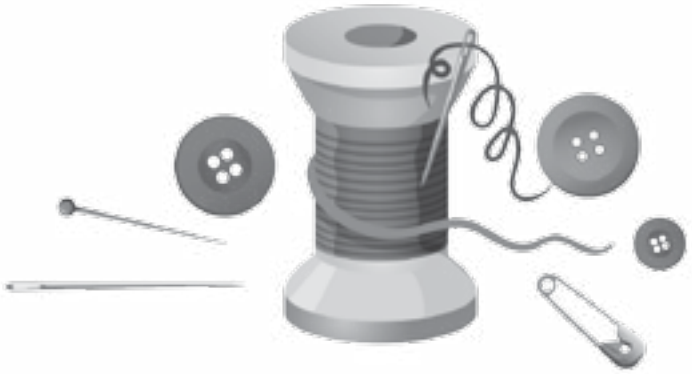
SECTION V
Needle and Thread Division



All categories are for **FEMALE** contestants only. Contestants must make girls'/ladies' garments (except in crochet and knitting). No children's garments are permitted, as well as other projects, except in crochet and knitting. No full-size afghans are permitted in these two categories. Contestants are allowed to submit one entry per category and must not receive help on their projects other than instructions.

All fashions must meet A.C.E. dress requirements. Do not submit miniskirts, slacks, pantsuits, shorts, bathing suits, sleepwear, or garments with low necklines. Slits in skirts/dresses must meet the A.C.E. dress standard—slit no higher than the bottom of the knee. These rules also apply to the subjects used in **Needlework** entries. Thin or "see-through" fabrics must be fully lined WITH OPAQUE MATERIAL; LACE MATERIAL IS SEE-THROUGH.

No Needle/Thread entry should attempt to portray the face or image of Christ.

Please note: **Latch-hook** is not allowed. Projects must be **completely** finished to be eligible. The contestant is encouraged to be creative and vary from the pattern. If this is done, the differences should be explained on the Needle/Thread Report (CF49). Points are given for originality.

ALL NEEDLE/THREAD ENTRIES MUST HAVE BEEN STARTED AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, and work on the project must be done *entirely* by the student. Exception: Quilts – see Quilts under NEEDLEWORK for more information.

Checklist for Needle and Thread:

1. Pattern (only those pieces used).
2. Needle/Thread Report (CF49).
3. Judge's Forms—Three (3) copies with name, school, customer number, address, and entry **(FOR REGIONAL CONVENTION ONLY).**
4. A 3" x 5" card MUST be attached to each piece of the entry with the following information: print or type the student's name, school name, customer number, school address, city, state/province, ZIP/Postal Code, and category entered.
5. Plastic bag to hold pattern, Needle/Thread Report, and Judge's Forms. (JUDGE'S FORMS FOR REGIONAL CONVENTION ONLY.) Attach bag to hanger of garments. Attach with safety pin to Needlework entry, or secure to back of frame as applicable.
6. A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF GARMENT BEING MODELED. (This does not apply to Needlecraft items such as sweaters.)

Note to Sponsor: Be sure the contestant enters her project in the correct category. Review the Judge's Forms to see where points are given and make sure that the entry includes each point. Seam finishes are judged according to the work involved as well as neatness. **Christian appearance is a must in all entries.**

GARMENTS

1. **Coordinates**—Two pieces only. Select one of the combinations: skirt and blouse; jumper and blouse; two-piece dress; or culottes and blouse. **Use appropriate fabric for coordinates.**
2. **Dresses**—church dresses, casual dresses, tailored dresses one piece only, materials used must meet A.C.E. guidelines.
3. **Formals**—full-length (to the shoe top) dress or fancy blouse and skirt combination. **No uneven hems.** The hems may be altered after competition to tea length or uneven hems if the student prefers those styles. Materials used must meet A.C.E. guidelines. Use appropriate fabric for formals.
4. **Coats/Suits**—raincoats and overcoats must be three-fourths (3/4) or dress length (**NO JACKETS) and fully lined.** The three-fourths length coat is to be just below the fingertips when the arms are held straight down at the sides. Suits (2-piece minimum) should meet A.C.E. dress requirements and be **fully lined**. A portion of the lining on all garments in this category must be left open for judging.

