



Dear Pastors, Youth Pastors, and Leaders:

I wanted to take a moment to make contact with you about the upcoming Fine Arts Festival/Speed the Light Rally that will be taking place in your area.

In case you are not familiar with these ministries, let me take a moment to explain. *Fine Arts* gives students enrolled in grades 6-12 an opportunity to present their talents in sectional festivals, with the possibility of going on to a national level competition. Students develop in their ministry gifts, through practicing and perfecting, ministering before an audience, and joining together with other young people with similar ministry gifts. They are challenged and encourage to present their best to God and to continue developing in their gifts. This is not a talent show! *Fine Arts* allows students to have a chance to be critiqued by knowledgeable judges and receive tips on how they can become even more effective in their ministry. Teens also grow in their boldness and become more confident in presenting their gifts before others.

As I have observed other Fine Arts Festivals, I have seen young people join together to learn to communicate and minister with one another. I have watched as they unified to work toward a common goal. I have also seen students lend support and encouragement to each other; cheering each other on. These same students console one another when their presentations don't go as well as planned. I have heard so many testimonies of young people gaining the courage to pursue the call of God, because of the experience they had with Fine Arts. These are skills not only important for ministry, but for life.

Furthermore, Speed the Light is our extremely important missions' ministry that raises money to buy vehicles and needed equipment for our missionaries. There are many needs and we want to give our youth the opportunity to be a part of fulfilling these needs.

This year we are hoping to distribute the information of this event a bit differently and to create a working relationship with you in order to better serve our district's youth. We are asking for your help in contacting your sections' churches to promote and encourage this event. You can then refer them to the web page to gain all of their needed information. Since we know that this generation is a technological generation we want to post the information, rules, categories, and registration forms on our web site. Of course, we will be available for any questions that anyone may have.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** in Missouri; call Irene Cavazos for more information: 417.669.2233

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** in Michigan; call Abe Garcia for more information: 517.505.4487

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** in Minnesota; call Julie Mendoza for more information: 763.241.3902

**Midwest Latin Youth Ministries**

Julie Mendoza, District Fine Arts Director

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The areas of competition for this year are:

-Vocal Division

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Female Solo (English or Spanish)         | 2. Male Solo (English or Spanish)     |
| 3. Worship Team (2-10 participants)         | 4. Rap (solo or group)                |
| 5. Small Vocal Ensemble (2-4 participants)  | 6. Christian Band (2-10 participants) |
| 7. Large Vocal Ensemble (5-10 participants) |                                       |

-Instrumental Division

- |         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Solo | 2. Ensemble (2-10 participants) |
|---------|---------------------------------|

-Communication Division

1. Short Sermon (English or Spanish)

-Drama Division

1. Small Drama Group (2-4 participants)
2. Large Drama Group (5-10 participants)
3. Small Human Video Group (2-4 participants)
4. Large Human Video Group (5-10 participants)

Students can enter in *any* or ALL of the divisions, if they choose to. There is a \$10 registration fee; that includes entry into one division for one student. For each additional entry, the price is \$5 per entry. The students that receive a rating of "superior with invitation" will then be able to attend the National Fine Arts in August. Several students who rank superior will be chosen to minister at camp this summer and convention in November.

Drama groups should reflect the annual theme (look on website for the theme). Rulebooks are available for download on the Assembly of God website <http://faf.ag.org>. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 763-241-3902.

May God bless you and your young people as you prepare for the upcoming festival. I am looking forward to seeing all the talent that God has given the young people in our district!

In His Service,

*Julie Mendoza*

Fine Arts Coordinator

MLatin Youth Ministries

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