

**The Wisconsin State FFA Honors Chorus- Peter Engh-Director**  
**Deanna Barkhaus- Assistant Director**

June 6, 2021

**Dear 2021 Wisconsin State FFA Honors Chorus Member,**

I would like to congratulate you on being selected for membership into the 2021 Wisconsin State FFA Honors Chorus. It has been a very trying year for all of us and now it looks like we can sing together again. You have been chosen from many applicants from throughout our state to represent yourselves, your communities and our FFA organization in public performances at the Wisconsin State FFA Convention and the Wisconsin State Fair. **Note: Please check the part you are singing. It may be different than what you auditioned for.**

The dates for the State Convention are July 6-8, 2021 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The dates for the State Fair in Milwaukee are August 12-15, 2021. You must be committed to all of these dates as your attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. If you are unable to fulfill this obligation, please notify me as soon as possible.

Note: If you are an officer candidate or are receiving awards, you will be excused for the required activities but are expected to make every effort to attend rehearsals as much as possible. As a member of the FFA Chorus you are required to attend both the **State FFA Convention and the Wisconsin State Fair.**

**Masking information: Per Dane County guidelines, we are recommending that those of you that are not vaccinated continue to wear masks while in public. If things do change, we will change with it.**

***The convention schedule is as follows:***

**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

8:30am Registration for Members begins at the Clarion Suites Hotel  
9-12 Band/Chorus Rehearsal  
1-4pm Rehearsal Resumes  
6:00pm Rehearsal Resumes  
7-7:50 Move to Convention Hall for Pre-session Concert  
8:10 *Chorus performance (one song)-If this doesn't happen Solo Tryouts for all songs*

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

8-12am Full Chorus Rehearsal (Performance may happen at sometime)  
1-4 Full Chorus Rehearsal  
6:15 Warm up for Performance in Convention Hall  
6:30-7:30pm Pre-Session performance for both Band and Chorus  
7:30-9 *Somewhere in this time we may perform one song*  
9:30 approx. Performance near the end of the session (God Bless America)

**Thursday, July 8, 2021**

8:00-8:50 Pre-session performance  
In-Session Band and Chorus Spotlight

State FFA Honors Band and Chorus members are required to stay with their FFA chapters during the State FFA Convention. No separate housing is arranged for them at that event.

**Other Important Items:**

**\*\*Band and Chorus members will need to be in full official dress for all performances at the State Convention. Note; It is imperative that this be adhered to. Also please note for females when wearing skirts, you must have the proper length. An official FFA Dress skirt is at the knee or just below, no mini or long skirts will be allowed. Further, it is recommended that the girls wear black nylons with a closed toe black shoe. Covid protocols are, you must wear a mask at all times during rehearsal and performances.**

**\*\*New Members especially take note:** At the State Fair, official dress can become very hot. Because of this, we are allowed to wear an alternate “uniform”. **You are REQUIRED to purchase an FFA Choir Polo** for the State Fair. We also make T-shirts, sweatshirts and other commemorative items available each year. To order, the following link will be available by July 8th and orders need to be in by July 26th. <http://www.bbgraphics.net/ffa choir.html> Questions will be answered at the Convention.

Music should have been sent to all Chorus members this year. Music will cost each chorus member \$15. Please make checks payable to the Wisconsin FFA Center.

**\*\*National Chorus Applications are due July 15th. Ask your choir director to help you NOW if you feel you can do a better job than what you sent in for your State Audition. Here is the link; <https://convention.ffa.org/band-chorus-talent/>**

**State Fair (August 12-15, 2021 at State Fair Park in West Allis)**

Again, your selection to this ensemble requires your commitment to attend both State Convention and State Fair. If this changes, we must know immediately. Members will need to arrive by 11:00 am on Thursday, August 12th and will rehearse at 1pm that afternoon.

***The Health Form for the Wisconsin State Fair is included in this mailing and needs to be returned to us at Convention, along with a check for \$50 per student (check to WI FFA CENTER). COVID Vaccination information is requested in case contact tracing is necessary.***

Performance Attire for all performances is the FFA Band polo, khaki pants or skirt, socks (dark) and dark (brown) closed toe shoes. No shorts. Please be professional.

