



Wisconsin Association of FFA State FFA Honors Chorus General Information DUE – February 12, 2020

The State FFA Honors Chorus consists of about eighty to ninety vocalists which rehearse and perform at both the State FFA Convention and the Wisconsin State Fair. These members are selected through an application and a recorded audition reviewed by the State FFA Honors Chorus director. No FFA member will be allowed to participate in the State FFA Honors Chorus for more than a total of five (5) years. Notifications will take place of acceptance the first week of May or earlier. State Chorus pins will be awarded to each band member following the last performance at State Fair.

Applications should be submitted only by those who will be available at these MANDATORY FFA Honors Chorus functions. These functions include the following:

1. **State FFA Convention:** In June, the State FFA Convention is held in the Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center of Dane County in Madison.
 - a. Local chapters are responsible for housing and covering expenses of members participating in the chorus.
 - b. No special housing arrangements are made for the chorus members.
2. **Wisconsin State Fair:** In August, the chorus performs at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis, Wisconsin.
 - a. Participants will be housed and provided meals in the State Fair dormitory located on State Fair grounds.
 - b. Each member will be charged \$50 for lodging, meals and admission at the Fair. (The State FFA Association will cover the balance of the expenses for the above items.) This amount will need to be paid by June 1 to confirm participation.
 - c. Entry forms **will be** filled out prior to the State FFA Convention and submitted to the Wisconsin FFA Center by June 1. The State FFA Executive Director will officially enter members as participants of the State Fair.

FFA Chorus members are also required (after selected) to pay \$15.00 for their music. Members then keep their music following performances. The fee must be paid to the Wisconsin FFA Center at the same time as the State Fair lodging fee.

FFA members who apply for State FFA Honors Chorus are expected to totally fulfill their commitment if selected. Only extenuating circumstances should prevent an applicant from participating. It shall be the responsibility of the FFA Honors Chorus member and local FFA Advisor to notify the State FFA Honors Chorus Director and the Wisconsin FFA Center if difficulties arise.

Every chorus member should recognize the need for commitment, if the total group is to meet its potential. Complete responsibility to the other members is a must. If the applicant is not reasonably certain as to their availability, they should not apply.

THREE STEP APPLICATION PROCESS – DUE / POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 12

STEP ONE: Audition – Audio Recording

Please read the Application Instructions for specific instructions in creating a recorded audition. Recorded auditions are emailed directly to: peter.engh@westby-norse.org

All recorded auditions must be the work of the applicant and should be a top-quality performance to accurately review the applicant's vocal ability.

STEP TWO: Entry Fee

The vocal applicant must send a \$10 entry fee with the application to cover processing, mailings and related expenses.

Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin FFA Center**

All applications must include an entry fee to be accepted.

Application and \$10 entry fee must be SENT (via postal carrier) to:

Cheryl Zimmerman
State FFA Executive Director
Wisconsin FFA Center
P.O. Box 110
Spencer, WI 54479

STEP THREE: Application

Please print the Choral Application, Verification of Commitment, and Director's Evaluation. Complete and secure signatures before returning.

A COMPLETE STATE FFA HONORS CHORUS APPLICATION INCLUDES

Audio submission **EMAILED** by 11:59 pm on February 12, 2020 to Peter Engh at peter.engh@westby-norse.org

- ___ Recorded Audition
- ___ Director's Evaluation

Send BOTH in one email if possible

ALL paper pieces must be postmarked to the Wisconsin FFA Center by February 12.

- ___ \$10 Entry Fee included with paper application
- ___ Wisconsin State Honors Chorus Application
- ___ Verification of Commitment

If any piece of your application is missing it will not be reviewed and you forfeit your entry fee.

National FFA Chorus Nominations

Application for the National FFA Chorus is optional. From the selected applicants, the State FFA Honors Chorus Director will select those individuals they feel are qualified to be nominated for the National FFA Chorus.

National FFA Chorus nominations will be announced at the State FFA Convention. Once an individual is nominated, they will receive the proper application to be forwarded to the National FFA Chorus director. If selected for National FFA Chorus, members would perform at the National FFA Convention.

Money may be available through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Inc. to assist National Chorus participants with expenses. To participate in the National Chorus, a member must participate at **both** State FFA Convention and Wisconsin State Fair.



Wisconsin Association of FFA

State FFA Honors Chorus

AUDITION RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

DUE by 11:59 p.m. on February 12, 2020

For Wisconsin FFA Chorus Applicants, an electronic recorded audition must be submitted to Peter Engh. Recording is simple...and allows the director to properly place you for this prestigious chorus.

Use recording equipment that is of high quality. Each year there are students who are not selected because the recording is of low quality.

When emailing your recording follow the noted template:

SUBJECT LINE: First Name, Last Name, State FFA Honor Chorus Audition

CONTENT OF EMAIL: Student's Full Given Name

- a. Voice Part
- b. Chapter Name
- c. Personal Address
- d. Contact Phone
- e. Email Address

All recordings must be the work of the applicant applying and be a top-quality performance which accurately represents the student's vocal ability. Audition files will not be returned.

Begin your recording following these steps:

Step 1: Slowly announce your name (first and last), chapter and address (including state).

Step 2: Repeat your name and then give your voice part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass).

