i.e. song leading, chorus, bible reading, speech, etc.). But, some of the events are not what we normally consider talents; these are spiritual activities (i.e. Service Challenge, Leadership Challenge, Bible Bowl, Daily Devotional, etc.) that our Lord wants us involved in. These activities are designed to challenge our young people to mature in their faith. Other events (i.e. Puppets, Drama, Bulletin Board, etc.) are designed to help our young people prepare for different types of ministries/outreach.

Church Coordinator

This person/team is the focal point for the congregation on all things dealing with LTC. This will be the person/team that registers all the participants, registers the volunteer judges, and coordinates the activities of your congregation for LTC. The LTC-SW Board will provide communication to the local church through this person/team. A more detailed description is provided later in another section (with the same heading).

Church Event Coordinator

This person is responsible for an event at your congregation. He/She will schedule practices/meetings, ensure that the participants are progressing toward their goal, and provide guidance as necessary. This individual will ensure that all necessary forms are completed in a timely manner. It is also important to keep the Church Coordinator informed as to progress of the participants. A more detailed description is provided later in another section (with the same heading).

LTC Event Director

This person is very similar to the Church Event Coordinator. However, he/she coordinates an event for all of the congregations at the regional level. For example, in pre-convention events, the LTC Event Director will collect all of the forms and material from every congregation and from every participant of the specific event. A specific example would be Christian Fiction. The LTC Event Director is responsible for the rules (and their interpretation), collecting all of the fiction stories from the Church Event Coordinators, arranging for judges to review the participant's work, deciding which award is appropriate and providing that information to the LTC Board. If you have specific questions about an event, the LTC Event Director is a good place to start.

LTC-SW Board

The LTC Board has the overarching responsibility for implementing LTC-SW. It is a group of interested individuals that has a desire to see LTC train our youth. They provide the organization across congregations. A list of these individuals and their responsibilities is provided in the LTC-SW Reference Manual. Our board is responsible for the Southwest portion of the United States. There are other LTC boards that have responsibility for other portions of the US. While each board operates somewhat independently, we do communicate regularly about things that are working, things that are not, and provide assistance to each other as needed.

C.H.A.R.M.ers

This acronym stands for **C**hristian **H**all **A**nd **R**oom **M**onitor. This is a group of people that are the backbone of the convention. Generally, these are people that have graduated from high school but still want to be involved in the convention. They will be given all kinds of jobs such door monitoring during an event, running event results to the tally room, helping during the banquet, etc, etc. If you have someone that would like to be a CHARMer then sign them up on the LTC-SW registration web site.

LTC Reference Manual

The first thing is to get your LTC-SW Reference Manual. A new one is created each year so be sure to get the version specifically for the convention you will be attending. It is available on the website.

Look through the material. The manual will contain a list of the events for the next year (don't worry about the details yet). It will also contain the schedule of events at the Convention (don't worry about that yet either). The convention is always held on Easter weekend. All of the participating congregations meet together on this weekend (Friday night through Sunday morning). The Convention Events are "judged" (more on that later) Friday night through Saturday afternoon. Saturday night there is a shared celebration and Sunday morning is a shared worship time. Having so many young people praising God is more than words can describe.

The events are broken down into two types; Pre-convention and Convention. The Pre-convention are those events that are completed completely before the Convention starts and mailed to the appropriate Event Director. There are different rules about how to submit the results of the event, but the participant has fully completed it before they get to the Convention.

Convention events are completed at the convention. Most of the preparatory work is still performed prior to the convention. But, the final product (e.g. presentation of speech, chorus, puppets, etc.) is culminated at the convention.

Suggested Local LTC Church Organization

Church Coordinator

If you have not already done so, it would be a good idea to consult your elders. They have the responsibility of leading the flock. Most elderships are delighted to have someone willing to involve their congregation in LTC and most already know a little about LTC. Not all flocks are the same, so I can not give direct advice to you. Your shepherds will guide you in this endeavor. If you need help preparing for this conversation then please contact me.

