



***“Walk in the Light”***

*“...but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is  
in the Light, we have fellowship with one  
another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses  
us from all sin”  
1 John 1:7*



# T.O.R.C.H. 2012

(Texas Oklahoma Regional Conference – Houston)

## Youth Participant Handbook

Texas Encampment | Palacios, Texas

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

[www.torch12.com](http://www.torch12.com)

# Texas Oklahoma Regional Conference Youth Participant Handbook

---

## Table of Contents

T.O.R.C.H. Code of Conduct	Page 3
Praise Night	Page 4
Mini Games	Page 5
Dodge Ball	Page 6
Theme Song Competition	Page 8
Promotional Video Competition	Page 8
T-Shirt Design Competition	Page 8
Point System	Page 9
Due Dates/Daft Guidelines	Page 10
Contact Information	Page 11

**The T.O.R.C.H. Core Committee holds the rights to add, update, or remove rules and regulations that it seems necessary and appropriate with regards to the venue and the competition. The Core Committee reserves the right to final decision on any issues, inappropriate conduct, etc. with the approval from the host Parish Vicar/Conference Director**

## T.O.R.C.H. Code of Conduct

---

1. Respect yourself and respect others. Be responsible for your actions.
2. Each participant shall conduct himself/herself in an orderly and responsible manner throughout the conference.
3. Conference participants will be divided into different groups and Chaperones will be assigned to each group. Please check in with your chaperone on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please contact your chaperone.
4. Participants must follow given instructions and be respectful to leaders/chaperones during the entire course of the conference.
5. You are not allowed to leave the conference center/facility for ANY reason. Leaving the premises or any reason should be only with Conference Director's permission.
6. Participants are expected to attend all scheduled conference activities. No exceptions.
7. Name tags and wrist bands (if applicable) are to be worn at all times in the facility. Identity may be verified at any time during the conference.
8. Participant who causes problems will be reported to Chaperons. If necessary, parents will be notified and Participant will be sent home.
9. Separate dorms will be provided to males and females with two or more chaperons. No visiting is allowed in dorms by members of the opposite sex at any time.
10. All participants must be in their respective dorms by curfew on each night of the conference. Do not leave your rooms after curfew.
11. Participants should remain in the assigned areas of the conference at all times unless during specified free times. Please be aware of assigned boundaries/perimeters. Your Chaperons should be aware of your whereabouts.
12. NO illegal drugs, alcohol, smoking, firearms, explosives, or other illegal substances. The purchase, possession or consumption of beer, wine, other alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products and the possession or use of illegal drugs by any individual will not be tolerated. Infraction of these rules will result in immediate notification to the legal authority and dismissal from the conference.
13. Behavior—responsible behavior is expected at all times. Inappropriate physical contact of any nature, which include touch, gesture, language, or activity of an offensive nature is strictly prohibited
14. . Respect for all adult leaders, peers, and property is expected.
15. All participants are required to dress appropriately throughout all days of the conference. Anyone not in compliance with the dress code may be asked to change clothes.
16. Please leave rooms the way you found them. Dispose of garbage properly.
17. St. Thomas Syro Malabar Diocese of Chicago or St. Joseph Syro Malabar Catholic Church of Houston will not be liable for any injuries or property loss/damage. The facility, equipments, and furniture should be used with utmost care and participants will be held liable for the any damage caused by them.
18. Participants are required to keep punctuality throughout the conference.
19. Prior permission is needed from the Conference Director to check-in to the conference at a later time other than the regular check-in time (Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am -12pm)  
Participants will not be allowed to leave the facilities after check-in.

## Praise Night – St. Thomas, Garland

---

- All performances should be faith based and reflect the theme. Skits can be modernized, but must have a good lesson. (“but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” 1 John 1:7)
- Each church is required to perform from anywhere between 10-25 minutes. It is imperative that every church must follow proper the time limit guidelines.
- All performances should be a group effort that displays the various talents of the youth group. (i.e. Dance, Acting, Singing, Other Talent, etc.)
- Please remember to keep all performances appropriate, as this is a religious event and must be taken seriously. Failure to do so can result in removal from Praise Night and/or removal from the conference itself.
- Garland parish is required to advertise this to the region’s churches and gain participation from all youth and parishes

If you have any questions please contact  
[torchexcommittee@sjsmcc.org](mailto:torchexcommittee@sjsmcc.org) or  
contact Clement Kurian (832) 768 4289

