

What is L2L?

About L2L:

Since our foundation in 1968, the mission of Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes has been to develop youth into Christian leaders. From a group of eight boys in that first year to more than 20,000 today, our mission has remained the same.

L2L is the oldest and largest leadership training program used by the churches of Christ today. It is a tool churches of Christ can use to help prepare their youth and adults for service in the Kingdom of God and help develop their overall leadership potential. L2L is more than just attending a youth rally or participating in a Bible Bowl. We offer a variety of Bible-based class materials and events for preschoolers through adults.

The goal of L2L is to provide churches of Christ with effective, year-round leadership training tools that can be adapted to individual congregational needs and help local congregations instill the Word of God into youth and adults to ensure they stand firm in the faith.

Why Choose L2L:

- Is the oldest and largest leadership training program used by the churches of Christ.
- Congregations that incorporate L2L events (especially year-round) are reporting youth retention rates of 85% or higher, ten years after graduation.
- Has over 50 years of proven methods with three generations now trained to be servants in the church.
- Teaches God's Word with no agenda—and stays out of the ditches, left and right (2 Chronicles 34:2).
- Offers a wide range of books, materials and curriculum for year-round use.
- Produces great materials by sound, respected authors that teach biblical concepts on timely subjects.
- Brings the whole congregation together. Adults and senior citizens participate with children in completing events and activities (Titus 2:2-4).
- Offers competitive and non-competitive events. (26 events are completely non-competitive.)
- Offers Bartimaeus events for special needs participants of all ages.
- Has events available for everyone ages 3-103.
- Allows participants to learn how to deal with competition in a Christian manner. Selections/competition are made in the church, as well (Acts 1:23-26).
- Brings thousands together to worship in a traditional worship service under the oversight of a local eldership.

The Process:

1. L2L kicks off at annual dinner in May.
2. Parents and students review events together at home. Adults review volunteer sign-up.
 - a. These will include a place to sign up for the convention.
3. May 24th- Parents, students, and volunteers turn in sign-up sheets.
4. Noah will distribute all information and materials needed to families based on the events their kids have signed up for. Noah will also begin assembling coaches for events needing a coach beyond parents.
5. May through early January- Parents mentor their children through their events.
 - a. Reach out to Noah for any resources or guidance that you need.
 - b. Coaches will also schedule events and communicate those to students and parents.
6. Central's Event Registration deadline is January 8th, 2027.
 - a. This is the date that all year-round events need to be completed by.
 - i. Parents will inform Noah what their student has completed.
 - b. This is when each student will be locked into the events they are participating in and the awards they have earned for year-round events.
 - c. Typically, practices for convention events will begin after this date.
7. Lads 2 Leaders Sunday.
 - a. March 21st
 - b. On this Sunday afternoon we will highlight various L2L events such as Storyline, Puppet Theater, Art projects, Debate, Song Leading, Songs of Praise, and Speech.
8. Lads 2 Leaders Convention.
 - a. March 25th – 28th
 - b. At the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN.
 - c. Students participate in convention events here.
 - d. Awards ceremonies reward students for all events.

Expectations:

- Time Commitment- There is a significant time commitment with L2L as students are expected to be at practices, work on projects on their own, and prepare for what they sign up for.
- Parental Involvement- L2L is designed to be worked on as a family. The majority of events are parent led, allowing parents to grow in their role as the primary spiritual influence in their children's life. There will be coaches for specified events.
 - Note: Parents should not do the work for their kids. That defeats the purpose of L2L. The effort and struggle of working on each event is what develops leadership qualities in each student.
- Balance- One temptation with L2L is to sign up for everything. This usually leads to dropping events last minute. Students and parents should be realistic and only sign up for what they can handle and accomplish. Push yourself out of your comfort zone, but don't sign up for every event. (Quality over quantity)
- Cost- L2L is an investment into the spiritual leadership and faith of our kids, but it also requires a financial investment. Every event is free to participate in, but there is a cost for registration, hotels, transportation, and food. **IMPORTANT: Do not let the cost of L2L prevent you from participating!** God has blessed Central with multiple avenues of covering the expenses of those who can't afford L2L.
 - Central will scholarship the L2L registration fee for all participants.*
 - A hotel room for 3 nights at the L2L convention typically costs around \$540. There is usually an anonymous donor who covers this expense for everyone.* In the event that doesn't happen, we will work to make sure everyone can go whether you can afford that or not.