Next you will need a Church Coordinator. This person is responsible for the interface between the local congregation and the LTC-SW organization. All communications will be through this individual. It is a very good idea to have a co-coordinator or a coordinator in training. Church Coordinator is one of the most exhausting roles in LTC.

For the next step, I would request a mentor. Since you have not been through this process, it would be nice to have someone to bounce ideas off of. I realize that not all congregations have the same dynamics (i.e. personalities, abilities, etc.), but why try to make it completely on your own. God gives us each other, should we not use the gifts he provides? Contact the LTC Board if you would like to be put in touch with someone in your area to act as a mentor. If you would like a mentor, simply contact me, and we will try to find a congregation near you that has been involved in LTC for a few years. Or you may always contact me if you have questions or need advice.

The next thing is to talk it up. You may want to do a short presentation to inform the rest of the congregational family what LTC is all about. I know that you don't know everything there is, but remember that you know more than most of them. Another possibility is that I or someone from another congregation that is already involved in LTC could help in this regard. The board has pamphlets explaining LTC available now and is working toward a DVD/video presentation. Contact me for more information.

Once the family basically knows what LTC is, solicit information. Find out what the young people are interested in and what the rest of the congregation is willing to support and has talents in. You might be pleasantly surprised in who comes forward to help. We have provided an example of the forms we used. We had one form for the young people, another form for the adults.

I suggest that you have a different adult for each event type although this is not always practical. This will minimize burn-out for the adults and provide exposure to a larger adult population. A more detailed description of the Event Coordinators task/responsibilities is described in the "Church Event Coordinator" section below.

Once you have the list of events the youth are interested in and the list of things the adults are willing to support, compare the two lists. They will break out into several categories.

1. **Youth interest and adult support.** This is the best case. Find one of the adults and get them to take responsibility for that event (Church Event Coordinator responsibilities will be described in later sections). Depending upon the number of youth and adults you may want to break them up by age groups. In most cases this is 3rd-5th, 6th-8th and 9th-12th.
2. **No youth interest but adult support.** You need to look at why the youth are not interested. Is it because they are too intimidated? Get one of the adults to try and solicit interest. Remember most of us do not take on new challenges unless we know we can succeed. This is a case where adult encouragement will help. Another idea is to try and get several of the youth to observe the event at the next convention. This may lead to interest.
3. **Youth interest but not adult support.** You need to look at why the adults are not interested. Is it because they feel inadequate for the task? For example, unless you have deaf ministry, most adults will not feel comfortable teaching sign language because they do not know it. Willingness is all that is required. There are resources (in the case of sign language a DVD is made available) to assist the adult in teaching the youth.
4. No youth or adult interest. This would be a good candidate for not supporting that year. Each church does not participate in all events. In future years, the youth may see the event at the convention and get excited to participate the following year.

Finally, you should get together with your identified Church Event Coordinators and develop a practice schedule. This schedule should identify when the Church Event Coordinators and the youth participating in that event are going to get together. In this chaotic world we live in, doing this week to week is not practical. The further out the schedule can reach the better. Also, remember to not cause too many conflicts. A student may be in two different events but can not be in two places at once. As an example, we meet every other week or so during the fall and almost every week in the spring. We met after morning service (had lunch together) and practiced until 4:00 or 4:30. We then held a short devotional together before we went home. A long day to be sure, but it was very rewarding for all of us.

Church Event Coordinators/Assistant Coordinators

Church Event Coordinators should be identified as part of the information already collected. The next question you will get from every Church Event Coordinator is "What do I do now?"

The Church Event Coordinators are responsible for knowing the rules of their event. In the case where the rules are not clear or additional guidance is required, a contact is listed at the top of each rule sheet within the Reference Manual. I would suggest making copies (you need to maintain the original because someone will lose theirs) of the Event description and rules and providing it to the Church Event Coordinator. I would suggest not giving them the entire LTC manual. It is too intimidating and not too useful for them. If they need something, they can get it copied from your's.

They are responsible for teaching/supporting/encouraging the youth to complete their event. I did not see this role so much as a teacher but as a mentor. A mentor takes responsibility to train their charge. If they do not understand, another approach is tried. They are not just imparting knowledge; they are training their student to be workers in the kingdom. Each event is structured to build-up/grow a Christian trait.

