SPEAKUP365:
Speaker Qualification

Holding a SPEAKUP365 Event

SPEAKUP365 is a year-round effort to prepare Gideons to share the ministry of The Gideons International and the benefits realized in partnering with churches. The need for qualified Gideon speakers is critical. Presently, Gideons in more than 180 international outreach countries and four supported national associations are eager to make distributions—but they are waiting on the funds to needed to supply God’s Word. Offerings from church presentations are one of the main sources of funds to provide these Scriptures.

The qualifying process strengthens the relationship between The Gideons International and churches because of the confidence pastors have regarding the quality of the speakers in their pulpits. SPEAKUP365 allows new speakers to qualify as soon as they express an interest, and camps are encouraged to qualify and requalify speakers throughout the year. The annual SPEAKUP event is the responsibility of the area director; however, camps can organize speaker qualification events, as well.

ORGANIZING SPEAKUP365 IN YOUR AREA

Annual Event Timing—While men can qualify as speakers throughout the year, many camps still plan an annual event typically scheduled the second Saturday in February. It is the ideal event to answer any Gideon’s questions about church presentations and improve the quality of the delivery of our message.

Prepare to Train Throughout the Year—As the area director plans for the yearly SPEAKUP365 event, he should ask camp presidents to suggest men who can attend in February and be trained to train others. These men can go back to their camps and teach others not only how to be qualified as speakers, but also how to conduct the training necessary to qualify and requalify speakers. Camps should encourage potential speakers to be prayer partners first. In addition, encourage church speakers to attend as many Scripture distributions as possible.

When to Requalify—All Gideon presenters should requalify every four years. If a current speaker has received no negative evaluations, he can requalify during an actual church presentation. The procedure is for the speaker to have a prayer partner who would act as the lead evaluator. The pastor serves as the other evaluator, completing Item 215. The prayer partner has the responsibility to collect the evaluation forms and return them to the camp church ministry chairman after the service. You can find out who in your camp needs to requalify by accessing the church presenters report under Church Ministry on theConnection.

Preparing to Qualify—The speaker will create a message outline. This can be reviewed at the camp level prior to the presentation before two camp officers and another camp member as the review panel.
Qualifying Presentation Length—Each speaker will present a ten-minute qualifying presentation.

Using Media—Gideons who are approved to use PowerPoint in their messages are automatically approved to use video, as well. Slides can be found on the SPEAKUP365 resource page. The state church ministry coordinator or his designee should approve the use of personal slide decks.

YOUR SPEAKUP365 RESPONSIBILITIES AS AREA DIRECTOR
The area director makes the following arrangements in preparation for the event:

Location—Choose a church or similar setting.
- Secure all arrangements for the facility.
- Make certain there is adequate parking and that it is clearly identified.
- Check on availability of PowerPoint and video equipment in the facility (screens, projectors, TV and DVD player, etc.).
- Confirm the availability of a pulpit or podium.
- Consider having coffee, bottled water, or other refreshments.
- Prepare travel instructions and/or maps for those attending.

Supplies—Presentation materials are available through the SPEAKUP365 resource page on theConnection (Camp Activities>Church Ministry, under Program Materials).

Presenters—Choose qualified Gideon speakers to help members seeking to qualify, requalify, or qualify for the use of media in presentations. Plan on three to four qualified presenters for every 10–12 prospects.

Prospect Identification—Personally invite Gideons to qualify, requalify, qualify for media use, or to be prayer partners. International Headquarters will send emails and publicize the February event in the Information Bulletin, so your members will be familiar with it. Work with each camp president to identify:

- Men who have previously expressed an interest
- Men who display the qualities and personality of a church presenter
- Current presenters who have not requalified in the last four years (the camp church ministry page on theConnection provides that information)
- Current presenters who have not qualified for PowerPoint media
- Current presenters who want to qualify using approved videos
- Members who could be prayer partners
EVENT AGENDA
Note: Use various Gideons to cover each topic.

