

# SINGING COMPANY / YOUTH CHORUS



## STAR SEARCH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Star Search Talent Display has been designed to:

- Encourage the development of soloists and groups in music and dramatic arts.
- Provide a goal that will help motivate soloists and groups to work towards becoming their best in their chosen artistic fields.
- Provide opportunity for performance, giving additional motivation for development of skills through participation on both local corps and divisional levels.
- Help soloists, groups and leaders to focus on doing their best to glorify God by developing the talents He has given them and then using their skills to bring a message and a blessing to those who listen.

It is hoped that corps officers and leaders will help the young people in their endeavors to develop their skills by providing them opportunities to share their talents throughout the year at the corps. The Star Search program is not meant to relate to one or two special weekends. Rather, it is meant to help in the development of the quality of the arts for worship at the corps on a regular basis.

It is further hoped that officers, leaders, parents and other adults involved with young people in Star Search will keep the goals of the program in proper perspective. Children love to excel and show that they are good at something. Because of this, a climate of friendly competition can motivate them to work towards a goal. It can also provide them with a safe arena in which to learn how to support one another, regardless of the outcome of a contest. Whether a child receives a high score or a lower score, they should still see and feel the positive support of those around him or her and receive encouragement from them to continue to work hard to develop their talents and gifts. Disappointment that is enveloped by sincere love, support and encouragement soon disappears. It is mostly when disappointment is surrounded by anger, bitterness and disparaging words, especially by the important adults in the child's life, that the child will want to focus on failure, place blame or stop trying. Of course, it is realized that a few children will be at a stage in their lives where the pressure of standing up and performing is too stressful for them. It is recommended that those children be allowed to avoid participation in Star Search until they get through that stage naturally or can be assisted through it by caring adults and peers.

It should also be noted that Star Search provides opportunities for other life lessons. Even if a child does not go into an artistic performance profession where they would be required to perform a solo, he or she will almost definitely have to stand before a group and present a paper or make a speech or give a presentation. Star Search can help in the development of self-assurance and confidence. It can help a child to understand the importance of proper preparation and of presenting themselves in a positive way. Those in groups can learn the importance of working together with others toward a common goal – that each part of a group can make a contribution to the overall presentation of the whole group. We are taking part in the development of our future leaders. These lessons can help to enhance their gifts and talents and give them extra possibilities for success. Too many of our children have too few opportunities to learn these lessons and receive positive reinforcement as they learn.

Whether it is against ourselves or another, competition is a part of our lives. Even in Salvation Army groups, not everyone can sit first chair in a section of the band or sing the solo in the songsters or win the Bible Bowl or earn a place in the Divisional Youth Band or Timbrelists. Not everyone can win a trophy at Men's Camp or become a General's Guard or be in the Century Club. Although our children cannot escape it, they can learn that their own worth does not ride upon their score in any contest. Rather, the contest allows them the opportunity to strive to do something well, to work at doing the best they can do and to see those around them showing an interest in their progress. Each person has something that they can develop and give as an offering to the Lord. Let's encourage participation in every opportunity that provides a way to find and develop the talents the Lord has given. Let's help our children to learn how to be gracious and supportive of each other, learning at an early age the proper response to the use of their own gifts and the gifts of others as taught by the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3 & 4:

*“Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast; but be humble toward each other, never thinking you are better than others. And look out for each other's interests, not just for your own.”  
(Today's English Version)*

If our children can practice this teaching within the context of Star Search and other Salvation Army programming and then start to apply it to every area of their lives – at school, at home and when playing with their friends then their lives will be able to touch and make a positive impact on those around them. When Star Search results are given and score sheets are returned, the children will take their cues from the adults around them. May we not let them down as they try to learn from us.

# **SINGING COMPANY / YOUTH CHORUS PARTICIPANT RULES**

In the hope that the Star Search program will help corps growth, prospective Junior & Soldiers are both allowed and encouraged to participate. However, it should be understood that these young people are not to be brought in just for this event. They should be attending the corps on a regular basis and tracked towards becoming a Junior and Senior Soldier.