Be sure to be consistent with the practice schedule. Dismissing practice at the last minute will not instill the sense of responsibility into the students. Also, be sure to keep your practices Christ focused. Consider beginning your practice sessions with a prayer.

It is also a good idea to have assistant Event Coordinators for each event. Having someone that can fill in during emergencies will give consistency and security to the students. In addition, it can help to improve the learning.

Judges

At the convention there is a need for judges. We always seem to be short. All of the adults that attend the convention are encouraged to be judges. The more volunteers we have, the less of a burden there is on the rest of the volunteers. As in the Church Event Coordinators, (with the exception of Signing for the Deaf) expert status is not required. The rules and scoring sheets are provided. The LTC Event Director will give instructions to the judges prior to the event. It is not difficult and is just another service we can provide to our young people. Encourage first time attendees to observe several events they may be interested in judging and talk to the judges/Event Director about judging.

Judges are enrolled using the same web site as the participants. When you are enrolling the judges you need to take into account if the person has a child that may be involved in LTC events. More than likely mom/dad is going to watch them so be sure to schedule them at another time period.

Before you leave for the convention be sure to go back to the registration web site and print off a list of your judges and what they are judging. Give them the event name, room name and time for all of their judging obligations.

Communication

In real-estate there is a saying that the three most important things is location, location, location. Well in ministries such as LTC, the three most important things is communication, communication, communication. As the Church Coordinator, you need to be in front of the congregation talking about LTC frequently. I took a couple of minutes a couple of times a month letting the congregation know what was happening. It helps them to know that this is important. It encourages the youth because they see that they are important.

Also, no matter how many flyers you generate or phone calls you make, someone is going to forget. We had the schedule of LTC events for the week in our bulletin. But, not everyone reads it (much to the dismay of our church secretary).

Events

As described above, the events are broken down into two types; Pre-convention and Convention. While there are many similarities, there are a few differences.

Pre-convention Events

The pre-convention events are conducted completely before the convention. The Church Event Coordinator will track/monitor the young person's progress. The Church Event Coordinator will gather all of the required material and send it to LTC Event Director as described in the rules for each event. It is important to note the deadline for each event; it will sneak up on you.

These events should be started as soon as possible. As the spring approaches, more and more emphasis will be placed on the convention events. Some of these events are extensive. The earlier they are started, the greater the chance of success. Also, the Church Event Coordinators should make sure that the participants are progressing. We have had kids that waited until till the last minute to do their Service Challenge report. The result is something that the child was not proud of and was well below their capabilities. We want our youth to succeed. We need to help them stay on track.

Convention Event Coordinators need to inform the Church Coordinator if everyone that signed up for a pre-convention event will be participating as planned. This will allow the Church Coordinator to properly reflect the information within the LTC-SW registration web site.

Convention Events

The convention events are prepared before the convention but are evaluated at the convention. Like the pre-convention, the Church Event Coordinator will track/monitor the young person's progress. The Church Event Coordinator, if required, will gather all of the required material and send it to LTC Event Director as described in the rules for each event. If information is to be sent to prior to the convention, it is important to note the deadline.

These events are usually not started as early as the pre-convention events. But it is important to keep track of your time left because some of the convention events may take a while to practice and polish.

Like the pre-convention events, the Church Event Coordinators should make sure that the participants are progressing at an appropriate rate.

Convention Event Coordinators need to inform the Church Coordinator if everyone that signed up for a convention event will be participating as planned. This will allow the Church Coordinator to properly reflect the information within the LTC-SW registration web site.

The Convention

The convention is the culmination of all the work the participants and their support group have worked toward. It is a time of trial, encouragement, and fellowship. Many of the events (Convention Events) will be demonstrated at this time. Your first impression upon arriving at the convention will probably be one of pure chaos. Let me assure you that it is, in reality, one of controlled, orchestrated chaos. Vivia Simmons will be at the registration desk and she will be the first person the Church Coordinator should try to locate. If you have any troubles finding the registration desk then look for anyone wearing maroon shirts (Board members) or red shirts (Charmers). They will be glad to assist you.

