

American Sign Language Honor Society



High School • College • University

Welcome! The National American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) is pleased to announce the 2017 ASL Literature Competition. The following instructions and forms provide the necessary information to participate in the competition. To participate, students must attend a school with a current ASLHS chapter on campus.

School Drum Songs

Category 1 – Bison School Drum Song

Students will recreate a version of the Bison School Drum song from the following links below:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CVbUfugXuk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psfetUCGu0Y>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJB8Ejlz4sM>

(Videos of these selections are available on the ASLHS webpage)

Category 2 – Original School Drum Song

Students will create an original school drum song either by themselves or with a partner.

The following is an example of a Drum Song from the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, created with the help of original Bison Song team member, Russell Harvard. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYMwAwO8QR0>

Entry deadline: **April 7, 2017**

For the Teacher:

1. Membership

For your students to participate in this competition, your school must belong to the American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) and sponsor an ASLHS chapter on campus. Dues for the 2016-2017 academic year must be current for your students to compete. Additionally you or another teacher at your school must be a member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) with membership valid for the current 2016-2017 dues cycle.

If no ASLHS chapter exists on your campus, submit application forms and dues with the 2017 ASL Literature Competition entries.

Competition entries submitted by students not represented by an official ASLHS chapter are automatically disqualified.

If you are including ASLHS membership along with entries into the 2017 ASL Literature competition, you must do the following:

- Include ASLHS & ASLTA membership forms;
- Include a separate check for ASLHS & ASLTA membership dues.
- Remember all payment fees must be mailed to the ASLTA Treasurer at 10413 East Spring Creek Road Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Please consider joining ASLHS before submitting entries to the competition! All information and forms are available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>

2. Time Frame

Submissions will be accepted beginning March 17, 2017 and all entries are due or postmarked by **April 7, 2017**. Late entries will be disqualified.

3. Competition Categories

Students may submit entries in the following categories:

Category 1 – Bison School Drum Song

Students will recreate a version of the Bison School Drum song either by themselves or with a partner from the following links below:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CVbUfuqXuk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psfetUCGu0Y>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJB8Ejz4sM>

(Videos of these selections are available on the ASLHS webpage)

Category 2 – Original School Drum Song

Students will create an original school Drum Song either by themselves or with a partner.

The following is an example of a Drum Song from the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, created with the help of original Bison Song team member, Russell Harvard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYMwAwO8QR0>

4. Competition Classes

The contest is open to students regularly enrolled in secondary school and post secondary language courses. Students at any level of ASL instruction are welcome to submit entries in one or both categories. Both Category 1 and Category 2 have two classes for the completion. The “classes” are based on student experience.

CLASS A: Students of ASL Level 1 and 2, CODAs (children of deaf adults) who are not fluent or Deaf students who are not fluent in ASL.

CLASS B: Students of ASL level 3 and above, CODAs who have emerging ASL skills and Deaf students who have emerging skills as well as CODAs and Deaf with proficient skills.

Students may compete in a higher class (Students from Class A may compete in Class B), but may not complete in a lower class (Students from Class B may not compete in Class A). A student who wishes to compete, but who is not currently enrolled in an ASL class, may compete at the level most recently completed. Teachers should make a careful distinction among Classes A and B categories. Students may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the judges, they are in the wrong level or class.

6. Registration Fees

Each School must send a \$25 entry fee. This fee covers all students entering from the school.

7. Payment

Payment of submission entries must be in check form, made payable to *American Sign Language Teachers Association or ASLTA*. **Purchase orders or credit cards will not be accepted.** Entry fees are nonrefundable.

All payment fees for the competition, ASLHS chapter dues, and ASLTA membership dues are sent to the following:

Bill Newell
ASLTA Treasurer
10413 East Spring Creek Road
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

All competition entry forms and materials are sent to the following:

Jessica Parker
ASL Literature Competition
East High School
4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

NOTE: In the event a check is returned due to insufficient funds, the ASL Honor Society will turn over the debt to a personal debt collection agency in addition to placing the chapter on probation. If a chapter is on probation, students are not allowed to participate in ASLHS-sponsored events (including literature competitions and the ASL scholarship), teachers cannot apply for mini-grants, and graduation materials will not be delivered. In addition, any bank fees and processing fees will be added for the total amount due for checks not accepted by the bank for any reason.

