



NATIONAL FFA TALENT GENERAL INFORMATION

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

ELIGIBILITY

- Members applying to National FFA Talent 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 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 talent program before applying to national. Please check directly with your state FFA association regarding any prerequisites they may have.
- If auditioning as an act, all act members must be included in the video audition and application.
- Any act with more than one performer must audition as a group. For example, a singer accompanied by a guitarist is considered a group act.
- All members of an act, including accompanists, must be an FFA member that meets the above eligibility requirements. Parents, advisors, family members, or non-FFA member friends may not be included in an act.
- **All state FFA talent winners will be accepted into the National FFA Talent program, provided they submit a completed and proper application.** Incomplete applications from state winners will not be accepted. State talent winners must self-identify on the application and will be verified with state staff. A state talent winner is an act that competed against other acts in their state's FFA Talent competition and was named the sole winner.

VARIETY OF ACTS

- National FFA Talent has had a variety of acts over the years. Some include soloists, instrumentalists, fiddle players, jugglers, dancers, harmonica players, beatboxers, bands, drumlines, baton twirlers, etc.
- National FFA provides mainly small-stage opportunities to perform. In some cases, an act will not be accepted if National FFA is unable to provide a stage or performance location that will adequately and safely accommodate the act.

- Acts such as magicians, ventriloquists and pantomimes are not suited for the arena. However, they work well for smaller events, such as meal functions.
- Do not submit acts that require stage props, scenery, etc.
- If your talent act requires expensive instruments and/or sound systems, National FFA is not responsible for these items. Please have all equipment insured.
- National FFA will provide keyboards on-site for those piano acts that may be accepted to National FFA Talent (88 weighted keys with pedal).

APPLICATION PROCESS

There are four components to the National FFA Talent application.

- 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. Auditions must be submitted as a file attachment with the online application. Mailed 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. Applicants approved by their state will then be reviewed by the directors. All applicants will receive their results on Friday, August 16th.

NATIONAL FFA TALENT ACT RESPONSIBILITIES

- If selected, acts must be available in Indianapolis from Tuesday, Oct. 22 through Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024.
- Acts are responsible for all expenses incurred in travel, lodging and meals, as well as convention registration for each act member.
- Acts must secure a school or state association-approved chaperone for the length of stay.
- Regardless of placement in the competition, talent acts must perform at their additional performance assignments.

PERFORMANCE/SONG SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

National FFA Talent aims to bring **energy and excitement** to events throughout the National FFA Convention & Expo. Fun, upbeat, energetic, and crowd-pleasing performances and songs are greatly preferred. Please remember where you are performing and who your audience is when selecting your ten songs. The lyrics must be appropriate for all audiences.

Though a song may not contain any curse words, the content of the lyrics may still be inappropriate for this setting. Songs referring to excessive drinking, drug use, domestic violence, sexually explicit topics, and violence toward others are not suitable for the National FFA Convention stages. They will not be approved or may require lyric changes. When selecting your song, please remember FFA is a welcoming place for all. We ask that song choices do not have overt religious or political undertones.

SCHEDULE

A high-level schedule will be provided in acceptance packets; however, acts will not receive their individual schedules until they are on site. All acts can expect to perform for the directors and judges on Tuesday, Oct. 22, in the talent competition and at several additional performance opportunities.

PERFORMANCE STAGES/OPPORTUNITIES

Below are brief descriptions of each performance opportunity. The availability of these in 2024 is subject to change.

Arena Main Stage

This stage is located at Lucas Oil Stadium. These performances are before or during convention general sessions.

Special Events

These are most commonly awards dinners or other special meal functions. For most events, talent acts are asked to provide music during dinner or before/after the presentation. Most special events have a simple microphone connected to the banquet room's built-in speakers and either a laptop or iPod connection available.

Artsgarden

Located in downtown Indianapolis, these lunchtime performances have great visibility among local residents and convention attendees. The Artsgarden has a grand piano and a professional sound technician.

The Garage Food Hall

A popular new spot for locals in downtown Indianapolis, The Garage Food Hall is housed in part of the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant. This performance has great visibility among local residents and convention attendees.

Rodeo

During the rodeo, a performer will be selected to perform the National Anthem as well as a set during intermission.

NATIONAL FFA TALENT COMPETITION

The National FFA Talent competition will consist of preliminary, semifinal, and final rounds. A final competition schedule and scoring outline will be shared in acceptance packets. The National FFA Talent Competition winner will receive \$250. Regardless of placement in the competition, all acts will be assigned additional performances.

BAND, CHORUS, AND TALENT SOCIAL

During the week, National FFA will host a gathering for all Band, Chorus, and Talent members and staff. Dinner will be provided, and members can dance, play games, and get to know other music program members. This event is paid for by National FFA.

MEALS AND TRANSPORTATION

National FFA Talent acts are responsible for arranging their own travel and meals during the National FFA Convention & Expo.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

National FFA Talent students are responsible for securing their own hotel accommodations for the week. The National FFA has secured a small group of rooms available to National Talent acts and their chaperones on a first come, first served basis. This block of rooms sells out quickly. The available room type in the talent block is a room with a king bed or two double beds.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

National FFA Talent acts are responsible for registering for the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo. Parents and/or chaperones may secure a guest registration through the Talent member's chapter advisor during pre-registration.