A schedule is provided in the LTC-SW Reference Manual, but a quick overview of the Convention might be in order.

Thursday

Congregations are invited to arrive on Thursday in order to 'ease' into the convention rather than 'hit the ground running'. Thursday evening there will be an optional mixer event for the youth and adults. This is a good time to meet other congregations and some of the LTC-SW staff.

Friday

If you arrived on Thursday then you can use Good Friday morning to take advantage of some of the resort facilities. This is another good time to mingle with other congregations over a game of basketball or during breakfast or lunch.

On Friday afternoon the Convention starts. If your group arrived today then the Church Coordinator should register at the resort front desk and get all of the participants and their chaperones settled in. Depending upon the resort's cleaning status you may not be able to get the keys to your assigned rooms until 2pm or so. It is also very important that the Church Coordinator check in with the LTC registration desk (Vivia Simmons) to get everything you should have (t-shirts, Welcome packet and individual plaques for all of your participants). The t-shirts should be given out as soon as possible so that the participants (and adults, if they ordered one) can wear them as much as possible. The plaques should be stored with your personal belongings. You will not do anything with these until the convention is over. The Welcome packet contains a lot of important information that you should review as soon as possible. It will also contain the yellow team sheets that need to be given to any team coaches.

Be sure to check your schedule so that you can attend the Opening Ceremony. This will be a time of singing and getting last minute information about the weekend.

After the Opening Ceremony several of the events will begin. Be sure that everyone (participants and adults) have a schedule and know where they should be at what time. Once an event begins the Charmers ensure that the doors stay closed until there is a break so tell everyone to be on time!

For the evening meal someone from your congregation will need to make arrangements to have food at the designated location for your group. Check with the LTC-SW staff if you do not know where the designated location is. Use this time to meet more congregations.

After the evening events there will be a devotional for all attendees (youth and adults). Once the devotional is over you should ensure that everyone from your congregation is in their room. You might want to provide each room with some snacks to help encourage them.

Saturday

The next morning the rest of the Convention Events are conducted, including Bible Bowl. Also, there is a meeting of all the Church Coordinators. This is a great time to meet and talk with fellow Church Coordinators. If you can spare the time then please plan on attending.

On Saturday there are many events, many youth, and a large potential for confusion. If anything comes up that you need help with, find someone wearing a staff t-shirt, grab someone that does not look lost (many congregations have participated for years), or go to the LTC Registration desk. It is staffed with LTC Board members that will certainly know how to help you. I would also suggest that if you are not involved in an event at a particular time, drop in on one of the events you are interested in. We have a lot of talented youth. It will give you great encouragement, encourage them, and help you in subsequent years to train your youth.

At the end of Saturday, there are several things that occur

- There will be a board posted that contains a list of all the people/groups that will be performing during Celebration. Be sure to check the board and if you have people that will be involved then confirm with the Celebration Director that your people will be able to perform. Also, be sure that your people meet in the ballroom where Celebration will take place at the designated time so that all of the details (performance order, sound, lights, etc) can be finalized.
- There is a banquet which all participants should have a ticket for. Hopefully all of your adults will have purchased one, too. This is the time when Seniors will be recognized and University scholarships will be awarded.
- After the banquet there will be a period of praise and worship. This is a great time to thank God for all of the talents that you have witnessed during the weekend.
- After the worship time the Celebration program will begin. It will allow the opportunity for several participants/group of participants to demonstrate their gifts. It is very uplifting, a must see. We, as adults, can encourage, praise, and support our young people all day long and they feel good. But when 600-800 of their peers stand up and cheer for their acting like Christians and glorifying God, they are truly uplifted.

Sunday

Sunday we all worship together. Several young men are asked to lead the service. It is the culmination of the year. It is a great time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters from other locations. I can not describe the joy that wells up seeing that many young people serving and praising the Lord. If you have a young man that would like to participate then please contact one of the LTC-SW Board members.

