



Dear Directors and Students:

Hello! We sincerely hope all is going well with your preparations for **Saturday, February 22, 2013**. Hopefully, this letter will tell you all you need to know about the Norris High School *Fields of Talent*.

I. General Information

All performances will be held on Saturday, February 22.

Cancellation due to inclement weather will be emailed to directors by 5:00 AM on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, if we must cancel, registration fees will not be refunded due to the costs involved with hosting this event. Please call Wes at 402-730-3707 if you need assistance. THANKS! ☺

II. Directions

Norris High School's address is 25211 South 68th Street, Firth, NE. We are about 5 minutes south of Hickman, NE, on 68th Street (15 minutes south of Lincoln) – right out in the corn field – hence, the perfect name for our contest! ☺

III. Arrival at Norris

When you arrive at Norris, you will be unloading on the EAST side of the high school building. There are two entrances to the campus off of 68th street. Please use the NORTH (first entrance if coming from the north) entrance and drive south along the east side of the high school. You will see a cement awning which says "Norris High School." That is where you will unload all students and equipment.

DIRECTORS ONLY should enter the lobby area and check in at the registration table. You will receive additional info there.

STUDENTS will remain on the bus to have hands stamped. After hands are stamped, please unload your equipment as soon as possible so your bus can move to a parking area.

HOSTS will meet you when you arrive.

IV. Bus and Parent Parking

Buses will park on campus and will be directed upon your arrival. Parents should park on the **WEST** side of the building.

V. Admission For Competing Choirs Who Drive Cars (at ticket or registration table)

Students who drive themselves may check in and get their hands stamped at the ticket or registration tables. Directors...please send us a list of who is arriving by cars so those students do not have to pay.

VI. Student Hosts

Norris High School will provide a student host to accompany each ensemble and lead them to warm-up, performance, and critique. These students should be able to answer any questions you may have and direct you to where you need to go.

VII. Ticket Prices (These prices are set for the entire day. There is not a separate price for finals.)

Ticket prices are as follows:

Adults: \$10.00

K-12 Students: \$5.00

Children (ages 0 to 4): FREE

Chaperones will receive hand stamps with your students as they get off the bus - Bus drivers are free.

VIII. Concession Stands

The concession stands open at 7:00 AM on Saturday morning and close at 10:00 pm. We have two concessions - one in the multipurpose room with snacks, drinks, and meals; and one outside the main gym with snacks and drinks.
DIRECTORS AND ACCOMPANISTS EAT FREE ALL DAY! ☺

IX. Video Recording

PLEASE INFORM YOUR PARENTS THAT NO VIDEO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE PERFORMANCE AREAS. Mid-America video will be videoing the event and those videos will be available for purchase the day of the contest. Directors will receive a FREE mastered video from Mid-America.

X. Warm-Up

A performance schedule is enclosed. Warm-ups will be held in the high school choir room 25 minutes prior to each performance. Each transfer during your performance series should be 5 minutes early.

The first ensemble performing on Saturday morning may use the stage facility for their warm-up instead of the warm-up room. We acknowledge how difficult it can be to perform first so this will enable them to adjust to the performance hall and allows us to check the sound.

XI. Stage Equipment/Set-up/Performance (STAGE SET-UP WILL NOT BE MOVED OR ALTERED IN ANY WAY – IT REMAINS THE SAME FOR ALL)

Equipment available for your use includes 4' x8' platforms - 4 sections of 8", 16", 24", and 32", which will be left on the stage for all choirs. There will be 10 feet of space in front of the platforms and ample space behind them as well.

4 wireless microphones will also be provided as well as an acoustic piano, drum set, and bass amp, if needed.

Finally, the first two rows will be reserved for the competing school's fans. Please clear these rows **AFTER EACH** performance.

