



NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS PRE-APPLICATION INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the National FFA Band & Chorus for the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo! This document contains the essential information to consider before applying to the National FFA music programs. A final, detailed packet will be provided to those accepted into the programs in August. **All information in this packet is subject to change.**

ELIGIBILITY

- Members applying to the National FFA Band or Chorus must be at least 14 years old and a freshman in high school during the 2024 National FFA Convention & Expo.
- Members applying can be no older than 21 years old or a sophomore in college, whichever comes first, during convention.
- Incoming freshmen who do not yet have an FFA ID are eligible to apply as long as their new advisor approves their application and verifies that they will become a member at the start of the school year.
- Members may participate in the National FFA Band for a maximum of two years and two years in the National FFA Chorus. The 2020 virtual performances do not count toward this total.
- Members may only apply to one group (band, chorus, or talent) in a given year.
- Please note that some states require members to participate in their state music program before applying to national. Please check directly with your state FFA association regarding any prerequisites they may have before applying to national music programs.
- Members selected for National FFA Band or Chorus **may not** participate in any other event during convention (e.g. CDE's, Agriscience Fair, National Chapter, Proficiencies). No exceptions will be made.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The National FFA Band and Chorus application has four components:

- Written Application
- Video Audition
- Advisor Approval
- \$40 non-refundable application fee (credit card only)

Requirements for the video audition will be noted in the online application. Please note that video auditions must be submitted as a file/link attachment with the online application. Mailed or emailed auditions will not be accepted.

Applications will open in mid-April and are due by **8 p.m. EDT on July 17**. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

After submission, state staff will review all applicants to verify that state requirements, if any, have been met. The directors will then review applicants approved by their state. All applicants will receive their results on Friday, August 16th.

COMMITMENT & SCHEDULE

The National FFA Band & Chorus are a full-time, one week commitment. Members commit to arriving in Indianapolis for the first rehearsal on Saturday, Oct. 19 and staying through the conclusion of the final convention session the following Saturday, Oct. 26.

Again, members selected for National FFA Band or Chorus **may not** participate in any other event during convention (e.g. CDE's, Agriscience Fair, National Chapter, Proficiencies). No exceptions will be made.

A final rehearsal and performance schedule will be shared in acceptance packets.

EXPENSES SUMMARY

Below is an overview of expenses associated with participation in the National FFA Band and Chorus. These are not final and are subject to change as convention details are confirmed.

Expense Description	Cost	Notes
Convention Registration	\$85	National FFA registers band and chorus members upon accepting their spot.
Hotel	\$390 per student	Students will stay 4 per room, with roommates assigned by National FFA. This cost is for seven nights, including tax.
Additional hotel night for Saturday, Oct. 26 (if needed)	\$56	Students who are not departing until Sunday, Oct.27, have the option to reserve a room for the night of Oct. 26.
Meals	\$35-\$45 per day	Band and chorus members are responsible for acquiring all meals throughout the week. There are many affordable options near the hotel.
Transportation	Varies	Students are responsible for securing their own transportation to and from Indianapolis, including transportation of instruments. National FFA will provide a chaperoned shuttle between the airport and hotel for band and chorus members upon arrival and departure.
Entertainment		Depending on the year's performance schedule, students may or may not be permitted to attend the convention concert or hypnotist show. This is optional, and students will be responsible for the cost of their ticket.

MUSIC AND REHEARSALS

National FFA Chorus members will receive their sheet music about a month before convention. We will send PDFs for each voice part and tracks to rehearse with. Chorus members are expected to arrive with their music learned and ready to clean.

National FFA Band members will receive their music once they arrive on-site and will learn all the music together in Indianapolis.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are responsible for securing their own transportation to and from Indianapolis, IN. Students must be at the hotel and ready for rehearsals no later than 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19 and may depart anytime after 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26.

If Driving: Students may be dropped off at the hotel on Saturday, Oct. 19. Students are not permitted to drive or ride in any vehicle during convention week. There is very limited parking available at the hotel.

If Flying: Students should fly into the Indianapolis International Airport (IND).

National FFA will offer a shuttle between the airport and the Hyatt Regency. Members of FFA Staff will be available at the airport to meet students and help guide them to the shuttle. A final schedule will be shared in acceptance packets. Students arriving after the scheduled shuttle time will be responsible for securing their own transportation to the hotel.

HOTEL DETAILS

Location:

Hyatt Regency Indianapolis

1 S Capitol Ave

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Website: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/indiana/hyatt-regency-indianapolis/indri>

Reservations:

Members will be staying with four students in a room with pre-assigned roommates from National FFA. National FFA will make these hotel reservations for all band and chorus members directly with the Hyatt Regency. Parents/Advisors/Students should not contact the Hyatt to make hotel reservations on behalf of the Band or Chorus member. Parents and/or advisors traveling with a Band or Chorus Member cannot stay in the same hotel room.

SUPERVISION

Supervision begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19 and will conclude after the Final General Session on Saturday, Oct. 26.

During the day, the National FFA Band and Chorus directors and staff will conduct all rehearsals and performances. The band and chorus maintain a 15 to 1 student to chaperone ratio. All chaperones are hired by National FFA and undergo a background check. Our current staff has a combined 90 years of experience on the National FFA Band and Chorus staff!

Members will have some free time throughout the week, during which they will have to sign out with a chaperone and must stay in groups of no less than three students. Students are not permitted to leave the immediate downtown area or ride in any vehicles during this time.

During the evenings, the band and chorus staff will reside at the hotel to supervise, conduct room checks, and handle any emergencies. The Hyatt Regency also provides nighttime security personnel.

BAND, CHORUS, AND TALENT SOCIAL

During the week (2024 date TBD), National FFA hosts a gathering for all band, chorus, and talent members and staff. Dinner will be provided, and members will be able to dance, play games, and get to know other music program members. National FFA pays for this event.

PARENT/ADVISOR GUIDE TO CONVENTION WITH A MUSIC PROGRAM MEMBER

For any parents or advisors who plan to travel with a band or chorus member to the convention, details regarding accommodations and convention registration are below.

Accommodations:

If National FFA is able to offer a block of rooms for parents and advisors of music program members, details will be shared in acceptance packets. These rooms would be first-come, first-served and generally sell out quickly.

Convention Registration:

Everyone attending the National FFA Convention & Expo must be a registered attendee.

There are two ways for parents/guardians to get registered for convention:

Online: Parents and guardians wishing to register for convention ahead of time will need to work with the student's chapter advisor to get registered as a "Guest" of the chapter. Parents and guardians cannot pre-register themselves online.

On-site: Parents and guardians are able to register themselves without an advisor present at on-site registration in the Indiana Convention Center.

* Please note that while accompanying parents and advisors may be permitted by the directors to sit in on rehearsals at the directors' discretion, only band and chorus members and staff will be permitted in the arena rehearsal and backstage rooms at Lucas Oil Stadium. Parents and advisors will not be permitted in these areas.