

# FAQ:

frequently asked questions...



**Q: I come to Area 9 festivals mainly to ring, experience new music, and test my sight-reading skills. Will there be enough for me to experience at Summit?**

A: Absolutely! If you're coming with your full ensemble, there will still be massed ringing under our festival clinicians, which is big part of what ringers enjoy about our biennial event. Also, there are now "All-Rings", which are 2 hr-20 min sessions with Beth Judd and Karen Thompson, that are perfect for those who prefer more ringing experience at Summit. For the All-Ring, the music selection will be provided upon registration. If you don't already have the music in your music library, the music will be available for purchase at Summit. This is a great opportunity to test-drive music with your ensemble, or as an individual ringer, and bring new ideas to your ensemble's repertoire!

**Q: That's not necessarily me — I prefer coming to Area 9 festivals more for the education aspect. What's being offered to me?**

A: We've got you covered! Area 9 is really excited to be offering an entire track this year for bell-trees, being led by the amazing Barbara Brocker, who mostly recently performed at the National Seminar in Minneapolis in 2011! This will be a fun opportunity to see what bell trees can offer your handbell ministry and your ringers (sponsored by GHHA). Of course, we'll also be offering classes in bass and treble technique, notes on youth/children's ensembles, help for beginning directors, bell maintenance, thoughts on making the most of your music, and a variety of others! Whether you're a new or seasoned ringer or director, we'll have classes and tracks that fit your needs!

**Q: I like ringing in concerts, but I like attending concerts as well, and enjoy the Showcase Ensemble's concert each festival. Will there be concerts at Summit?**

A: Definitely! The great part about Area 9 is that we really have some phenomenal talent from all over Texas and Oklahoma, and we'd like to let everyone experience as much of that as possible at Summit 2012! Instead of having one "Showcase Ensemble" as in previous Area festivals, we will have several concert opportunities!

**Q: I'm looking for a challenge, and really enjoyed 2010's Festival Choir. Will there be another opportunity like this at the 2012 Summit?**

A: Yes! And we've taken it one step further — the 2012 All-Star Ensemble will be audition-only, and will have more intimate rehearsal with Michael Glasgow! Auditions will be held between 11am and 3:30pm on Friday, June 22nd, and announcement of acceptance and ringing positions will be made that day. All-Star repertoire will be available for purchase at Summit. Rehearsals with Michael will run through the festival weekend, and the All-Star Ensemble will then perform at the final concert on Sunday, June 24th!

**Q: I'm excited to be heading to Conroe! Where should I stay during Summit weekend?**

A: There are a lot of places available near the Convention Center for varying tastes and budgets, so it's up to you! Mapquest is a great resource — go to [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com), type in the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center's address, and Mapquest can then list all available hotels and bed and breakfasts in the immediate area.

**Q: I'm not sure I can attend the whole weekend, but would love to attend some classes — can I register for one day only?**

A: Sure can! Daily registrations are available for each day!

**Q: I'd love to go, but I'm not sure my whole group can. Can I come as an individual ringer?**

A: Of course! We have made it a point to make Summit 2012 an individual- and group-friendly festival, so that anyone who would like to come, can, and will get as much out of the festival as possible! While we encourage groups to come so that they can build camaraderie and learn together as an ensemble, we also know that this isn't always possible for some groups, and it's just as great for individual ringers to be able to experience everything they can at Summit, and be able to bring back that experience to their ensemble at home!

**Q: There's such a variety of experience in my group, some beginners, and some that have rung together for quite a while. Is there going to be something for each of my fellow ringers there?**

A: Most definitely — New and experienced directors alike, beginning ringers, seasoned ringers looking to improve their musicianship/technique, and even those who ring in community or auditioned ensembles will have opportunities to learn and develop their skills behind the table!

**Q: Where's Conroe, and what is there to do outside Summit?**

A: Conroe is just 40 miles north of Houston on I-45, "the Urban Jewel of the Piney Woods." Visit the Conroe Visitors' Bureau at <http://www.conroecvb.net/index.cfm> to look at opportunities for dining and nightlife in Conroe!