XII. General Rules/Guidelines/Penalties

- 1) NO FLASH POTS. CO₂ and dry ice **MAY** be used, but nothing that requires a spark or flame will be allowed.
Penalty: Ineligibility for finals or trophies.
- 2) All groups receive 25 minutes to set-up, perform, and tear down. The stage manager will ask if you are ready to enter the stage before they start the clock.
Penalty: One point for every 10 seconds over time.
- 3) Please have your own crew for set-up and teardown. We will assist.
- 4) The lights will stay the same for the day and evening performances.
- 5) All performers, including instrumentalists, must be bona fide students of the participating school. The only exception will be **ONE ADULT ONLY** playing keyboard and/or acoustic piano as an accompanying instrument.
Penalty: Ineligibility for best band award
- 6) Choirs are free to present any type of performance they wish. There is no minimum or maximum number of songs a group must perform. Music DOES NOT need to be provided for the judges. A choir singing in the finals need not present the same program as during the day.
- 7) Directors may be on stage with their choirs and may direct if they wish.
- 8) Any type of LIVE instrumental accompaniment may be used. No taped or recorded back-up music is allowed. **Sequenced and other pre-recorded synthesized rhythms qualify as "recorded" and are not allowed.** The back-up ensemble is judged as an integral part of a group's performance.
Penalty: Ineligibility for finals or trophies.

XIII. Judging

Three judges will adjudicate vocals and choreography on Saturday and two will rotate to "clinic" with each choir immediately following the performance. Our 2014 *Fields of Talent* Judges are Kelly Meyer, Dan Hays, Arla Clausen, Jeff Vylidahl, and Carey Helmink.

XIV. Finals/Awards

Trophies will be awarded to the top half of the entries in each class. This year the classifications are as follows: women, prep, A/B, C/D, and AA. Daytime

awards and finals announcement will take place in the GYMNASIUM according to the schedule. Please have two representatives come on stage for awards.

The top 6-point winners from all classes will compete in finals. **25 minutes will be allowed for finals performances** but no timing will take place.

XV. Home Rooms

Homerooms will be issued to each group. Homerooms can not be locked.

Prior to departure, all homerooms must be cleaned and straightened up. There is no food or drink allowed in homerooms. Except for water, please eat snacks and meals in the gymnasium or multipurpose room.

Please be as respectful to the homeroom as possible. Disrespectful treatment of homerooms including food and drink in the room or excessive mess will result in:

Penalty: Ineligibility for finals or trophies

XVI. Student Behavior and Sportsmanship

We want this contest to be a great experience for everyone, therefore, we want to make sure each school is aware of how critical good behavior and good sportsmanship are at our contest. Student actions or decisions which fail to fall in the category of good behavior and good sportsmanship may cause:

Penalty: Ineligibility for finals or trophies

XVII. Hospitality Lounge

We will provide a hospitality lounge with complimentary snacks and beverages.

XVIII. In case of a tie

1) Preliminary Ties

- A) Ties in the preliminary round will be broken using the following criteria
 - a) Highest overall "vocal" score (if still tied, use criteria b)
 - b) Highest overall "choreography" score (If still tied, use criteria c)
 - c) If tie is not yet broken, the two groups will remain tied and trophies will be awarded.

2) Finals Ties

- A) Ties in finals will be broken using the following criteria
 - a) Highest overall "vocal" score (if still tied, use criteria b)
 - b) Highest overall "choreography" score (If still tied, use criteria c)
 - c) Total score of the preliminary round (If still tied use criteria d)
 - d) If the tie is not yet broken, the two groups will remain tied and trophies will be awarded.

XIX. Students will be able to watch the contest in our main gym.

Our main gym will have one HD big screen and good sound system for students to hang out and watch the contest. This will help make sure that everybody has a great place to see all the action. **As the day goes on, we will require students to move to that space if needed so all paying fans have a great auditorium seat.** The gym is also great for students because they can watch and eat at the same time – unlike the auditorium where no food or drink is allowed.

The first two rows in the auditorium will be reserved for the competing school's fans to CHEER. Please clear these rows **AFTER EACH** performance.

XX. We are SO GLAD you are coming to Norris *Fields of Talent*.

We would like to know approximately when to expect your choir's arrival. Feel free to e-mail Wes Hansmeyer with your **anticipated arrival time by Tuesday, February 18**, or with any additional questions you may have – wes.hansmeyer@nsdtitans.org. You may also call the high school 402-791-0010. Our fax is 402-791-0027.

We look forward to seeing you soon on February 22 .

Sincerely,

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