Post-Convention

After the convention is over your participants are going to want to get their awards. The process of giving out the awards varies from congregation to congregation but I want to strongly encourage you to hand out the awards back home, in front of your congregation. This can be a great time of celebration for the participants and for the adults. Be sure to acknowledge all of the adults and Event Coordinators that helped make everything happen.

And, most importantly, immediately begin finding places that you can use your youth in day-to-day congregational life. It is important that they feel like a real part of the congregation and not just go through the motions.

And Finally.....

There are other logistic things that need to be done to support the convention. Each congregation is different, so how you handle it is a reflection on the personality of your local family, but a few things that you should consider are:

1. How many chaperones are we going to need?
Ideally there should be no more than 4 people to a room and at least one must be an adult. Chaperones are an important part of any youth activity. Better yet, why not make it a family activity? Parents can see other young people sharing their talents, can encourage their youth by showing interest in their activities, and to expose younger children to the things to look forward to.
2. How are we going to get everyone to the convention (i.e. logistically, financially, etc.)?
3. Who are we going to have as judges and for which events?
4. Who is going to be responsible for getting the food for the 4 meals that the congregation needs to provide to their youth and adults? (Friday evening, Saturday breakfast & lunch and Sunday breakfast)

Congregation Support

I can not emphasize this enough. The congregation is so important. We had the church leadership behind us from the beginning. But, how do you get the membership to buy-in? Each congregation is different, so you need to know your family. We were able to do it by one-on-one conversations with the parents, youth, Bible teachers, church leadership, etc. Once we got them to see the benefits, we started talking it up with the general membership mostly by way of weekly announcements. We did not include it as part of the regular announcements (people generally tune them out anyway). We have learned that "special" announcements seem more effective. For one thing, the person making the pitch needs to believe in it. If not, the family won't either.

We emphasized that the church is a family. We are all responsible for the well being of each other. How much more for the young of the congregation?

Support comes in many ways. Too often we think about the people out front, the ones we can see. LTC is just like other programs, it is the hard work of everyone that ensures success. If it were not for our church leadership, our Event Coordinators, our assistants, our chaperones, our parents, our encouragers, our financial supporters, and many more, LTC would be just another failed program.

It really does take a village (ie congregation) to raise a child... in the Lord. It's up to you to get your village motivated!!

Wrap-up

To summarize, LTC is a great benefit to the young people. It provides a structure for the adults to help train them. All of the events are designed to:

1. Train the youth to explore their talents.
2. Grow the youth's spirituality.
3. Focus on the Lord's service.

It is exciting to see our young people on fire. We can learn so much from them. Keep the focus on the Lord and on the youth. I promise, you will get more out of it than you can ever put into it.

At the beginning of this document, I offered to help get you started. If you are unsure where to start, get in contact with me or someone else involved with LTC. We do not believe it is a closed club. We want to grow. We will do all we can to help to make you successful.

Appendix A – Tips and Good Ideas from Experienced Church Coordinators

As you become more experienced with LTC and learn what does and doesn't work, PLEASE let me know so I can add to this page.

1. Use LTC participation as part of your local ministries. Take your chorus, drama, and puppet groups to rest homes, child care centers, shelters, etc. This emphasizes how they can use these talents to spread the gospel and gives them a chance to practice in front of a live audience. (This can also count as a service challenge project.)
2. Delegate. Maybe you can do it all this year, but you can not do it all this year and next year, and the year after, and . . . Don't ask for volunteers to do something. Pick a specific person you feel has a talent or experience in a particular event and ask that person for help with that event.
3. Have an "LTC Sunday". Invite the congregation to come a couple of hours before Sunday evening services so the participants have the opportunity to show the congregation what they have been doing all these Sunday afternoons. A good time to do this is the Sunday before the convention.
4. Complete as many pre-convention events and convention events that do not require active participation at the convention (Bulletin Board, Christian Art) as you can before the Holidays. This lets you concentrate your time on those events that require memorization (chorus, drama) nearer to the convention dates.
5. Delegate.
6. Look for opportunities to get the participants in front of the congregation. Use the Communion Meditations in Sunday morning services. Do your 9-12 Bible readings before the Sunday morning lesson. Have a Teen Led worship (song leading, speech) service one Sunday night a month. Put the Christian Poetry in the weekly bulletin. Etc., etc.,etc.
7. Involve your Education Deacon/Leader. Wednesday night classes are a good time to do Bible Bowl, Speech preparation, (solicit feedback from other students on content and presentation).
8. Did I mention "delegate" yet?
9. **STRONGLY** encourage your convention attendees who are not participating in an event during any given hour to observe new events and to support others from your congregation who are participating that hour.
10. Attend the Church Coordinators meeting on Saturday morning and have a list ready of the participates from your congregation who are willing to help with/participate in the Sunday morning worship service (speech, leading prayer, leading singing, serving communion).

