

LOCAL CHAPTER COMPETITIONS

Your chapter may choose to hold a local competition, apart from RCYO, for local recognition only. Each chapter is responsible for devising rules to govern its own competition. Competitions can stimulate community interest in the organ, and also introduce students and new organists to your chapter and the Guild.

You will need to form a competition committee. Its duties include making all arrangements for the competition (practice times, page turners, selecting an appropriate instrument, appointing judges, etc.) and overseeing its execution. This committee, in conjunction with the chapter executive committee, can also determine what awards will be made to the winner(s) and how they will be awarded. Will the prize money be split if the judges recommend it? Will the chapter present the award the day of the competition, or wait to do so in front of the general membership?

The executive committee may elect to establish a scholarship fund to finance the competition. Such a fund may be used to award prizes directly to the contestants, or scholarship awards may be paid to a school, college, or private instructor to encourage students to continue their development within the profession.

MATTERS TO DECIDE FOR CHAPTER COMPETITIONS

1. Who is eligible? Eligibility may be by school grade level and/or age, for example.
2. Must the contestant be a member of your chapter, or a student of a chapter member, or will the competition be open?
3. The number and difficulty of the pieces to be played (for example, a Bach work and one work from either the 19th- or 20th-century repertoire). Maximum and minimum performance time should be determined.
4. Items on which contestants will be judged (registration, performance style, tempi, etc.) and the relative importance of each item.
5. To whom the scholarship award will be paid:
 - a) winning contestant
 - b) school
 - c) college
 - d) university
 - e) private instructor
6. Restrictions on previous winners entering the competition.
7. Provision of scores for the judges by the contestants in accordance with copyright laws. As

noted in the AGO's "Official Rules Governing the 2005 Regional Competitions for Young Organists," D.: *The use of photocopied or other illegally reproduced copyrighted scores is prohibited, and will disqualify any competitor from participation in the competition. (Exceptions to this rule apply only to reductions and to pages duplicated for the purpose of facilitating page turns.)*

8. Preparation of application forms. Include a statement that each contestant must return the form to the chapter competition director by (date), accompanied by a registration fee of (amount), with a check made payable to (your chapter name).
9. Amount of practice time permitted on the competition instrument. Contact person for practice time and person to send organ specifications to each candidate.
10. Date and time of the competition (should be announced well in advance of the actual event).

For additional guidance in setting up a local competition, refer to the rules for the Regional Competition for Young Organists and National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, available from National Headquarters.

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

If your chapter is interested in hosting a regional competition, contact your Regional Councillor or the National AGO Office.