7. Submission Format

Because we receive hundreds of entries, your organization when submitting your entries will greatly assist and expedite the judging process. All entries are to be submitted on a standard USB drive. Please have a separate folder for Category (Retell or Original). For each Category, please have separate folders for each Class (A and B).

Entries should be placed within the appropriate folder. Make sure the file name looks like this:

Category 1

Last name, First name - school acronym – Title of Work

Examples: Scott, Monica – EHS – Bison Song

Or

Category 2

Last name, First name - school acronym – Title of Work

Examples: Scott, Monica – EHS – East High Drum Song

8. Registration Forms

The ASL teacher is responsible for coordinating the completion of all registration forms. There are 4 forms that need to be filled out:

1. Competition Cover Sheet, filled out by the teacher (Print and include a hard copy);
2. School Entry Form, electronic copy filled out by the teacher (Included on the USB drive);
3. Payment Form, filled out by the teacher (Print and include a hard copy);
4. Student Entry Form, filled out by the student (Print and include a hard copy).
5. Media Release Forms, filled out by the student and parent. If a drummer is shown in the video, make sure to have a media release form for them also.

- Use the **Submission Checklist** to assist in ensuring your entry is complete.

9. Prizes & Certificates

- Winners will be decided by **Russell Harvard**, actor and original Bison Song Team Member
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation
- All classes will receive a certificate of participation
- Prizes for both categories are as follows:
 - First place: \$100.00
 - Second place: \$75.00
 - Third place: \$50.00
- Classrooms with winning students will receive a DVD of “The Hammer” starring Russell Harvard.

10. Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced **April 29, 2017**, on the ASL Honor Society website. If your student wins in any category, you will be informed prior to the announcement.

11. Winning Entries

Winning entries will be posted on the ASL Honor Society's YouTube page. **It is essential that any student under 18 years of age have a parent or guardian's permission to have his/her**

child's entry posted. Also, if the drummer is shown in the video, make sure to have a media release form for them also. This information appears on the student's entry form.

12. Return of USB Drives

All submissions become the property of ASLHS and will not be returned, so please make a backup copy of all entries. USB drives can be returned if you include return postage.

What is the Bison Song?

The Bison Song is the Gallaudet fight song created with the use of a patterned, repetitive drum (one, two, one-two-three) beat. It has a tactile rhythm that is visual and easy for Deaf students to follow. One person bangs a large drum and two performers, typically a male and a female, lead the audience in clapping out the rhythm and signing a song to beat. The mascot, colors, motto, and motivational message are all parts of the song. The song was originally created in 1960 by Dorothy Miles and the tradition continues today. While the core of the Bison Song remains mostly the same, the song evolves each year. The goal is to show school spirit and pride. Other Deaf schools from around the nation have created their own drum songs based on their mascot, colors, and motto.

How do we create our own Drum Song?

Here are some suggestions to get you started. Please note that drum songs vary and students have creative freedom.

- Start with a basic drumbeat that is repeated throughout the song.
- Introduce yourselves.
- Use repeated handshapes and movements for rhyme.
- Write the first verse introducing your name(s), your school name, mascot, & colors.
- Write the second verse explaining your school's mission statement/motto.
- Write the third verse describing your school's achievements.
- Add a bridge and engage the audience.
- Add more verses to personalize.
- End with hand clapping (waving)!

SAMPLE SCHOOL DRUM SONG:

CLAP, CLAP E-H-S
HI, ME, LISA-LISA-LISA
HI, ME, BILL-BILL-BILL
CLAP, CLAP, CLAP-CLAP-CLAP (2x)
RED, BLUE, CLAP-CLAP-CLAP
MIGHTY, EAST, EAGLE-EAGLE-EAGLE
SUPPORT, KNOWLEDGE, SKILL-SKILL-SKILL
CLAP, CLAP, E-H-S
RED, BLUE, CLAP-CLAP-CLAP
WIN, LOSE, DON'T-MAT-TER
GIVE-UP?