State Fair Schedule for WI State FFA Honors Band and Chorus will be given to each member at State Convention

Thursday, August 12, 2021 - arrive by 11:00 am

Friday, August 13, 2021

Saturday, August 14, 2021

Sunday, August 15, 2021-Final performances will be finished around 1 pm

**Parking/Housing Information:**

Housing-Participants staying in the Youth Center receive a wristband which covers Fair admission, lodging, and breakfast each day in the Youth Center. Each air-conditioned Youth Center room includes 6 beds, a bathroom with a single shower unit, two sinks, and a toilet. Participants will need to bring their own bedding (sleeping bags, sheets, pillows), towels, toiletries and other accessories. Youth Center curfew is at 11 pm. All participants are expected to adhere to the “Junior General Rules and Regulations” and “Youth Center Rules and Regulations.”

**TRAVELING TO WISCONSIN STATE FAIR**

Information about this is available on the Wisconsin State Fair website. Please note that for everyone’s safety and convenience, local authorities allow only right-hand turns in and out of Fair gates during the Fair.

## TOMMY G. THOMPSON YOUTH CENTER VEHICLE ACCESS

The Gate 5 Vehicle Access Permit temporarily allows vehicles to access the Youth Center parking lot at Gate 5 (84th Street and Schlinger Avenue) to drop off/pick up participants and/or luggage at the Youth Center upon arrival and departure. The vehicle access permit MUST be visible on the dashboard of your vehicle to enter Gate 5. Vehicle parking and admission to the Fair is not included with this access permit.

NOTE: A 30-minute temporary Youth Center parking permit is provided to you at the State Convention. Vehicles parked in the Youth Center lot longer than the allotted time (30 minutes) will be towed. After unloading, exit Gate 5 and proceed to another Wisconsin State Fair parking gate or park outside of the Fair Park. There is no access to general vehicle parking from Gate 5.

## OVERNIGHT PARKING

We highly recommend arranging transportation so participants can be dropped off at the Youth Center to avoid parking vehicles overnight. Youth Expo participants who bring a vehicle and wish to park overnight are encouraged to use the free off-site exhibitor Blue Ribbon Parking located one mile east of the Fair Park. The Blue Ribbon Parking lot is located on 70th Street about ½ mile south of I-94. This free lot will have 24-hour security, in and out access and overnight parking. A free shuttle will be run continuously for the duration of the Fair. The shuttle will pick up and drop off near Gate 5. If you have any questions or concerns throughout your Fair experience please contact; Brianna Stankey 414-750-0872 [youthexpo@wistatefair.com](mailto:youthexpo@wistatefair.com)

### Reminders:

- a. Remember your towel and bedding.....essentials...MUSIC
- b. Bring some spending money-note that one meal daily is provided so you will need money for 2 meals per day.
- c. You have a curfew of 11pm each night. If you miss this, you will be sent home. Your parent or advisor will receive a call and you will wait in the lobby until they arrive, even if late at night.
- d. Remember your towel and bedding.....essential...MUSIC and STAND TOO
- e. No surprises, let me know if there are any problems with your attendance. Honor this commitment. Fair is a blast, and you WILL enjoy it. Don't take it for granted.
- f. Shirt orders will be passed out at the fair beginning at 11am on Thursday. YOU MUST HAVE POLO!!!

Finally, we have always had a great time at the fair. We expect you to maintain the high levels of performance and character that we have always exhibited. See you in a few weeks!!!!

**\*\*Join us on REMIND for text updates:** Text @stateffach to 81010 on your cell phone to sign up.

This has been an exceptional experience for all involved in the past and I look forward to continuing that tradition with all of you. Congratulations.

Peter Engh

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### ***Checklist for members (what to bring to Convention):***

\_\_\_\_\_ Pencil

\_\_\_\_\_ Music

\_\_\_\_\_ FFA Apparel