Step 3: Starting on any comfortable pitch, sing (unaccompanied) the song "America The Beautiful" (Oh beautiful for spacious skies, etc.)

- Be sure to sing the melody and please keep the tempo between 96 and 110bpm.
- Sing one verse expressively and accurately without scooping in and out of pitches.
- You are auditioning for an ensemble, not a solo.

Step 4: Sing a 2-octave scale using the sentence "Name's 2020 audition" on each note. Example: "Suzie Snowflake's 2020 audition."

- For this part of the recording, do not sing softly, but sing with a full voice on each note.
- If you have access to a piano, you can play the pitch before singing each sentence, but when you sing the words, you should sing unaccompanied.
- Please connect (do not breathe in between) two or more sentences.
- Sing the entire sentence on each note of the ascending major scale.
- You can sing these words with any rhythm that you choose, but sing them slowly on each pitch.
- You should sing through register breaks with beautiful tone through-out your range.
- All singers should demonstrate they can use their upper register.

OPTIONAL: If you would like to record additional singing, you may do so **AFTER** the required audition. It is not important to membership in the National Chorus that you do anything with this part of the audition. ***This is strictly optional.*** If you are including additional audition material, please say this at the beginning of your audition recording. This is important as the Director may not know to continue listening past the fourth section of these instructions.

National Chorus recommendations are made by the State FFA Chorus Director. Students interested in being considered for the National Chorus should do so by checking the appropriate area of the paper application. National nominations will be announced at the FFA State Convention.

Send both the Recorded Audition and Director's Recommendation in one email if possible. Both documents must be emailed by 11:59 pm on February 12 to: peter.engh@westby-norse.org

The recorded audition is ONLY one piece of your State FFA Honor Chorus application. In addition the following MUST be sent to the Wisconsin FFA Center: 1) Paper application, 2) Verification of Commitment, and 3) \$10 Entry Fee must be postmarked by February 12.

Remit \$10 entry fee to Wisconsin FFA Center

Send to: Cheryl Zimmerman
Wisconsin FFA Center
PO Box 110
Spencer, WI 54479



WI State FFA Honors Chorus Application

Must be postmarked by February 12

This form, the Verification of Commitment, and the entry fee mailed to Wisconsin FFA Center.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Membership Number: _____ Age: _____ Year in School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: WI Zip: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Name of parent(s)/guardian(s): _____

Complete FFA chapter name: _____ Chapter #: _____

Primary Advisor: _____

Advisor's Email Address: _____

Name of High School: _____

School Address: _____

School City: _____ State: WI Zip: _____ School Phone #: (____) _____

Have you ever been a member of the State FFA Chorus: ___ No ___ Yes (# of years: ___)

Vocal Part: _____

1. List the name of solo's sung, if any, the rating in state or other contests, or any other statement of experience which especially applies to you:

2. List any Musical Honors earned (e.g. Show Choir Soloist Awards, Local Honors Chorus, All State Chorus...)

3. Do you want to be considered for National FFA Chorus nomination? ___ No ___ Yes

We have examined this application and find the information is true, accurate, and complete. By submitting this form I understand the commitment involved in the Honors Chorus and agree to honor it if selected.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____



WI State FFA Honors Chorus Application

Verification of Commitment

Print this page to complete and return.

Student Name: _____ **Chapter Name:** _____

If I am selected as a member of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Honors Chorus, I am committed to perform at both the Wisconsin State FFA Convention and the Wisconsin State Fair.

If for some reason I am unable to attend the Wisconsin State Fair performance. I agree to reimburse the Wisconsin Association of FFA for the full expenses incurred for my room and board at the Wisconsin State Fair during the time of the State FFA Honors Chorus Performances.

FFA members selected for the Wisconsin FFA Honors Chorus agree upon their selection that they will participate in both of the required events, unless in an extreme situation that has been approved by the State FFA Honors Chorus Director.

I understand that if I am considered a "No Show" at either of these events, that I will forfeit the privilege to apply and participate in the FFA Honors Chorus the following year.

Candidates Name (*printed*): _____ **Date:** _____

Candidates Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

We confirm that this student is aware of the expectations for participating in all aspects of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Honors Chorus and understands the consequences of not following through with this commitment.

Parent/Guardian's Name (*printed*): _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Chapter Advisor's Name (*printed*): _____ **Date:** _____

Chapter Advisor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



WI State FFA Honors Chorus Application Director's Evaluation

Print this page for your choral director to complete. *Remind choral director to email completed document to Peter Engh with recorded audition if possible (email at the bottom of this document).*

Student Name: _____ Chapter Name: _____

This section is to be completed and certified by a choral director/music teacher. This information is confidential.

VOICE

Voice Part (mark one): ___ Soprano ___ Alto ___ Tenor ___ Bass

Indicate range (No Falsetto):

ABILITY

	Excellent	Above Average	Fair	Weak
Sight-reading				
Tone Quality				
Intonation				
Rhythmic Accuracy				
Leadership				

Applicant's previous choral participation and experience:

Names of solos or statement of experience which qualifies the applicant:

Recommended By:

Directors Name (*printed*): _____ Date: _____

Directors Signature: _____

(Please email this completed evaluation to peter.ENGH@westby-norse.org with recorded audition if possible)