NO SERGED SEAMS on garments. There is no way to judge a serged seam against a hand/machine-finished seam. **NOTE:** Serging may be used to finish a seam, as you would use a zig-zag stitch. Each piece of fabric needs to be seamed separately. See Hints from the Needle/Thread Judges.

COORDINATES/DRESSES/FORMALS JUDGING CRITERIA

Areas of Evaluation

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Meets A.C.E. Guidelines appearance—Length, cut, modesty	(1-10)
Pattern and photograph submitted	(1-5)
Creativity—Pattern changes, color changes, originality	(1-10)
Overall beauty—Coordination of colors and accessories (such as buttons and bows), matching of plaids, etc.	(1-10)
Stitching—Machine and hand	(1-15)
Seam finish	(1-10)
Zipper, buttonholes, or fastenings	(1-10)
Sleeve set and detail	(1-10)
Collar/neckline detail	(1-5)
Hem detail	(1-10)
Proper documentation submitted	(1-5)
TOTAL POINTS	**(100)**

COATS/SUITS JUDGING CRITERIA

Areas of Evaluation

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Pattern and photograph submitted	(1-5)
Creativity—Pattern changes, color changes, originality	(1-10)
Overall beauty—Coordination of colors and accessories (such as buttons and bows), matching of plaids, etc.	(1-10)
Stitching—Machine and hand	(1-10)
Seam finish	(1-10)
Buttonholes, zippers, or fastenings	(1-10)
Sleeve set and detail	(1-10)
Collar/neckline detail	(1-10)
Hem detail	(1-5)
Lining and interfacing	(1-10)
Proper documentation submitted	(1-5)
Meets A.C.E. Guidelines	(1-5)
TOTAL POINTS	**(100)**

NEEDLECRAFT

1. **Counted Cross-Stitch—No stamped** cross-stitch will be accepted. Pictures must be framed without glass. The back of all work must be accessible for judging. Example: tablecloths, place mats, pictures, samplers.
2. **Embroidery**—Decorating fabric with embroidery floss or thread. The back of all work must be accessible for judging. Pictures must be framed without glass. No counted cross-stitch, see "Counted Cross-Stitch" category. "Punch and sew" embroidery will not be accepted. Only regular "needle and thread" embroidery will be judged. Examples: scarves, pillowcases, tablecloths, hand towels, borders for skirts, pillows, pictures, samplers.
3. **Crochet**—Examples: baby afghans (no dimension smaller than 36 inches and no dimension larger than 48 inches), shawls, tablecloths, dresses, sweaters, baby garment sets (sweater, cap, mittens, or booties).
4. **Knitting—Machine knitting not allowed**. Examples: baby afghans (no dimension smaller than 36 inches and no dimension larger than 48 inches), shawls, tablecloths, dresses, sweaters, baby garment sets (sweater, cap, mittens, or booties).
5. **Afghans** –Afghans may be either crocheted or knitted. No baby afghans in this category. **Minimum size is 50" x 70".**
6. **Quilts**—May be machine or hand constructed. (Hand-constructed quilts will receive higher points.) **Minimum size is 50" x 70".** Quilts must have been started and completed within fifteen months of Regional Convention. See Hints from the Needle/Thread Judges.

COUNTED CROSS-STITCH AND EMBROIDERY JUDGING CRITERIA

Areas of Evaluation

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Pattern submitted	(1-5)
Creativity—Pattern changes, color changes, originality	(2-20)
Overall beauty	(1-15)
Technique—Difficulty and variety of stitches	(1-15)
Uniformity of stitches	(2-20)
Finishing—Thread ends secured, preferably no knots	(1-10)
Blocking	(1-10)
Proper documentation submitted	(1-5)
TOTAL POINTS	**(100)**

CROCHET, KNITTING, AND AFGHANS JUDGING CRITERIA

Areas of Evaluation

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Pattern submitted	(1-5)
Creativity—Pattern changes, color changes, originality	(1-10)
Overall beauty	(1-10)
Technique—Difficulty of stitches, variety of stitches	(1-15)
Uniformity of stitches	(1-15)
Gauge	(1-10)
Finishing—Thread ends secured, preferably no knots	(1-10)
Blocking	(1-10)
Proper documentation submitted	(1-10)
Meets A.C.E. Guidelines	(1-10)
TOTAL POINTS	**(100)**

