



91st National FFA Convention & Expo

National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent Applications

Updated: 4/1/2018

The following information will assist students and advisors in preparing to apply for National FFA Band, Chorus or Talent. Applications are available on April 17, 2018 on <https://www.ffa.org/events/convention/planning#bct>. Applications are to be submitted/postmarked by **Monday, July 16, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

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

National FFA Band and Chorus

NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS INFORMATION

- Members applying to the National FFA Band or Chorus must be at least 14 years old and a freshman in high school during the 2018 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 or two years in the National Chorus.
- Members may only apply to one musical group, Band, Chorus OR Talent, per 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).
- The National FFA Band and Chorus will each select approximately 80-90 members per group.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS

- If selected, the member must attend all rehearsals in Indianapolis beginning Saturday, October 20, 2018.
- Members are required to stay through the closing convention session on Saturday, October 27, 2018.
- 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, approx. \$360 for the week.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

- Each application requires (4) items, which must be submitted/postmarked by **Monday, July 16 2018.**
 1. Online application
 2. \$25 non-refundable application fee
 3. Recorded audition
 4. Advisor Approval
- 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.
- All applicants, advisors and state associations will be notified via email by August 10, 2018 of applicant(s) status.

RECORDED AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL FFA BAND

Woodwinds and Brass:

- 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.

[Click here to view a woodwinds and/or brass sample National FFA Band audition video](#)

Percussion:

- 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.

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

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 2018 audition" on each note. Example: "Emily Johnson's 2018 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](#)

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

(These videos note "2017," please update your audition to note "2018")

2018 NATIONAL FFA BAND AND CHORUS ARE 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 2018 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 15:05)

NATIONAL FFA TALENT ACT RESPONSIBILITIES

- If selected, acts must be available in Indianapolis from Tuesday, October 23 through Saturday, October 27, 2018.
- 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.

NATIONAL FFA TALENT COMPETITION

- **Round 1:** All talent acts will perform on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Specific Round 1 times will be provided to acts in August.
- **Round 2:** Approximately 15 acts will be selected to perform in Round 2, which will be held on Thursday night, October 25th starting at 5:15 p.m. in Bankers Life Fieldhouse.
- **Round 3:** Three acts will be selected to perform in Round 3, which will be on Friday night, October 26th starting at 5:30 p.m. in Bankers Life Fieldhouse.
- The 2018 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.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

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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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