- ***Every participating K-12 student (except Bartimaeus participants) must sign up for at least 2 Convention Events and 3 Year-Round events to qualify for the Central scholarship and to have their family's room paid for.**
- ***Any non-parent adult attending the convention must volunteer as a coach, judge, hospitality room helper, or other role pre-approved by Noah to qualify for the Central scholarship and to have their room paid for.**
- The church bus or carpooling can be used for those who need help with transportation.
- We have a hospitality room that provides most of our meals at the convention at no cost to anyone.
- If any part of the cost of L2L is going to be an issue for you and your family, talk to Noah. Cost is NOT going to be a reason that anyone is not able to go to the convention.
- Christlikeness- We do not participate in L2L in order to win medals or achieve glory. We do it to train all of us to be more like Christ. Being like Jesus is a high calling of leadership, excellence, service, competence, humility, and holiness. That is the goal of L2L and what we hope every single person gets out of it.

Questions:

If you have any questions or need more information, please visit the Central L2L Webpage or contact Noah Davis.

Central L2L Webpage: centralpaducah.org/lads-2-leaders/

Noah's Phone: (512) 713-8132

Noah's Email: noahmilesdavis@gmail.com

2026-2027 L2L Events

“No Other God”- A Study Through 1 Kings

Year-Round Events

Art Says It: Drawing/Sketching (grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Students create a drawing or sketch based upon the L2L theme for that year. The work must be at least 8 ½”x11” and no more than 16”x20”. Drawings/Sketchings will be displayed and judged at Convention.

Art Says It: Painting (grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Students create a painting (no “paint by numbers” allowed) based upon the L2L theme for that year. The work must be at least 8 ½”x11” and no more than 16”x20”. Paintings will be displayed and judged at Convention.

Art Says It: Photography (grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Students take photos based upon the L2L theme for that year. Photographs must be at least 4”x6” and no larger than 8 ½”x11” (in either black and white or color). These are not to be framed or matted. Photos may be digitally enhanced. Photography will be displayed and judged at Convention.

Art Says It: Poster (grades K-6; grades K-2 not judged)

Students create a poster (on 22”x28” posterboard) that reflects the L2L theme for that year. Creativity is key, but no copyrighted materials or figures (such as cartoon characters) may be used. Posters will be displayed and judged at Convention.

Art Says It: Bulletin Board (grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Students create a bulletin board at the church building (does not have to be on the L2L theme but must be an “enhancement” to a classroom or other space at the building). They then take an 8”x10” photo of the bulletin board to turn in at convention to be judged.

Banner (grades K-12, group event)

The group creates a banner up to 28”x22” that expresses the personality of the congregation and group. This event does NOT have to fit the theme for Lads to Leaders. Banners will be displayed and judged at Convention.

Bible Bowl Individual Test (grades K-12)

Students study questions on the book of the Bible for that Lads to Leaders year. For 2026-2027, the book is 1 Kings. They then take an online test, typically in February.

Centurion of Scripture (Preschool-12th grade)

Memorize 100 verses of Scripture by the registration deadline. This can be done in segments as few as 1 verse at a time (bronze award). Any verses are allowed, but we will be handing out a list of suggested verses from 1 Kings that will also help with Bible Bowl.

Defender (grades 6-12)

Students study a 13-chapter book on defending the faith written by Apologetics Press. The student then takes an online test (typically in February) to test their competency on the material. All students receive a certificate, but high scorers receive an award.

GIFTS (young ladies; grades 6-12)

Young ladies meet to study a book (*Girls In Fellowship & Team Study*) that discusses issues young Christian ladies face while also working to complete projects associated with each lesson.

Coached Event

GUARD (young men; grades 6-12)

Young men meet to study a book (*Guys Understanding Authority and Real Discipleship*) that discusses issues young Christian men face while also working to complete projects associated with each lesson.

Coached Event

Good Samaritan (Preschool-12th grade)

Students keep a log of “good works” they have done, earning points toward awards. A rubric will be provided assigning point totals to various “good works.”

Headed to the Office (young men; grades 6-12)

Young men study the *Headed to the Office* book, taught by a mature male (preferably an elder or minister), which helps them consider the qualities it takes to, one day, become an elder in the Lord’s Church. They also complete basic projects based on each lesson.

Coached Event

Junior Leaders (grades K-5)

Junior Leaders meet 4 times to study leaders in the Bible. For each lesson, they also complete a project associated with the lesson.

