



90th National FFA Convention & Expo

National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent Applications

Updated: 4/6/2017

The following information will assist students and advisors in preparing to apply for National FFA Band, Chorus or Talent. Applications are to be submitted/postmarked by **Friday, July 7, 2017**.

Applications are available on April 18, 2017 on www.ffa.org/convention (scroll down to Band, Chorus and Talent). Members will need to enter their ffa.org user name and password to access the applications.

National FFA Band

NATIONAL FFA BAND INFORMATION

- Members applying to the National FFA Band must be at least 14 years old and a freshman in high school during the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo. Members applying can be no older than 21 years old or a sophomore in college, whichever comes first, during convention.
- Members may participate a maximum of two years in the National FFA Band.
- Members applying to the National FFA Band may not apply for Chorus or Talent in the same year.
- If you are selected for National FFA Band, you may not participate in any other event during convention (e.g. CDE's, Agriscience Fair, National Chapter).
- Approximately 80-90 members will be selected for the National FFA Band.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATIONAL FFA BAND

- If selected, the member must attend all rehearsals in Indianapolis beginning Saturday, October 21, 2017.
- Band members are required to stay through the closing convention session on Saturday, October 28, 2017.
- The member is responsible for the cost of travel, lodging, food, convention registration fee and the cost of the band uniform (Official Dress).
- National FFA confirms Band and Chorus members hotel reservations; however, each member is responsible for his/her portion of the hotel accommodations costs. Hotel costs per member will be approx. \$350 for his/her hotel stay for the week.
- Any member needing to arrive late or depart early from the National FFA Band will need to secure pre-approval from the Band Director. The member will still be responsible for his/her portion of the hotel cost through Saturday, October 28, 2017.
- If a member is an American Degree recipient, the member must get permission to participate in the reception and ceremony from the National FFA Band Director by September 22, 2017.

NATIONAL FFA PROVIDES

- All Music
- Chaperones during housing, rehearsals and performances.
- National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent Social held on Tuesday evening, October 24, 2017.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

- Each National FFA Band application requires (4) items.
 1. Online application
 2. \$25 non-refundable application fee
 3. Recorded audition
 4. Advisor Approval
- All (4) items must be submitted/postmarked by **Friday, July 7 2017**.
- Students may choose to submit a recorded audition via an emailed YouTube link or mail. **Emailed auditions are preferred.** Details explaining how to submit audition materials are listed in the application.

- Details regarding the recorded audition are listed below. A recorded audition is a requirement in applying for the National FFA Band. Recorded auditions allow the director to review each application and properly place students in this prestigious band.
- A copy of the application confirmation email is to be submitted with the recorded audition.
- All applicant notifications and information will be provided via email. Therefore, you must provide your current and your advisor's current email addresses.
- All applicants, advisors and state associations will be notified via email by August 11, 2017 of applicant(s) status.

RECORDED AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL FFA BAND

- Step 1: Slowly announce your name and state.
- Step 2: Repeat your name, and then give your instrument.
- Step 3: Begin playing the Chromatic scale (as many octaves as you can play it) or drum rudiment.
- Step 4: Play the major scale of your choice...or drum rudiment.
- Step 5: Play a solo and/or technical study to demonstrate your skills.

[Click here to view a sample National FFA Band audition video](#)

National FFA Chorus

NATIONAL FFA CHORUS INFORMATION

- Members applying to the National FFA Chorus must be at least 14 years old and a freshman in high school during the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo. Members applying can be no older than 21 years old or a sophomore in college, whichever comes first, during National Convention.
- Members may participate a maximum of two years in the National FFA Chorus.
- Members applying to the National FFA Chorus may not audition for Chorus or Talent in the same year.
- If you are selected for National FFA Chorus, you may not participate in any other event during convention (e.g. CDE's, Agriscience Fair, National Chapter).
- Approximately 80-90 members will be selected for the National FFA Chorus.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATIONAL FFA CHORUS

- If selected, the member must attend all rehearsals in Indianapolis beginning Saturday, October 21, 2017.
- Chorus members are required to stay through the closing convention session on Saturday, October 28, 2017.
- The member is responsible for the cost of travel, lodging, food, convention registration fee and the cost of the chorus uniform (Official Dress).
- National FFA confirms Band and Chorus members hotel reservations; however, each member is responsible for his/her portion of the hotel accommodations costs. Hotel costs per member will be approx. \$350 for his/her hotel stay for the week.
- Any member needing to arrive late or depart early from the National FFA Chorus will need to secure pre-approval from the Chorus Director. The member will still be responsible for his/her portion of the hotel cost through Saturday, October 28, 2017.
- If a member is an American Degree recipient, the member must get permission to participate in the reception and ceremony from the National FFA Chorus Director by September 22, 2017.

NATIONAL FFA PROVIDES

- All Music
- Chaperones during housing, rehearsals and performance.
- National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent Social held on Tuesday evening, October 24, 2017.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

- Each National FFA Chorus application requires (4) items.
 1. Online application
 2. \$25 non-refundable application fee
 3. Recorded audition
 4. Advisor Approval
- All (4) items must be submitted/postmarked by **Friday, July 7, 2017**.
- Students may choose to submit a recorded audition via an emailed YouTube link or mail. **Emailed auditions are preferred.** Details explaining how to submit audition materials are listed in the application.
- Details regarding the recorded audition are listed below. A recorded audition is a requirement in applying for the National FFA Chorus. Recorded auditions allow the director to review each application and properly place students in this prestigious chorus.

