

Surround the State in Song

Children's Choral Festival – Sat. October 10th, 2026

The North Dakota chapter of American Choral Directors Association will sponsor children's choral festivals at seven ND locations on **Saturday, October 10th, 2026**. Each general music teacher or choral director is invited to **select up to TEN of their best 5-6-7th grade singers** to participate. *(All participants should be able to match pitch and sing in tune. In addition, please select singers who have the rehearsal behavior skills to manage an entire day of music-making!)* **Each teacher should try to balance the students they are bringing on each voice part. For example, if bringing six students then three should sing on part 1 and three should sing on part 2.** Schools may be able to bring more than 10 participants. **Please contact the site manager if you are hoping to send additional singers.** We are hoping to reach more schools and more students to make this a meaningful and unique opportunity for our state!

Music Selections:

It is each teacher's responsibility to order festival music packets for each participant. *(You may ask for the ND-ACDA "Surround the State" Packet from J.W. Pepper or Popplers).* Please assign your students to the parts as equally as possible in order to help create a balanced ensemble. Students are expected to have rehearsed the music (pitches and rhythms down pat!) so that festival day can be spent on the more exciting and satisfying aspects of choral performance! **Rehearsal tracks** are available at www.ndacda.com/surround-the-state.

The Star-Spangled Banner	Unison	Francis Scott Key	Key of B flat
Tongo	2 Part	Greg Gilpin	Alfred Music Publishing
I Believe in a Seed	2-Part	Cynthia Gray	Santa Barbara Music Publishing
Old Joe Clark (2025 Edition)	2-part	Earlene Rentz	Heritage Music Press
There is Peace	2-part	Jim Papoulis	Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

General Schedule:

Festival day begins with **registration at 9:00 a.m. and ends with a public concert at 3:30 p.m.** Singers should wear neat black pants, black shoes, and a comfortable shirt to rehearsal. They will change into their **festival t-shirts** before the performance. Each participant should **bring the music packet, a sharpened pencil, and a water bottle**. Each sponsoring teacher will receive additional details from the site coordinator once registration is complete. There is a \$5 admission fee for the concert (12 and under get into the concert for free). A more specific schedule will be distributed by your site coordinator after registrations are closed and processed.

Payment & Registration:

There are two options for payment.

- 1) If paying by **credit card**, return to [NDACDA's SSIS Page](#) and **click** the "Registration Link" tab to enter your information: <https://ndacda.regfox.com/ssis-2026>.
- 2) If paying by **check**, teachers should still register via email with the [State Chair](#). (By doing so, that will expedite the t-shirt order process).
 - a) Use the registration template form provided to input registration information:
[SSIS Registration Template](#)
 - i) Do not try to edit this file.
 - ii) Go to File>Make a Copy>Rename as your school>then edit the document
 - b) Email registration form to state coordinator: www.ndacdassis@gmail.com.
 - c) Send one check (either a school check or a personal check) for the amount owed for registration to the State Coordinator (address below and on registration page). Payment needs to be made payable to **NDACDA**, if payment is not correctly processed; your singer(s) may be deemed ineligible to perform at this event.
 - d) Students should be registered through their school or a sponsoring teacher.
 - e) **ALL registrations should be submitted by September 16, 2026. The cost for each student is \$20.**

Locations:

Dickinson	Dickinson Middle School	Grand Forks	South Middle School
Site Coordinator	Conway Heupel	Site Coordinator	Maggie Nistler
Email:	cheupel@dpsnd.org	Email:	mnistler170@mygfschools.org
Bismarck	Bismarck High School	Fargo/Wahpeton	TBD
Site Coordinator	Shana Klee & Elizabeth Haugen	Site Coordinator	Michael Osthus
Email:	shana_klee@bismarckschools.org elizabeth.haugen@k12.nd.us	Email:	Michael.osthus@k12.nd.us
Minot	Minot North High School	Valley City	Valley City State University
Site Coordinator	Terri Berentson	Site Coordinator	Heather Aune
Email:	terri.berentson@minot.k12.nd.us	Email:	hfair6775@gmail.com
Willison	Williston High School		
Site Coordinator	Christina Winslow		
Email:	christina.winslow@willistonschools.org		

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or your site coordinator. Thank you for all you do to foster a love of music and singing!

Elizabeth Haugen

*ND-ACDA Surround the State in Song – State Coordinator
Wilton Public School - Elementary Music & Choral Music*

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