11. When you get to the convention you will be responsible for all the attendees from your congregation from Friday night until Sunday afternoon. You will be in control of the attendees from your congregation for a total of not more than 13 1/2 hours during that same period. DO NOT PANIC! Every Board Member, every Event Director, every other Church Coordinator, and every other attendee will go way out of their way to help your participants find the right rooms, make their scheduled events and have a fantastic time. If they miss an event, every effort will be made to re-schedule. Almost every adult at the resort is there because they want to see kids grow and mature in Christ.
12. Delegate..... we can't say it enough!
13. Schedule a time after the convention to present the awards to the participants in front of the congregation. (After the Easter Sunday evening service is a good time if you can get back home by then.) This encourages the kids, the parents, the event coordinators and the congregation by letting them know how well your participants did.
14. Some congregations make participation in certain events or categories of events (i.e. one speaking event and one writing event) mandatory for going to the convention. Some make Bible Bowl and Service Challenge mandatory, while others make a minimum number of pre-convention and convention events mandatory. These should not be set in stone but should always be tailored to the needs and abilities of individual participants.

When a decision has to be made by the LTC-SW board we refer back to our mission statement.....

“Training and encouraging today’s youth to be Christian leaders.”

So, I encourage you to constantly go to God in prayer and to reflect upon the above mission statement. It will make your job easier.

Appendix B – Forms Suggestions

There are probably as many different sets of forms as there are congregations participating in LTC. You will eventually need to hand out some forms of your own. These can be used in any way they will serve you best.

LTC Introduction Letter

Dear Parents,

Hello! We are going to be starting Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) here at Smith Avenue! It is a special program for all kids and it teaches them the value of serving. It also teaches them ways that they can use their talents for the Lord.

The way it works is that we prepare for events that we want to participate in during the LTC Convention that is held in Phoenix over Easter weekend. Churches from all around the southwest meet there to participate. The kids are awarded plaques for their efforts, and we must stress that it is NOT competition...each child is viewed for their own effort, not in relation to another. There are several different events to choose from, for example, sign language, chorus, drama, puppets, song leading, etc. There are also events that are pre-convention events that we prepare before going up and that we would have ready beforehand. Some of these include bulletin boards, scrap booking, radio minute message, service challenge, poetry and art.

In the next week or two, we will be handing out a general interest form that you and your child can review and decide the things that he/she is most interested in. It may seem scary at first, but we will have had plenty of practice and they will be very well prepared when we go to Phoenix. We encourage the entire family to come to the Convention to see how it goes and to witness the great fruits of your child's labor. More information is to follow that will help you to understand, and you can always ask us if there is anything you need to know.

There is a registration fee of \$50 that includes a t-shirt, banquet and award plaque that your child will receive after the Convention. There will also be costs for the hotel rooms for the weekend, but since this is Easter weekend we will get discounted convention rates. We do not have the cost information for that as of yet. However, we want to stress emphatically that we do not want any child to be left behind because of financial reasons. We have scholarship funds that will cover the cost for your child if necessary. Contact one of the people listed below for details. The spiritual benefits that your child will gain are astronomical compared to the cost of the convention.