- A copy of the application confirmation email is to be submitted with the recorded audition.
- All applicant notifications and information will be provided via email. Therefore, you must provide your current and your advisor's current email addresses.
- All applicants, advisors and state associations will be notified via email by August 11, 2017 of applicant(s) status.

RECORDED AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL FFA CHORUS

- Step 1: Slowly announce your name and state you live in.
- 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 110mm. 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 2017 audition" on each note. Example: "Emily Johnson's 2017 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 (don't 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 note this at the beginning of your audition video. This note is important as the Director may not know to continue listening past the fourth section of these instructions.

[Click here to view a sample National FFA Chorus audition video](#) (This video notes "2016" please update your audition to note "2017")

2017 NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS IS SPONSORED BY



National FFA Talent

NATIONAL FFA TALENT INFORMATION

- Members applying to the National FFA Talent must be at least 14 years old and a freshman in high school during the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo. Members applying can be no older than 21 years old or a sophomore in college, whichever comes first, during convention.
- Members applying to the National FFA Talent may not apply for Chorus or Band in the same year.
- If accepted, applicant(s) must be chaperoned by an advisor or a responsible adult, approved as necessary by your school and/or state association.
- All accepted talent acts will be asked to perform at meal functions, meetings, convention talent stages, etc. during the National Convention & Expo in addition to any competition rounds for which they are eligible. Not all acts will be assigned a main stage arena performance.

VARIETY OF ACTS

- National FFA Talent has hosted numerous different types of acts over the years. Some include soloist, instrumentalist, fiddle players, jugglers, cloggers, harmonica players, beat boxers – the list goes on and on! To watch some of our top acts from 2016, click on the links below:
[Round 2 Acts](#) (starting at 16:29)
- Do not submit acts that require stage props, scenery, etc.
- Acts such as magicians, ventriloquists and pantomimes are not suited for the arena. They do, however, work well for smaller events, such as meal functions.
- 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. Pianos are not available on-site at the Indiana Convention Center and other performance locations.

NATIONAL FFA TALENT ACT RESPONSIBILITIES

- If selected, acts must be available in Indianapolis from Tuesday, October 24 through Saturday, October 28, 2017.

- Acts are responsible for all expenses incurred in travel, lodging and meals as well as convention registration per act member.
- Acts must secure a school or state association approved chaperone for the length of stay.
- If you need to leave convention prior to Saturday, October 28, you will have to acquire pre-approval from the National FFA Talent Director.

NATIONAL FFA TALENT COMPETITION

- **Round 1:** All talent acts will perform on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Specific Round 1 times will be provided to acts in August. Acts will perform one song of their selection (chosen from act's submitted Song List) during Round 1. The National FFA Talent Director may request an act to perform a second selection. Official Dress is required for this Round.
- **Round 2:** Approximately 15 acts will be selected to perform in Round 2, which will be held on Thursday night, October 26th starting at 5:15 p.m. in Bankers Life Fieldhouse. Acts will perform one song during Round 2. Official Dress is required for this round.
- **Round 3:** Three acts will be selected to perform in Round 3, which will be on Friday night, October 27th starting at 5:30 p.m. in Bankers Life Fieldhouse. Acts will perform one song during Round 3. Official Dress is required for this round.
- The 2017 National Talent Competition Winner will be announced at the end of Round 3 on Friday evening. The winner will receive \$250.
- Acts will be judged on showmanship, creativity, sound quality, clarity, and stage presence.

NATIONAL FFA PROVIDES

- National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent Social held on Tuesday evening, October 24, 2017.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

- Each National FFA Talent application requires (4) items per act.
 1. Online application
 2. \$25 non-refundable application fee
 3. Recorded audition
 4. Advisor Approval
- All (4) items must be submitted/postmarked by **Friday, July 7, 2017**.
- Students may choose to submit a recorded audition via an emailed YouTube link or mail. **Emailed auditions are preferred.** Details explaining how to submit audition materials are listed in the application.
- Details regarding the recorded audition are listed below. A recorded audition is a requirement in applying for the National FFA Talent. Recorded auditions allow the director to review each application and properly place students in this prestigious talent group. Be professional when recording your audition.
- A copy of the application confirmation email is to be submitted with the recorded audition.
- All applicant notifications and information will be provided via email. Therefore, you must provide your current and your advisor's current email addresses.
- All applicants, advisors and state associations will be notified via email by August 11, 2017 of applicant(s) status.

RECORDED AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL FFA TALENT

- Step 1: Slowly announce your first name, last name and state.
- Step 2: Provide a 5 - 10 minute performance of your talent. Feel free to include portions of 3 - 4 songs in order to provide a variety of the songs you would like to perform at convention.

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Questions

For questions concerning the National FFA Band, Chorus or Talent programs please email bct@ffa.org.