NO!!!!
CLAP, CLAP, E-H-S
RED, BLUE, CLAP-CLAP-CLAP

Why the Bison Song?

The Bison Song has long been an honored tradition of Gallaudet University that has been adopted by other Deaf schools nationwide. The tactile access of the drum allows the Deaf to mimic the beat and make it their own by adding signs with similar handshapes and movements, creating a unique form of literature. School Drum Songs have a cultural presence in the Deaf community and awaken a sense of Deaf pride. The goal of this category is to expose students to this rich cultural form of Deaf literature. Winning students will demonstrate mastery of the Drum Song by reproducing the Bison Song or creating their own version that is inspiring, poetic, and rhythmic. We are honored to have Russell Harvard, a past Bison Song Team member, decide the final winners!

General Competition Guidelines

1. An introduction signed by the student(s) must be included before signing the Bison Song. Wait 2-3 seconds after the end of the introduction before beginning. The signed introduction must include:
 - a. The signer(s)' first name(s).
 - b. What level of ASL the student(s) is studying
 - c. The title of the drum song (i.e Bison Song)
2. Students may use a drum or clap out the rhythm.
3. All songs must be performed naturally. Reading from scripts, cue cards, "cheat sheets" or copy-signing another individual is not permitted.
4. The songs may be presented individually or with a partner.
5. The student(s) should wear solid contrasting colors with minimal jewelry and hair should be kept away from the face.
6. The background should be neutral and solid. Please give enough space in all directions so signs do not go out of the video frame. *No computer enhanced backgrounds are permitted. Entries with computer enhanced backgrounds will be disqualified.*



Judging Criteria

All entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Clarity

The most important element in presenting in ASL is clarity, which asks this question: *Can my audience understand what I'm signing?* How well is each sign formed?

Key aspects of clarity include:

- Well-formed parameters
- Clear facial expressions and non-manuals
- Confidence in the ability to sign the drum song

2. Rhyme & Rhythm

When signing a Drum Song, it is important to sign on beat. Some areas to focus on:

- Include clapping as the base of your song
- Choose signs with similar handshapes to create rhyme (i.e KNOWLEDGE & SKILL)
- Be creative with sign movement so that it matches the beat of the song (i.e. breaking up the sign ES-TA-BLISHED into 3 beats)
- Move your body. Don't stand still. This form of literature requires a back and forward movement, as well as interaction with your partner and the audience.

3. Presentational Format

Signing for an audience requires a different type of signing than the casual conversation between friends. Presentational communication emphasizes formality appropriate to the situation.

Avoid these common errors:

- Signing off-beat or not in synchrony with partner
- Standing still
- Nervous gestures, such as tucking hair behind the ears, rocking on feet, slouching, and playing with clothes

Things to include:

- Use a larger sign space as drum songs are designed to be viewed from a distance.
- Use facial expressions and non-manual signals deliberately and clearly.
- Sign with artistic motion and musicality. For example, signing school colors alternating with a partner, one signing “red” and the other signing “blue” jumping in front of one another
- Use smooth delivery of signs, rather than appearing uncertain or jerky.

4. Content

How well does the student communicate pride in their school? What school attributes are mentioned? How does the song motivate the audience? Whether it's recreating or performing an original drum song, the judges want to have a clear understanding of their school pride.

Competition Contact & Address

The coordinator of the 2017 ASL Literature competition is Jessica Parker. Questions regarding the competition may be sent to **competitions.aslhs@gmail.com**. Note: Put the phrase "ASL Literature Competition" in the subject heading to facilitate a quick response.

Payment questions may be directed to Bill Newell, **treasurer@aslta.org** with a cc to Jessica Parker **competitions.aslhs@gmail.com**

Mailing Address for All Competition Entry Materials

All USB drives and submission forms should be mailed to the address below. Do not send packets by certified mail or signature-needed delivery, as this will result in a delay.

