



FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions

North Carolina Harmony Brigade

Application and Registration

1. What do I get for the registration fee?

The registration fee is in two parts: 1) dues payable to cover ongoing costs (this part must be paid at time of registration); and 2) event costs covering the specific expenses for your attendance such as room and meals.

- Included in the package are accommodation in a shared room, music book, and high-quality learning tracks. Meals included: Friday evening dinner, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, and Saturday evening dinner.
- Single room surcharges, Thursday night stay, and the cost of a brigade shirt (required for participation in the show) is extra above the registration fee and is refundable only in the case of cancellation in time to prevent the brigade from incurring this cost. Each reimbursement for these costs is individually adjudicated.
- Balance must be paid in full one month before the Rally date.

2. Is this a good experience for my registered quartet?

While the brigade weekend is all about singing with many other guys who you have never sung with before (and this happens literally hundreds of times during the weekend) there is no doubt that your registered quartet participating within this framework will come away with not only a renewed set of skills for singing together but also with a instant new repertoire of 12 songs that you will be immediately be able to sing at a competition level. Several chapters who have sent all four parts to a brigade who are not in an established quartet have found a high quality new quartet immediately in their midst and use them on shows singing at a far higher quality level than otherwise might have ever been expected.

3. What happens if I have to cancel - for any reason - after having paid my fees?

You should withdraw from the brigade in writing to the Membership Chair at NCHB.ops@gmail.com. Partial refunds will be considered if the Brigade has been able to avoid some of the expenses related to your registration, but this is subject to their sole discretion. Please advise of any unpreventable circumstances that may have caused you to cancel.

4. Roommate - What happens if I do not want an assigned roommate?

All rooms are doubles unless you elect to pay for a single (includes bringing your own non-singing partner.) You may opt for single room at extra cost. You may also book a room to share with a nonparticipating guest/partner.

5. Can my nonparticipating roommate come to the Brigade events?

In general, yes. The Brigade sessions are not private or intended to be stag.

- Meals – Yes. Please contact us for the cost of this person to have meals with the Brigade.
- Saturday night show - Yes, if they buy a ticket
- Saturday night afterglow - Yes.

Learning Music

6. How do I get "practice time" with other singers going to the Brigade?

Join the NCHB facebook group, and watch for run-though opportunities, or post an offer to host one.

7. Do you have "Tips" for learning all this music up to standards?

Start early, and make full use of the learning tracks. Get used to singing your part perfectly with the other three parts (right-hand track) on the learning track (use headset or left-right balance to switch off your own part). Practice until you get the song right consistently, then continue practicing until you can't get it wrong.

8. Unable to Learn Music: What if I just don't have time to learn ALL the songs letter perfect, or if I get ill and am not able to practice sufficiently? or What happens if I find the music is too hard for me?

You should withdraw from the brigade in writing as early as possible.

The Weekend

9. What is the agenda for the weekend?

- Friday 3pm: NCHB begins at the Carolina Inn with registration and room assignment, then the singing begins! After a delicious dinner, we sing in quartets as long as we can stay awake.
- Saturday Morning: A hearty breakfast is followed by a short business meeting and the first round of our random Quartet Contest.
- Saturday afternoon: Lunch is on your own (usually in the village), followed by practice as a chorus, and the final Quartet Contest round where the top 10 quartets compete for the first, second and third place awards.
- Saturday Evening: Early dinner is followed by our show for the community, which includes the chorus, plus quartets and other groups. Following the show, we sing and eat pizza until the early morning hours.
- Sunday Morning: After breakfast, you're on your way home; tired, probably hoarse, but with an incredible musical experience to remember.

10. What time should I arrive?

We have stated above that registration starts at 2pm on Friday, so by all means get to the hotel by 6pm when dinner begins. However, if you are available Friday morning, you may wish to apply for participation in quartet singouts at local schools and care homes (information will be sent out around November time). Note that coming Thursday evening so as to be ready for the Friday program is certainly OK. About 40 guys come on Thursday not only for the Friday programs, but also simply to have more quartet singing time. It's a great optional extension to the weekend.

11. What time will we be done on Sunday?

There are no scheduled activities on Sunday after breakfast (included). Most people leave after breakfast, but an early breakfast option is available for those who need to leave early to catch a flight.

12. What if I get to the brigade and find I cannot sing the songs up to the required standard?

This is not a desirable situation but it sometimes happens. If you cannot pass the preparedness check, then you need to withdraw from the quartet contest and the Saturday show. Nonetheless please don't give up! You are encouraged to enjoy the rest of the quartetting activities as much as possible. Enjoy the weekend, sing in quartets, volunteer to help out on the show, and have a great time. At the end of the weekend or soon thereafter, have a discussion with the Membership Chair and decide if you want to try next year for full status, or whether Associate status is what you should continue at, or maybe quartet singing at the Brigade level is not for you. You decide!

13. What is the dress code for the weekend?

Appropriate dress for the weekend is casual except for the Saturday evening show uniform, which is black slacks, black shoes and socks and yellow Brigade concert shirt with embroidered logo.

14. Where can I learn about the other brigades and their rules and practices?

Let's say you are really interested in the NCHB, but you are not available on that particular weekend. Well, there are eight other Brigades in the USA and two in Europe, meeting on different weekends throughout the year. Go to www.harmonybrigade.org and click on any of the tabs that show the other brigades or check out Harmony Brigade FAQ.