We will be giving you more information in a week or two. We ask that you prayerfully consider this with your child...as it takes a commitment to be present at the practices, which will be held on Sunday afternoons. We plan on brown bagging lunch or preparing a quick meal and then practicing until about 3 or 4 in the afternoon. If your child needs a ride home, we can accommodate that as well. Also, we strongly encourage you to participate with your child as an Event Coordinator so that you can see the amazing spiritual benefits that he/she will be gaining!

In Christ,

LTC Participant Interest Form

Turn this in as soon as possible!

Participant's name: _____ Current Grade : _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone number: _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ Zip _____

T-Shirt Size Youth Med Youth Large Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large Adult XLarge

Select those activities that you would be interested in participating in. We may not be able to offer every event you choose, but we want to know what YOU are interested in!

Pre-Convention Events:

- ___ Bible Class Teaching: Helps develop creative teaching skills.
- ___ Bible Reading: (7th-12th) Helps develop skills through the oral reading of Scripture.
- ___ Christian Essay: Helps teach to use written words to communicate God's message.
- ___ Christian Fiction: Encourages those who enjoy creative writing to use their skills in a Christian arena.
- ___ Poetry: Helps develop the ability to express spiritual feelings in the form of rhyme and verse.
- ___ Radio Minute Message: Using the LTC theme, must create a radio spot to encourage.
- ___ Scripture Challenge: Promotes the study of Scripture in memorization.
- ___ Service Challenge: Creates service as an integral part of Christianity...planning and practice.
- ___ Video Bible Drama: Videotaped event made by participants in conjunction with the theme.
- ___ Communion Meditation: Written meditation about the Lord's Supper.
- ___ Daily Devotional: Daily personal prayer, scripture reading, & journaling.

Convention Events:

- ___ Bible Bowl: Creates and in depth knowledge of God's word.
- ___ Bible Reading: (3rd-6th) Develops skills through oral reading of Scripture.
- ___ Bulletin Board: Uses creative ideas to communicate a thought or theme.
- ___ Chorus: Presents a cappella music in a choral setting to praise God, encourage and witness.
- ___ Live Modern Christian Drama: Encourages dramatization of life applications to Christian truths.
- ___ Leadership Challenge: (9th-12th) Older participants will help train younger participants.
- ___ Puppetry: Skillfully portraying biblical themes with puppets.
- ___ Christian Art: Showing faith through sculpting, photography, painting, drawing, and design.
- ___ Scrapbook: Pictorial and written documentation of leadership development within the congregation.
- ___ Sign Language: Helps develop communication skills with the hearing impaired.
- ___ Song Leading: Develops song leading skills to help accentuate the congregation.
- ___ Speech: Develops verbal skills by sharing public speaking skills.
- ___ Impromptu Bible Readers Theater: Inter-congregational on the spot reading.
- ___ Christian Children's Book: Create a children's book (text and art).

____ Extreme Service Challenge: (9th-12th) Develop/implement an outreach activity for the community.

____ Worship Banner: Create an inspirational banner to be displayed based upon the LTC theme.

Parents, it is a proven fact that the kids that get the most out of LTC are those whose parents also participate. Would you be willing to help with one of the areas listed above? Some of the areas where help is needed includes Coordinator of the above Events, Assistant Coordinator and Sunday Afternoon Parent Help. Please list below those areas you would be willing to help with.

Parent's name: _____

I would like to help with: _____

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Parent & Participant, please read the following: The intent of the Leadership Training for Christ program is to provide an environment that allows the participants to learn how they can best use their talents to serve and praise Christ. Therefore, by signing below, we (parent and participant) are making a promise to each other to commit the necessary time to properly participate and get the most out of the LTC program.

Participant sign: _____

Parent sign: _____

LTC Volunteer Interest Form
Turn this in as soon as possible!

Volunteer's name: _____

E-mail address: _____ **Phone number:** _____

Mailing address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Select those activities that you would be interested in helping with. We can use your help anywhere and everywhere. We have different levels of help needed.