Coached Event

Keepers (young ladies; grades 3-12)

In Keepers, young ladies learn skills from adult women associated with the “virtuous woman” of Proverbs 31. Each year, we will offer 3 areas of work, and a young lady may choose all 3 of these areas, or two Keepers areas and one Providers area. In 2026-2027, the areas available are: Laundry, Horticulture, and Table Setting.

Coached Event

Providers (young men; grades 3-12)

In Providers, young men learn skills from adult men associated with being a man who provides for the church and for his family. Each year, we will offer 3 areas of work, and a young man may choose all 3 of these areas, or two Providers areas and one Keepers area. In 2026-2027, the areas available are: Basic Electrical, Basic Gardening, and Basic Plumbing.

Coached Event

Know the Books (Preschool-12th grade)

Students learn their books of the Bible. Students in preschool-2nd grade can sing the books of the New Testament (Level I bronze), Old Testament (Level I silver), or both (Level III gold). Students in grades 3-12 must recite (no singing) their books.

Mass Communications: Blogging (grades 3-12)

Students create an online article (blog) of between 350-750 words concerning the theme for Lads to Leaders.

Mass Communications: Podcasting (grades 3-12)

Students create a 3-6-minute podcast concerning the theme for Lads to Leaders. This must be done with preparation (not “off the cuff”), because a script must be provided.

Mass Communications: PowerPoint Presentation (grades 3-12)

Students create a PowerPoint presentation that would aid a teacher in presenting a lesson on one chapter of the L2L Pearls book for that year.

Mass Communications: Storyline (grades 3-12)

Students form a team of at least 3 participants and create a video that is informative and entertaining about the Lads to Leaders theme. The final video is to be 3-4 minutes in length.

Coached Event

Pearls (grades 3-12)

Based on the idea of “pearls of wisdom,” students study a 14-chapter book based on the Lads to Leaders theme book for that year. They then take an online test (typically in February) and high scorers earn an award. The Pearls book will likely be incorporated into a CYG class.

Read the Word (Preschool-12th grade)

Students read the Bible. This can be the entire New Testament, entire Old Testament, or both. Students may also listen to the Bible (either through a recording or a parent reading to them). We will be handing out a suggested reading schedule for the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Second Language (Preschool-12th grade)

For the bronze award, students learn to say (or sign) 10 common phrases and 7 Bible verses in a language of their choosing. Requirements increase for those who wish to work on silver (or higher).

Sower (grades 6-12)

Students, under the leadership of a teacher, will study the book *Sower: Evangelism for Everyone* and will learn some basic skills in trying to reach the lost with the Gospel. Each participant must also try to teach at least one person the Gospel. (The person does not have to become a Christian for the student to earn the award.)

Coached Event

Scrapbook- Group (grades 3-12)

All members of the team meet periodically to create a group scrapbook of youth and Lads to Leaders events, chronicling the “life” of the congregation for that year.

Coached Event

Scrapbook- Individual (grades 3-12)

Students create a scrapbook on their own of youth and Lads to Leaders events as well as their own life, chronicling the “life” of the congregation and themselves for that year.

Scrapbook- Winners’ Circle (grades 4-12)

Any scrapbook that places first in previous years will begin being judged in this category along with other first place scrapbooks. The same rules apply for Winners’ Circle Scrapbook as the other scrapbook categories.

Teach Me to Pray (grades K-12)

Participants learn the importance of daily prayer, keeping a prayer journal, and methods with which to accomplish it. Participants also study through the book *Teach Me to Pray* in addition to keeping a month-long prayer journal.

Teach to Teach (grades 7-12)

Students learn from Bible school teachers how to teach a Bible class. At the level I (“Student Teacher”) level, participants spend a total of 6 class periods with a teacher, starting by observing and moving to leading a class. They are mentored along the way to learn how to prepare the lesson and appropriate activities.

Coached Event

Year-Round Bible Reading/Study (grades K-12)

Students must:

1. Choose sections of Scripture to read to appropriate audiences (ladies’ class, nursing home patient, etc.) on at least 2 occasions.
2. Learn where passages for the Plan of Salvation are found in Scripture.
3. Read one entire chapter of the Bible to an audience.
4. Meet one time to learn proper microphone technique.

Year-Round Bulletin Board (grades K-12)

Students meet to change out/update bulletin boards throughout the building (hallways, classrooms, etc.) at various points during the year.

Coached Event

Year-Round PowerPoint Presentation (grades K-12)

Students must create at least two PowerPoint presentations that will be used for sermons, Bible classes, devotionals, or other meetings. Each presentation must be at least 20 slides in length.