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Scripture Reading, and Prayer

9:15 a.m. Purpose of the Gideon Church Presentation

9:25 a.m. Key Components of the Church Presentation
- The Proper Use of Scripture
- The Attention-Getter and Opening
- The Gideon Informational Statement
- Use of PowerPoint and Video
- The Closing Statement
- Role of the Prayer Partner

9:45 a.m. Separate for Tracks

Track 1: Men with Outlines Already Prepared
10:00 a.m. Review and Grade Outlines
10:30 a.m. Qualification Presentations and Evaluations

Track 2: Men Who Need to Prepare an Outline
10:00 a.m. Prepare Outlines
10:30 a.m. Review and Grade Outlines
11:00 a.m. Qualification Presentations and Evaluations

Closing Session
11:45 a.m. Prayer of Commitment and Follow-Up

THE QUALIFICATION EVALUATION PANEL
Working with the area director, the church ministry chairman will assemble the evaluation panel consisting of three Gideons, at least one of whom must be a member of the state leadership team. However, if a member of the state leadership team is unavailable, a special assistant designated by the state church ministry coordinator or church ministry regional program leader may serve as a substitute. That individual will serve as the chairman of the panel.

It is preferable for the evaluators to be qualified church presenters. The evaluation is carried out using the Qualifying Presentation Evaluation (Item 204), which contains the same “yes” or “no” questions on the Evaluation of Gideon Presentation (Item 215). The panel will evaluate the qualifying Gideon using the same criteria a pastor uses for Gideon presentations. The qualifying Gideon should review this form carefully.

Evaluation panels are instructed to hold speakers to a high standard, just as pastors hold them to a high standard in actual church presentations. Under no circumstances should a camp send a less than highly qualified speaker to make a Gideon presentation.
Gideons qualifying with PowerPoint should either use slides from the slide library available in *theConnection* or their own slides with the approval of the state church ministry chairman or his designee. Someone other than members of the qualifying panel should advance the slides. Gideons who qualify with PowerPoint, are automatically qualified to use video.

After the qualifying presentation, the panel chairman will summarize the three evaluations and review the details with the presenter. Be aware that any “no” answer from a member of the panel will disqualify the presentation. The chairman’s summary will provide a detailed explanation of any “no” responses. The single most commonly heard criticism from pastors is that the speaker went over time. Presenters should give 15 to 30 seconds back to the pastor.

If a Gideon doesn’t qualify, he may try again. The church ministry chairman and the qualifying speaker will schedule a second evaluation before the session is adjourned.

**IMPORTANT PRESENTATION CONTENT REMINDERS**

When Using the Church Bulletin—The church bulletin (Item 209) should be mentioned when it is used. It includes a Quick Response (QR) code that allows “immediate” donations to be made with a tablet or a smartphone. The speaker should ensure the church bulletin is in use before mentioning it in his presentation.

Statement about The Life Book—The following language is acceptable when describing The Life Book:

> You would be interested to know that we have a unique avenue of distribution to help reach the youth of America. This program, which is facilitated through church youth pastors, involves an in-school, peer-to-peer distribution of The Life Book by Christian high school youth to their classmates.

> The Life Book began in 2010. Since then, more than 29 million copies of The Life Book, which contains within it the Gospel of John and Gospel of Mark, have been provided to Christian youth for distribution to their peers. This new avenue of distribution further strengthens our long-standing program of placing the Word of God into the hands of young people.

Statement Made about Finances—As an Association, we hold to the highest level of integrity. For this reason, we must accurately communicate with our donors. According to the Guide Book, it is improper for a Gideon to say in a presentation simply that 100% of contribution are used for Scriptures. Rather, it is correct to say:

> For an investment of less than a dollar and twenty cents, you can provide for the purchase and placement of a Scripture somewhere in the world. This includes all the costs involved in getting a Scripture into the hands of someone who needs it.

Again, please do not make any “100%” claims in your Gideon presentation.

Statement Made about Friends of Gideons—The International Cabinet has approved the following message to be shared at the close of a church presentation:
You may be interested in the benefits of registering as a Friend of Gideons. Information can be found at www.gideons.org/friends. If interested, please see me at the conclusion of the service.

**SUPPLY LIST**

- Event agenda (make copies for all attendees)
- Area director's list of Gideons to qualify as presenters
- Key Components of the Church Presentation (download)
- Introduction and Tips on Polishing Your Public Speaking (download)
- The Role of the Prayer Partner (download)
- Current church presentation and testimony videos (download)
- Presentation Outline Worksheet (Item 212)
- Sample Presentation Outline Worksheet
- Presentation Outline Evaluation (Item 210)
- Sample presentation script
- Qualifying Presentation Evaluation (Item 204)
- Evaluation of Gideon Presentation (Item 215)
- Timing devices (watches, stopwatches)
- DVD player or DVD projector/screen
- Pulpit or podium
- Gideon Bibles and New Testaments (to use in qualifying presentations)
- Follow-up list