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Convention Events:

- Bible Bowl: Creates and in depth knowledge of God's word.
- Bible Reading: (3rd-6th) Develops skills through oral reading of Scripture.
- Bulletin Board: Uses creative ideas to communicate a thought or theme.
- Small Chorus: Presents a cappella music in a choral setting to praise God, encourage and witness.
- Live Modern Christian Drama: Encourages dramatization of life applications to Christian truths.
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- Puppetry: Skillfully portraying biblical themes with puppets.
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- Impromptu Readers Theater: Inter-congregational on the spot reading.
- Christian Children's Book: Create a children's book (text and art).
- Extreme Service Challenge: (9th-12th) Develop/implement an outreach activity for the community.

___Worship Banner: Make banners using artistic and sewing talents.

Miscellaneous:

___Administration duties: i.e. hotel reservations, registering participants, etc.

___Financially: sponsor a participant.

___Judge at the convention.

___Chaperone during the convention.

___Provide transportation to the convention in Phoenix, if necessary.

___“Adopt” a participant: to specially encourage, and allow them to practice with you.

___Provide lunch on Sunday afternoons for participants and helpers. (or part of lunch)

___Donate sodas & kid friendly snacks.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FORM

The cost for LTC will be explained below. The purpose of this form is to find out how much each of you can afford to pay on your own. We have decided that money WILL NOT be an issue of LTC. However, there is still expense involved, and it is necessary to find out what you are able to do individually so we know what we need to supplement.

Please fill out this form and get it back to me/us as soon as possible. THANKS!

By Dec. 15th: \$50 registration fee

By Jan. 12th: 1/3 of total cost

By Feb. 16th: 1/3 of total cost

By Mar. 16th: 1/3 of total cost

The total cost of the LTC weekend (not including the \$50) will be \$75 per person, including meals.

For example, if there are four in your family, you would pay a total cost of \$300. \$100 due by Jan 12th, \$100 due by Feb 16th, and \$100 due by March 16th.

Please fill out the form below and tell us how much you can commit to. Whatever you are unable to do will be taken care of by financial sponsors and budget. Please prayerfully consider this and do what you can, but not what will strain you.

_____ We can pay only the \$50 registration fee by Dec. 15th

_____ We can pay the \$50 and \$_____ of the total cost.

_____ We can pay all of the cost for LTC.

_____ We are unable to pay any of the cost.

Name: _____

Number of people in your family planning on attending: _____

Again, we encourage you all to come as families and enjoy the great weekend. If it is not possible, and you just need to send your children, please do not worry. We will have chaperones around at all times.

Thank you,
Signed

Schedule of LTC Practices

October– April

Each day listed below will be from approximately 12:30pm – 4:00pm. (times subject to change)
Please put these on your schedule and be committed to being there each meeting time so that we can have a great LTC experience!!!

Lunch will be provided each Sunday for participants and volunteers.

October 20 – Puppets, Small Chorus, Leadership Challenge, Sign Language

November 3 – Art, Scripture Challenge, Christian Fiction

November 17 – Chorus, Signing, Bible Reading

November 24 – Chorus, Signing, Bible Reading

December 8 – Mini Bible Bowl, Service Project

December 15 – Puppets, Chorus, Scripture Challenge, Signing, Bible Reading

(\$50 registration fee due today!)

NO PRACTICES UNTIL JANUARY!

January 12 – Scripture Challenge, Chorus, Signing, Service Project

January 26 – Chorus, Scripture Challenge, Signing, Service Project

February 9 – Leadership Challenge, Scripture Challenge, Bible Reading, Service Project

Pre-Convention Events are due today!

February 23 – Mini Bible Bowl, Chorus, Signing, Puppets

March 9 – Mini Bible Bowl, Signing, Chorus, Puppets

March 16 – Signing, Chorus, Puppets

March 23 – Signing, Chorus, Puppets

March 30 – 5th Sunday potluck! Practice immediately following potluck.

Mini Bible Bowl, necessary practice

April 6 – Chorus, Signing, Puppets, Bible Reading, Speech

April 13 – No practice this afternoon! **Meet at building for evening services at 5:30 to present your event to the congregation! (please come early! 5:15pm)**

FINGERFOOD FELLOWSHIP AFTERWARDS

April 20 – Meet for evening services at 5:30 for award ceremony.

GREAT JOB, EVERYONE!!