## **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – GROUP & AGE RESTRICTIONS**

A **SINGING COMPANY** must consist of at least 4 members from the ages of **6 to 18**. The group may contain 1 leader, 1 accompanist and 2 additional singing adult helpers. If Corps have singing companies that only include young people age 13 and up, they will be required to participate in the Youth Chorus category.

A **YOUTH CHORUS** must consist of at least 4 members from the ages of **13 to 21**. The group may contain 1 leader, 1 accompanist and 2 additional singing adult helpers.

All group members must be active or prospective Junior or Senior Soldiers.

As with all Star Search categories, if a group receives a 1<sup>st</sup> place rating for two consecutive years, they must take a year off from participating.

## **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – UNIFORM**

Standard Junior Soldier uniform is required for all Junior Soldier participants. Senior soldiers may wear senior soldier uniform. They may substitute epaulet shirts with epaulets instead of tunics if they prefer. Official Army hats/caps are not required for any participants.

Prospective junior and senior soldiers may wear the standard junior soldier uniform with the exception of the official "S" which is not permitted until enrollment.

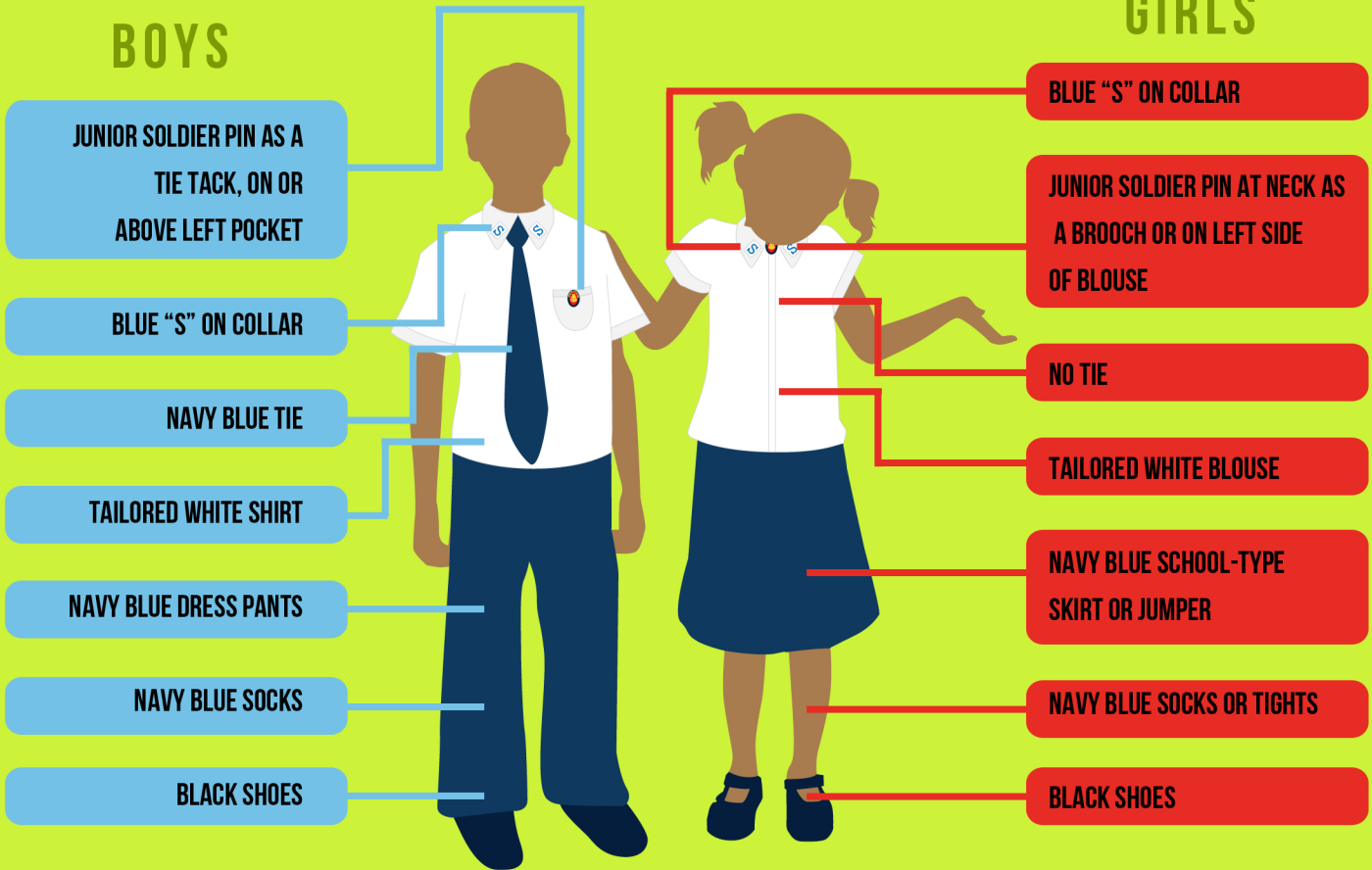
**SINGING COMPANIES AND YOUTH CHORUSES MAY ADD SWEATERS, VEST, SASH, ETC. TO ENHANCE THE BASIC UNIFORM. HOWEVER, BASIC UNIFORM MUST BE RECOGNIZABLE.**

**REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE JUNIOR SOLDIER UNIFORM STANDARD.**

# JUNIOR SOLDIER UNIFORMS

## BOYS

## GIRLS



## **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS – MUSIC**

The listing of test piece for all musical participants will be provided from the Territorial Music Department on the Star Search page of the website at <http://www.music.use-salvationarmy.org/starsearch/index.html>. Participants will be required to purchase the music and CD that contains their test piece through the Trade Department. If the music and/or CD accompaniment for a particular category is not available from Trade, it will be placed on the Star Search website and will be available to download.

The choice piece should be chosen to further demonstrate the abilities of the group. Groups must choose a choice piece that features the entire group and not just one or two main soloists with group background. Singing Companies and Youth Choruses must use Salvation Army published music or manuscript arranged by a known Army composer with approval of the Territorial Music Secretary. If a group is unaware of the repertoire available through The Salvation Army, they may contact their DMD or the Territorial Music Department for assistance.

If a Singing Company or Youth Chorus feels it necessary to use an accompaniment tape, they must be responsible for providing their own sound equipment. No tape decks, speakers, batteries, extension cords or any other equipment will be provided at their performance locations. Any group using accompaniment tapes may not have any additional vocals on the accompaniment track. Only the voices of their own participants may be heard.

Copies of the choice piece for all participants in all categories must be sent to the Territorial Music Department at least three weeks before Territorial Star Search so that copies can be provided to adjudicators.

## **STAR LAKE AWARDS**

One participant who is 13 years of age or older in a group who receives the highest score in the Singing Company or Youth Chorus category will receive a scholarship to the current year's Star Lake Musicamp. This individual will be chosen by their corps officer and group leader to represent their group at Star Lake.

## **ADJUDICATION**

Every effort should be made to make sure that adjudicators are not related to, or instructors of, any of the young people participating in their performance category. It is recommended that Salvationists from neighboring divisions, other Divisional Music Directors, Territorial Music Department Staff, local school band directors and teachers, etc. be used whenever possible. We recommend that the DYS or spouse not be used and that corps officers be avoided, particularly when they have groups participating.

Adjudicators are asked to give helpful critique. Hopefully, this will provide some useful tips for improving performance and developing technique. Adjudication will be based upon the specific points listed for each category.

## YOUTH CHORUS/ SINGING COMPANY ADJUDICATION – SCORING

### TONE (10 points possible):

- Is tone quality full and open?
- Does the group project sound appropriately, strong without becoming harsh or shouting?