Year-Round Song Leading (young men; grades K-12)

Young men lead a song at least 12 times during the course of the year (must lead at least 3 different songs). The songs can be led at youth devotionals, worship, or other approved settings by Noah and each song must include at least two verses (or one verse sung twice).

Year-Round Songs of Praise (young ladies; grades K-12)

Young ladies lead a song at least 10 times during the course of the year (must lead at least 3 different songs). The songs can be led at girls' devotionals, ladies' classes/meetings, or other approved settings by Noah and each song must include at least two verses (or one verse sung twice).

Year-Round Speech (grades K-12)

Young people prepare and deliver at least 12 speeches during the year of at least three minutes in length. A speech may be reused, but the student must deliver at least 3 different speeches. The speeches also do NOT have to be original with the student, but, if borrowed, credit must be attained and given.

Red Coat Award (grades 7-12)

The Red Coat Award is the highest achievement available for youth in L2L. It represents many years of dedicated effort. It is strenuous but attainable. Few will earn the Red Coat, but those who do will have demonstrated service to God and others. The Red Coat is only awarded on the national level after the requirements have been met and certified by Roy Johnson and the L2L Board of Directors. Please inform Noah if you are going to pursue this award and he will get you more information.

Convention Events

Bartimaeus (any age)

Bartimaeus is an event for anyone with special needs. Participants may do Art Says It, speech, oral Bible reading, song leading, or songs of praise. They are not judged and are given an award and special recognition at convention for their work.

Bible Bowl Team (grades 3-12; we will only use K-2 students if necessary to fill out a team)

Teams of four students study the Bible Bowl material for that year. At convention, they are given an oral exam on the material, and the highest-scoring 8 teams in each grade division win an award.

Coached Event

Debate (grades 7-12)

A team of two young men or two young women prepare to debate *both* the affirmative and negative of a proposed resolution on a Biblical matter. Solo Debate is also an option for those interested.

Coached Event

Oral Bible Reading (grades K-6 and preschoolers)

Students practice reading a brief passage of Scripture and, at convention, read that same passage before a room of people. The reading is required to be 1-2-minutes in length. Students do not get “ranked” awards (i.e., 1st place, 2nd place, etc.), but are given a certificate and feedback from the judges with a rating of AAA (best), AA, or A.

Puppet Theater (grades 3-12; we will only use K-2 students if necessary to fill out a team)

A team of at least 3 participants prepares a puppet show based upon the L2L theme for that year. The team can have 3-12 members and must have a hand in preparations, including decorations for the show.

Coached Event

Song Leading (young men; grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Young men lead two verses of a song to a room of people at convention. They will work with a coach ahead of time on leading that song and will learn more about voice projection, hand motions, and other important factors in leading singing.

Coached Event

Song Leading- Winners' Circle (young men; grades 4-12)

Any song leader that places first in previous years will begin being judged in this category along with other first place song leaders. The same rules from regular song leading apply. In addition, students grades 7-12 will need to know how to lead all songs from the Winners' Circle song list as they will randomly draw a song to lead at convention.

Coached Event

Songs of Praise (young ladies; grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Young ladies work with coaches ahead of convention to learn the basics of leading songs to ladies' groups. At convention, they lead 2 verses of a song they have practiced and are judged on voice projection, hand motions, and other basic factors.

Coached Event

Songs of Praise- Winners' Circle (young ladies; grades 4-12)

Any song leader that places first in previous years will begin being judged in this category along with other first place song leaders. The same rules from regular songs of praise apply. In addition, students grades 7-12 will need to know how to lead all songs from the Winners' Circle song list as they will randomly draw a song to lead at convention.

Coached Event

Speech (grades K-12; grades K-2 not judged)

Students prepare and deliver a speech based upon the Lads to Leaders theme for that year. Coaches volunteer to help them with the speech-writing process and help them practice their delivery. They are judged on familiarity with the material, voice projection, enunciation, and other important factors in delivering a speech. For grades 3-6, the speech must be 3-5 minutes in length. For grades 7-12, the speech must be 4 1/2-6 minutes in length.

Coached Event

Speech- Winners' Circle (grades 4-12)

Any student that places first in previous years will begin being judged in this category along with other first place students. The same rules from regular speech apply. In addition to their prepared speeches, participants in grades 10-12 will also draw a topic and present a 1.5-3 minute impromptu/extemporaneous speech on topics chosen out of the Pearls book.

Coached Event