## Mini Games Night – McAllen, San Antonio, Oklahoma, Austin

---

- Games are designed to unite the small session groups that the Houston parish creates.
- The idea of each game should be teambuilding and also relate to the conference theme (1 John 1:7)
- Participants are required to follow all instructions addressed by the host put in charge. Participants must stay with their assigned groups and complete the given assignment
- Games are expected to last approximately 15-20 minutes
- Lead church must have one assigned church member ready to lead the audience, along with 2-3 other youth making sure the activity is running smoothly
- Small prizes, such as candies, simple trophies/medals, or even gift cards will be awarded to the winning teams
- Each lead church is required to have 3 games prepared.
- These games are intended for teambuilding and are not included with the accumulating points.

If you have any questions please contact  
[torchexecommittee@sismcc.org](mailto:torchexecommittee@sismcc.org) or contact  
Nicole Stephen (832) 867 7307  
Dona Robert (713) 530 2862

## Dodge Ball – St. Alphonsa, Coppell

---

- Dodge Ball is simply a game to keep spirits high and for everyone to have fun!
- Winning team receives medals for all players

### Rules and Regulations:

- **NO** short shorts, inappropriate words, etc. will be allowed as part of team attire.
- Each game will be played for a maximum of **5** minutes.
- The regulation period is **over** when all of one team's players are eliminated, or the team with the most players left at the expiration of 5 minutes.
- If, after time has expired, there is a tie, then there will be a timed 2-minute **Sudden-Death** period between the remaining players.
- During the Sudden Death period, the first team to get one person from the opposing side out wins.
- If a tie remains, then the game will go to a **Double Sudden Death Overtime** in which a “duel” between the two team captains will take place.
- Start of a game period will commence upon sounding of the whistle/ horn.
- Six balls will be located at the mid-court line. At the sound of the whistle/ horn, teams may try to gain possession of the balls.
- Balls obtained from the mid-line at the start of the game cannot be thrown until carried back to starting-line first.
- A player will be **eliminated** when at least one of the following events occurs:
  - ❖ (1) A player is struck below the neck.
  - ❖ (2) A player's ball has been caught by opposing team without any deflections.
  - ❖ (3) A player steps outside boundary lines in an attempt to avoid being hit (You may step outside boundary lines to retrieve balls, however.)
- Deflections off the floor, wall, court dividers, rafters, **do not** count as an out.
- Deflections off a player—where the ball does not hit the ground or wall before hitting the second player out, however, **do** count, and both players are out.
- If player from team A throws a ball and hits player 1 on team B but is caught by player 2 from team B before it hits the ground, both players from team B are **safe**, and the player from team A is **out**.
- Once a player is out, they must immediately leave the playing court and sit in the stands.
- Players who have been called out **cannot** retrieve stray balls for teammates, or ball will be given to the other team.

- If a player is stalling (**10s +**), or making no attempt to play the ball, they will be ordered to roll the ball to the other side by the officials.
- A player may exit the boundary lines to obtain a ball; however, if that player catches a ball from mid-air, the person who CATCHES the ball is eliminated.
- Lead church is required to...
  - ❖ Formulate a bracket when the final registration closes (teams will be supplied in advance)
  - ❖ Obtain referees that know the rules and regulations (have a copy or two of the rules)
  - ❖ Have an emcee that hosts the event (must introduce teams, commentary is optional)
  - ❖ Maintain the tournament from start to finish, including set up and take down

If you have any questions please contact  
[torchexecommittee@sjsmcc.org](mailto:torchexecommittee@sjsmcc.org) or contact  
Geo Thayil (281) 630 8185

## Theme Song Competition

---

- Song can be in Malayalam, English, or a mix of both (if Malayalam, translation must be submitted along with written lyrics)
- Any style of singing may be used, such as a cappella, rap, etc.
- The conference theme must be the basis of the song.
- Song is limited to 5 minutes.
- Tracks from participating teams can be of any language, as long as all material is appropriate for family audiences.
- Music for the song must be original (i.e. no covers)
- No profanity in any of the lyrics no matter the language of the composition.
- No Subliminal messages (sexual, degrading, insults, racism, etc) or gestures in any of the lyrics or performance choreography (if any).
- Voting will take place from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> online at [www.torch12.com](http://www.torch12.com) Voting is open to everyone.