QUILTS JUDGING CRITERIA

Areas of Evaluation

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Pattern submitted	(1-5)
Creativity—Pattern changes, color changes, originality	(1-15)
Overall beauty	(1-15)

Quilt top	(2-20)
Quilting stitches—Uniformity, size, hand- or machine-stitching goes through all layers of quilt	(2-20)
Size—Meets Convention Guidelines	(1-10)
Finishing for presentation	(1-10)
Proper documentation submitted	(1-5)
TOTAL POINTS	**(100)**

CREATIVE SEWING

Students develop practical, real-life sewing skills by learning and applying basic techniques through this event. Creative Sewing includes small, sewn, non-garment items created by the contestant. These projects should demonstrate careful sewing technique, creativity, and finishing skills on a smaller scale than garments or quilts. This category is intended for items such as stuffed animals, decorative pillows, pillowcases, hand towels, small bags, aprons, household fabric items, and similar craft-type sewing projects.

Items must be primarily constructed using fabric and sewn by hand or machine. Creative Sewing entries **may not** be garments (see Garments categories) and **may not** qualify as Quilts.

Example Entries:

- Stuffed fabric items (e.g., teddy bear, doll, soft toys)
- Decorative pillows or pillowcases
- Aprons (full or half apron)
- Tote bags, pouches, drawstring bags
- Table runners, placemats, fabric organizers
- Small fabric home-decor projects
- Seasonal fabric decor (e.g., Christmas, autumn, patriotic)
- Bible covers

(Examples are not exhaustive. Projects must follow all Needle and Thread standards. See page V-1 of the *Student Convention Guidelines*.)

CREATIVE SEWING JUDGING CRITERIA

Areas of Evaluation

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Pattern Submitted (if applicable)	(1-5)
Creativity—Pattern changes, color changes, originality, functionality	(1-15)
Overall beauty—Choice and coordination of fabrics, embellishments, design	(1-15)
Construction quality—Machine/hand stitching, detail, accuracy, durability	(1-20)
Seam finish—Appropriate and neat finishing techniques	(1-10)
Finishing details—Stuffing, closures, pressing, edging, appearance	(1-15)
Difficulty—Complexity of design and techniques used	(1-15)
Proper documentation submitted	(1-5)
TOTAL POINTS	**(100)**

HINTS FROM THE NEEDLE/THREAD JUDGES

The qualities the judges look for are originality and careful attention to details. High points are given for neatness, cleanliness, uniformity, and precision (finishing for presentation).

GARMENTS: Be creative. Fit your pattern to meet your body shape and size, and the color should be appropriate for your personal color palette. It is very important to be modest. Pay close attention to where seams, buttons, decorations, necklines, and hemlines are positioned.

Use the right size and type needle for your chosen material. Remove all gathering and stay-stitching. Grade all seams and top stitch facings. Blind hemstitch all hems, hiding as much of the stitching as possible. Attach hooks and eyes as smoothly as possible (no bulky stitches). Smooth sewing adds points in two areas, "Hand Stitching" and "Overall Beauty." Finish seams, even those under your lining. (A portion of the lining must be left open for judging).

Higher points will be received for the more difficult seam finishes. A proper seam finish should be used according to the type of material. Wools are usually bound, crepes need French seams. Zigzag and pinked seam finishes are the easiest and will receive the least points. **Serging is only allowed for finishing.** Pressing as you sew is very important. Even though a garment is slightly wrinkled en route to the Convention, the correct pressing of each part as it is assembled will be evident to the judges. Bound buttonholes, where appropriate, will receive higher points than machine buttonholes. Cover all shoulder pads. Try to stay away from "key hole" openings. Replace them with buttons and buttonholes or a zipper. Choose appropriate fabric and pattern for the category.

NEEDLEWORK: It is best not to have any knots or loose ends. When working with an even number of threads, you may cut your thread twice the length needed, fold in half, thread loose ends through eye of needle, bring needle up from back side of fabric, go down and catch loop end of thread with needle. Now you have started your work without knots or loose ends. To tie off without knots, simply hide ends in same color thread as previous stitches.

When framing your needlework picture, DO NOT PUT GLASS in the frame. The glass distorts stitches and makes judging difficult.

QUILTS: Quilting stitches (the stitches that go through all layers of the quilt) are what the judges are looking for. "Tying" is very easy, and cannot compare to actual "quilting." Hand-quilting will receive higher points than machine-quilting.