Jessica Parker
ASL Literature Competition
East High School
4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Mailing Address for Payment Forms and Checks

Bill Newell
ASLTA Treasurer
10413 East Spring Creek Road
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

American Sign Language Honor Society

2017 ASL Literature Competition

COVER SHEET

*This sheet must be attached on top of all registration forms
& completed by the ASL teacher*

Teacher name (print) _____

Teacher email (print) _____

Circle one:	There is an ASLHS chapter at my school	I included an application to form an ASLHS chapter with these entries	I am sending an application to form an ASLHS chapter separately
Circle one:	Our ASLHS chapter is sponsored by an ASLTA member with dues paid for 2016/2017	I included our ASLTA membership form and dues payment with these forms	I am sending an ASLTA membership form and dues payment separately

Name of school (print) _____

School address (print) _____

School phone () _____ - _____

Teacher phone () _____ - _____ (Optional)

How many Bison drum song videos are you registering? _____

How many original school drum song videos are you registering? _____

American Sign Language Honor Society

Eric "Malz" Malzkhn

2017 ASL Literature Competition

Payment Form

This sheet must be filled out by the ASL teacher

Teacher name (print) _____

Teacher email (print) _____

Name of school (print) _____

School address (print) _____

School Phone () _____ - _____

Personal Phone () _____ - _____

School Entry Fee \$25.00 = \$ _____

Including ASLTA and ASLHS dues? (See forms for exact amounts) = \$ _____

2017 competition entry total = \$ _____

Make all checks out to **American Sign Language Teachers Association or ASLTA.**

Send this form and check to:

*ASLTA Treasurer
10413 East Spring Creek Road
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
(Include a copy with Competition Materials)*

American Sign Language Honor Society
Eric "Malz" Malzkhn
2017 ASL Literature Competition

Student Entry Form

This sheet must accompany all entries and be completed by the student

School name _____ ASL Teacher _____

Student name _____ Email _____

Student address _____

How long have you studied ASL? _____ years _____ semesters

Entry Title _____ Circle one: Bison or Original

Entry Title _____ Circle one: Bison or Original

Read & Acknowledge the Following

Yes No

____ I have received minimal assistance from my ASL teacher / professor

____ I understand that if I win in any category, my story may be posted on
ASLHonorSociety.org

____ I understand that all entries become the property of the ASL Honor Society and
will not be returned

I _____ (print student name) acknowledge that the entry or
entries I have submitted represent my own work and ideas.

Student Signature

Date

****If the student entering the 2017 ASL Literature Competition is younger than 18
years of age, please have a parent read and sign the following:**

I give my child _____ (print student name) permission to submit
his/her entry to the 2017 ASL Literature Competition sponsored by the ASL Honor Society. I
understand that if my child places in any category, his/her work may be posted on the ASLHS
home page (<http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>) and other media sites.

Parent Signature

Date

American Sign Language Honor Society
Eric "Malz" Malzkhn
2017 ASL Literature Competition

Submission Checklist

In order to ensure that your submission to the ASLHS Literature Competition goes smoothly, use this checklist to make sure you have completed all of the steps and submitted forms and payments correctly.

- ___ Our school is a chapter of ASLHS with dues paid for 2016/17. (If not go to www.aslhonorsociety.org and retrieve the ASLHS Chapter Membership Form. Your school must be a member of ASLHS before your students can participate)
- ___ The Sponsor of our ASLHS chapter is: _____ and she/he is a member in good standing of the ASLTA with dues paid for the 2016/17 membership cycle. (If not go to www.aslta.org/membership and pay dues before submitting materials to the competition).
- ___ The school has paid a \$25 entry fee and completed the Student Entry Form which is enclosed.
- ___ Sponsor/Teacher complete and submit the following to:
ASLHS Competition Coordinator, Jessica Parker 4025 E Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, Alaska 99508
 - ___ Cover Sheet
 - ___ School Entry Form
 - ___ Student Entry Form (One form for each student submitting an entry)
 - ___ USB thumb drive with all entries clearly organized into folders (see instructions page 4)
 - ___ Payment Form (Do **NOT** send checks to Jessica Parker)
- ___ Sponsor/Teacher complete and submit the following to:
ASLTA Treasurer, Bill Newell 10413 East Spring Creek Rd Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
 - ___ Payment Form
 - ___ Copies of Cover Sheet and School Entry Form
 - ___ Checks
 - ___ ASLHS Chapter Membership Form with check (if applicable)
 - ___ ASLTA Membership Form with check (if applicable)