## Promotional Video Competition

---

- Videos must promote the conference keeping in mind that it is a Diocese supported event.
- Key information, such as website, dates of event, location, and theme (bible verse) MUST be included by any means necessary in the video
- Content of the video must be church-friendly (no profanity, inappropriate material, etc.)
- Videos must be uploaded to YouTube the link must be sent to the email address. If video fails to fall with the credentials, removal from online may be requested.
- Promotional video must last no longer than 7 minutes (including credits, etc.)
- Voting will take place from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> online at [www.torch12.com](http://www.torch12.com) Voting is open to everyone.

## T-Shirt Design Competition

---

- Shirt designed must centralize on the conference theme
- Colors are up to designer, however final choices are up to the T.O.R.C.H Core Committee
- Shirt must be church-appropriate as this is a Diocese supported event
- Designs must include each of the eight parishes (Holy Family, Oklahoma; St. Alphonsa, Coppell; St. Thomas, Garland; St. Thomas, San Antonio; St. Alphonsa, Austin; St. Joseph, Houston; St. Mary, Pearland; Divine Mercy, McAllen)
- Voting will take place from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> online at [www.torch12.com](http://www.torch12.com) Voting is open to everyone.



# Point System

---

- The purpose of the point system is to engage in a friendly competition amongst the churches in the region.
- The competitions that will be considered for points will be competitions that each church in the region has a fair advantage to. Thus the results of the competition will be based on a public response, not by a church's standing.
- For each of the following competitions, points will be given starting from 80 and ending in 10, ranking the winners of each respective competition (Example: 1st place will get 80, 2nd place will get 70, 3rd place will get 60, etc).
- Prize will be given at the end of conference to the parish with the most points.
- The points system applies to the following competitions:
  - ❖ T-Shirt Design (winning designer's home parish will receive points)
  - ❖ Promotional Video
  - ❖ Theme Song

## Due Dates

---

- **T-Shirt Design:** must be submitted to competition e-mail (see contacts)
  - ❖ Design due **APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - ❖ Voting online is from **MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> to JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**
- **Promotional Video:** uploaded to youtube.com and link sent to competition e-mail
  - ❖ Submission due **APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - ❖ Voting online is from **MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> to JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**
- **Theme Song:** emailed as an attachment to competition e-mail
  - ❖ Submission due **APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - ❖ Voting online is from **MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> to JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**
- **Registration** closes on **JULY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**
  - ❖ Forms are completed online at [www.torch12.com](http://www.torch12.com) , while money should be handled by ONE Youth Representative or Adult at your home parish.
    - **Parish Representatives**
      - **McAllen** – Maria John (956-624-0430)
      - **Austin** – Anisha Paul (512-788-1134)
      - **San Antonio** – Sawrabhya Kalapurakkal (210-618-7619)
      - **Houston/Pearland** – Geordie Daniel (713-855-0429)
      - **Garland** – Antony Mathew (214-704-8697)
      - **Coppell** – Benjamin George (845-598-8647)
      - **Oklahoma City** – Stanley Tomy (405-474-7812)
  - ❖ Participants and adult volunteers have separate forms to attend
  - ❖ Churches must have collected all money by **JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>** and have it mailed off (through secure purposes) before **JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**
- All churches are requested to keep up to date with any announcements regarding registration, rules, or competitions from the Houston Parish Core Committee. Failure to do so could result in miscommunication and mistakes taken in any project
- **Praise Night** due dates are outlined by the Garland Parish. Due dates will be announced.

## Contact Information

---

- T.O.R.C.H. Executive Committee [torchexecommittee@sjsmcc.org](mailto:torchexecommittee@sjsmcc.org)
- Conference/Retreat Director [confdirector@sjsmcc.org](mailto:confdirector@sjsmcc.org)
- T.O.R.C.H. Competition Submissions [torchsubmit@sjsmcc.org](mailto:torchsubmit@sjsmcc.org)
- Geordie Daniel (President, SJYAL - DYA Rep) 713-855-0429
- Kavitha Joseph (DYA Representative) 832-496-0248
- Christina Joseph (Vice President, SJYAL) 281-978-0030
- Clement Kurian (Praise Night Coordinator) 832-768-4289
- Nicole Stephen (Mini Games Coordinator) 832-867-7307
- Dona Robert (Mini Games Coordinator) 713-530-2862
- Geo Thayil (Dodge Ball Coordinator) 281-630-8185