### DICTION & TECHNIQUE (10 points possible):

- Are words presented clearly and easily understood?
- Do the words flow naturally rather than seeming forced?
- Are vowels and consonants presented clearly and accurately?
- Are the notes presented smoothly and accurately?
- Are the notes correct, centered and articulated correctly as written in the music (accents, staccatos, slurring, etc.)?
- Is correct pitch maintained through phrasing, volume changes and articulations?
- Is air used properly in breath support and sound production?
- Is phrasing presented properly and smoothly?

### PART SINGING (5 points possible):

- Did the group sing in parts, where applicable?
- Was the part singing effective and added to the quality of the performance? (**NOTE:** Points should not be awarded unless the part-singing enhanced the presentation.)

### ACCURACY & INTONATION (10 points possible):

- Are the notes performed as written?
- Are the rhythms performed accurately and at a steady speed?
- Are notes placed accurately and in tune?
- Is there a good balance among harmony parts?

### INTERPRETATION (5 points possible):

- Are the dynamics expressed as written?
- Is the music correctly represented in terms of tempo, phrasing and style?
- Does the group express involvement and an understanding of the music through their presentation?
- Is there a sense of feeling and expression called for by the music?

### SUITABILITY OF CHOICE PIECE (10 points possible):

- Has the group presented a piece that demonstrates their abilities?
- Is the choice piece within the minimum difficulty level of the test piece?
- Does the piece represent a challenge, or should it have been more demanding?
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The choice piece must be published by The Salvation Army or arranged by a Salvation Army composer. If this is not the case (please check with the Territorial Music Department staff if unsure) then a score of zero (0) should be assessed for this criteria.

### APPEARANCE & STAGE PRESENCE (5 possible points):

- Does the group exhibit correct stance and posture, and avoid fidgeting?
- Does the group constantly follow the conductor?
- Does the group look neat and sharp?
- Is the uniform being worn correctly?  
(Please note: hats are not expected or required)
- Did the group present themselves well when coming on-stage to perform?

**EASTERN TERRITORY, USA**  
**2013 SALVATIONIST STAR SEARCH TALENT DISPLAY – YOUTH CHORUS**

**CORPS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DIVISION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE PIECE:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Compulsory Piece	Chosen Piece	Adjudicator's Comments
<b>TONE</b> 10 PTS.			
<b>DICTION &amp; TECHNIQUE</b> 10 PTS.			
<b>PART SINGING</b> 5 PTS.			
<b>INTERPRETATION</b> 5 PTS.			
<b>ACCURACY &amp; INTONATION</b> 10 PTS.			
<b>SUITABILITY OF CHOSEN PIECE</b> 10 PTS.	XXXXXX		
<b>APPEARANCE/STAGE PRESENCE</b> 5 PTS.			
<b>TOTALS</b> 100 possible (45 + 55) PTS.			

TOTAL PT. COMPULSORY: \_\_\_\_\_ + TOTAL PTS. CHOSEN PIECE: \_\_\_\_\_ = GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJUDICATOR: \_\_\_\_\_



**EASTERN TERRITORY, USA**  
**2013 SALVATIONIST STAR SEARCH TALENT DISPLAY – SINGING COMPANY**

CORPS: \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE PIECE: \_\_\_\_\_

	Compulsory Piece	Chosen Piece	Adjudicator's Comments
<b>TONE</b> 10 PTS.			
<b>DICTION &amp; TECHNIQUE</b> 10 PTS.			
<b>PART SINGING</b> 5 PTS.			
<b>INTERPRETATION</b> 5 PTS.			
<b>ACCURACY &amp; INTONATION</b> 10 PTS.			
<b>SUITABILITY OF CHOSEN PIECE</b> 10 PTS.	XXXXXX		
<b>APPEARANCE/STAGE PRESENCE</b> 5 PTS.			
<b>TOTALS</b> 100 possible (45 + 55) PTS.			

TOTAL PT. COMPULSORY: \_\_\_\_\_ + TOTAL PTS. CHOSEN PIECE: \_\_\_\_\_ = GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJUDICATOR: \_\_\_\_\_