



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION

# National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent Information

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Applications for the 2019 National FFA Band, Chorus, and Talent Programs will open on April 10<sup>th</sup> and will be available at <https://convention.ffa.org/planning/band-chorus-talent/>. All pieces of the application are due no later than 8:00 p.m. EST/EDT on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. For any questions regarding the National FFA Band, Chorus, or Talent programs, please contact [bct@ffa.org](mailto:bct@ffa.org).

## NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS

### *National FFA Band and Chorus Information*

- Members applying to the National FFA Band must be at least 14 years old and a freshman in high school during the 2019 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 may only apply to one group each year.
- If you are selected for National FFA Band or Chorus, you may not participate in any other event during convention (e.g. CDE's, Agriscience Fair, National Chapter, Proficiency, etc.).
- Approximately 80-90 members will be selected for each group.

### *Member Responsibilities to the National FFA Band and Chorus*

- If selected, the member must attend all rehearsals in Indianapolis beginning Saturday, October 26, 2019.
- Band members are required to stay through the closing convention session on Saturday, November 2, 2019.
- The member is responsible for the cost of travel, lodging, food, convention registration fee and the cost of the 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. \$360 for his/her hotel stay for the week.
- Any member needing to arrive late or depart early from the National FFA Band or National FFA Chorus will need to secure pre-approval from the Band or Chorus Director. The member will still be responsible for his/her portion of the hotel cost through Saturday, November 2, 2019.

### *National FFA Provides*

- All Music
- Chaperones during housing, rehearsals and performances.
- National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent Social held on Tuesday evening, October 29, 2019.

### *Instructions and Deadlines*

- Each National FFA Band and National FFA Chorus application requires (4) items.
  1. Online application
  2. \$25 non-refundable application fee
  3. Recorded audition (Instructions below)
  4. Advisor Approval
- All (4) items must be submitted/postmarked by **Monday, July 15, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. EST/EDT.**
- 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 16, 2019 of applicant(s) status.

## RECORDED AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS

Details regarding the recorded audition are listed below. A recorded audition is a requirement in applying for the National FFA Band or National FFA Chorus. Recorded auditions allow the directors to review each application and properly place students in these prestigious groups.

There is a section in the application to submit a YouTube link to your audition video. **Please have your audition link ready BEFORE beginning the application.** If necessary, auditions may be mailed to the National FFA Center on a flash drive. Instructions on how to mail auditions are included in the application confirmation email.

### *Band:*

#### **Woodwinds and Brass** ([Click here to view sample woodwinds/brass audition video](#)):

- 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).
- Step 4: Play the major scale of your choice.
- Step 5: Play a solo and/or technical study to demonstrate your skills.

#### **Percussion** ([Click here to view sample percussion audition video](#)):

- Step 1: Slowly announce your name and state.
- Step 2: Repeat your name, and then give your instrument.
- Step 3: Perform the following rudiments on snare : Closed Stroke Roll (buzz roll), Single Stroke Roll, Paradiddle, Flams, Flam Tap
- Step 4: Perform the following scales on any keyboard instrument: Bb Major, Eb Major (one octave each)
- Step 5: Play a portion of your marching band show music or drum cadence on your marching instrument, or a technical snare solo.

### *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 "Your name's 2019 audition" on each note. Example: "Taylor Swift's 2019 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 sample audition number 1](#)
  - [Click here to view sample audition number 2](#)

#### **Steps to submit your audition video:**

- Step 1: Upload your audition video to <http://www.youtube.com>. You will need to create an account if you don't already have one. If you need help on uploading videos go to: <http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/topic.py?hl=en&topic=2888648>.
- Step 3: Set the video's privacy as **unlisted** under Privacy.
- Step 4: Copy and paste the link to your video when prompted.

**2019 NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS ARE SPONSORED BY:**



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# 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 2019 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 2017, follow this link: [Round 2 Acts](#) (starting at 15:05)
- *National FFA provides mostly small stage opportunities to perform. In some cases, an act will not be accepted as 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. They do, however, 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. 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 29 through Saturday, November 2, 2019.
- 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.

## *National FFA Talent Competition*

- **Preliminaries:** All talent acts will perform on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. Specific Prelim times will be provided to acts in August. Acts will perform one song of their selection (chosen from act's submitted Performance List) during the prelim. The National FFA Talent Director may request an act to perform a second selection. Official Dress is required for this round.
- **Semi-finals:** Approximately 15 acts will be selected to perform in the Semi-final round, which will be held on Thursday night, October 31st 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.
- **Finals:** Three acts will be selected to compete in the Finals, which will be on Friday night, November 1st starting at 5:30 p.m. in Bankers Life Fieldhouse. Acts will perform one song during the Final. Official Dress is required for this round.
- The 2019 National Talent Competition Winner will be announced at the end of the Finals on Friday evening. The winner will receive \$250.
- Acts will be judged on showmanship, creativity, sound quality, clarity, and stage presence. To view a copy of the Act Evaluation Rubric, click [here](#).

### *Instructions and Deadlines*

- Each National FFA Talent application requires (4) items per act.
  - Online application
  - \$25 non-refundable application fee
  - Recorded audition (Instructions below)
  - Advisor Approval
- All (4) items must be submitted/postmarked by **Monday, July 15, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. EST/EDT.**
- 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.
- All applicants, advisors and state associations will be notified via email by August 16, 2019 of applicant(s) status.

### *Recorded Audition Requirements for National FFA Talent*

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.

There is a section in the application to submit a YouTube link to your audition video. **Please have your audition link ready BEFORE beginning the application.** If necessary, auditions may be mailed to the National FFA Center on a flash drive. Instructions on how to mail auditions are included in the application confirmation email.

#### Audition Requirements:

- 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.

### **2019 NATIONAL FFA TALENT IS SPONSORED BY:**

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