

Songs of Everlasting Joy —

Ways to Participate

One of the greatest joys of *Songs of Everlasting Joy* is that everyone has an opportunity to participate. This conference is more than a series of presentations—it is a weekend of worship, learning, service, creativity, and fellowship.

Whether you enjoy teaching children, performing, creating resources for families, sharing something you have made, or simply lending a helping hand, we invite you to become part of the conference.

Some activities require advance registration or preparation by participating individuals, families, and fellowships. The information below will help you begin planning. Additional details, preparation guidelines, and deadlines will be provided as the conference approaches.

Hymn Presentations

Music is at the heart of *Songs of Everlasting Joy*, and we would love for families and/or fellowships to help fill the conference with song.

Families, fellowships, small groups, and other ensembles are invited to prepare a hymn to present during the conference. You do not need to have a formal choir. A family singing together, a small group of friends, a fellowship choir, or a larger ensemble are all welcome.

Participating groups will select from hymns provided for the conference so that music can be prepared in advance. Depending upon the hymn, presentations may be sung in unison, harmony, or with available instrumental accompaniment.

Our purpose is not to showcase polished performers, but to sing together, learn these hymns, and share them with one another. We especially hope that fellowships and families will take these songs home, learn them together, and help make them part of our shared worship.

Those wishing to prepare a hymn should sign up in advance. Music and preparation information will be provided so each participating group has time to learn its selection before the conference.

Roadshows

One of the cherished traditions we hope to revive is the Roadshow.

Families and fellowships are invited to prepare a short dramatic presentation to share during the conference. Roadshows may include original skits, musical presentations, humorous stories, or uplifting dramatic performances that encourage faith, strengthen families, and bring people together.

Whether simple or elaborate, the emphasis is on participation, creativity, and sharing your gifts with others.

Performance Guidelines—

Roadshows should be approximately **10–12 minutes long**. Please also allow one or two minutes before and after the performance for simple setup and removal of props or scenery.

Theme: *Fiction, Fables & Fairy Tales: Where Imagination Meets Insight*

Talent Show

Have a talent you would enjoy sharing? Children, youth, adults, families, and small groups are invited to participate in our Friday evening Talent Show.

This is a chance to share the wonderful variety of gifts found among us. Performances might include singing, instrumental music, dance, comedy, dramatic or spoken-word presentations, demonstrations, or other family-friendly talents.

You do not need to be a professional performer. The purpose is not competition—it is simply an opportunity to share something you enjoy doing and allow us to enjoy and encourage one another.

Performance Guidelines—

Talent Show numbers should be **no longer than 5 minutes**. Setup and removal of equipment or props should be kept simple so that we can accommodate as many participants as possible.

All presentations should be family-friendly and appropriate for the spirit and purpose of the conference. Advance registration is required because performance time is limited.

Covenant Family Teaching Library

One of the most exciting opportunities at this year's conference is the creation of the Covenant Family Teaching Library.

Imagine a cookie exchange—but instead of cookies, families exchange complete, ready-to-use teaching lessons to help us teach our children important principles and lessons.

Each participating family will prepare one complete family teaching packet designed to help parents teach gospel truths and Christlike character in the home. After registration closes, each family will be told how many copies of its packet to prepare—one for every family participating in the exchange.

Each packet should include:

- A lesson centered on a gospel principle or Christian character trait
- A prepared game or hands-on activity
- Laminated game pieces, when appropriate
- A reproducible master for future use
- Complete instructions and all necessary game pieces
- All materials organized in a labeled manila folder (or expandable folder when needed)

If fifty families participate, each family will prepare fifty copies of its lesson and receive a complete collection of approximately fifty ready-to-use teaching packets—enough to create a family teaching library that can bless the home for years to come. No matter the number of participants, all will be blessed because of it.

All teaching packets must be turned in by **9:00 a.m. Saturday**. Conference volunteers will organize the exchange collections, which participating families may pick up Saturday afternoon. Bags will be provided for carrying the materials home.

Complete preparation guidelines, templates, and deadlines will be provided to registered participants.

Play in a Day & Children's and Youth Activities

Several children's and youth activities require advance registration so we can prepare enough materials and ensure that every participant has what they need.

On Friday, children ages 4–12 will rotate through hands-on activities such as beeswax candle making, knot tying, pioneer games, string games, storytelling, and slingshot making. Teens ages 13 and older will participate in tin punching, rope making, bedroll making, and outdoor games.

Saturday will include weaving, tin punching, art, games, country dancing, and a campfire sing-along for younger participants.

Teens will spend Saturday creating and rehearsing a **Play in a Day**, including short oleos and skits to be presented during the evening program. Advance registration will help the directors plan roles, gather supplies, and ensure that every participant has an opportunity to contribute.

Complete schedules and preparation instructions will be provided as the conference approaches.

Arts, Crafts & Skills Exhibition

Not every talent belongs on stage! Throughout the conference, we will have an **Arts, Crafts & Skills Exhibition**...think of a county fair for Covenant Christians.

Individuals and families are invited to bring something they have grown, built, sewn, painted, written, carved, photographed, preserved, collected, or otherwise created through their own talents and interests.

This might include artwork, quilts and needlework, woodworking, photography, gardening or homesteading projects, handmade clothing, crafts, family history projects, poetry or writing, models, collections, or other examples of creativity and skill.

The purpose is not competition, and you do not need to consider yourself an “artist.” We simply want to make room for the many different gifts among us. Some people sing. Some perform. Some teach. Some build beautiful things with their hands. Some grow things. Some create quietly at home. **All of these gifts can strengthen and bless a community.**

Children, youth, and adults are all encouraged to participate. Exhibits will be displayed throughout the conference so attendees can wander through, enjoy what others have created, learn from one another, and perhaps discover a new skill or interest of their own.

Complete exhibit categories, guidelines, labeling instructions, and information about when and where to bring entries will be provided as the conference approaches.

Volunteer Opportunities

Many conference activities are made possible by volunteers who enjoy serving others. If you enjoy working with children, teaching pioneer skills, welcoming guests, organizing activities, or helping wherever needed, we would love to have your assistance.

Volunteer opportunities may include:

- Children's Pioneer Activity Centers
- Tin Punching
- Rope Making
- String Games
- Weaving
- Slingshot Making
- Old-fashioned Relays
- Campfire Songs
- Play in a Day
- Candle Making
- Registration & Hospitality
- Meal Assistance
- Organizing Family Teaching Library Packets
- Staffing the Arts, Crafts & Skills Exhibition
- General Conference Assistance
- Security
- Medical Assistance

- Clean-up

No previous experience is necessary. Training materials and simple instructions will be provided. Volunteers assigned to an activity center should be willing to learn the activity and help lead participants through it.

How to Sign Up & Participate

We would love to know how **you** would like to be part of *Songs of Everlasting Joy*!

Advance registration is especially important for activities that require performance time, materials, preparation, or volunteer assignments.

You may sign up to participate in:

- **Roadshows**
- **Talent Show**
- **Covenant Family Teaching Library**
- **Play in a Day**
- **Children's & Youth Activities**
- **Arts, Crafts & Skills Exhibition**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**

Register online at **CovenantChristianHymns.com** or contact us at hymnsconference2027@gmail.com.

Please indicate which activity or activities you would like to participate in. Additional instructions, deadlines, and preparation information will be sent to participants as the conference approaches.

You are welcome to participate in more than one area. Whether you come to perform, create, teach, serve, learn, or simply lend a hand, there is a place for you at the conference.