



# **2026-2027 Season Handbook**

## **Welcome!**

The Fayetteville Youth Chorus (FYC) is excited that you are joining our organization! We welcome youth singers from all around the Sandhills area to join us in song! FYC is a non-auditioned group, but a voice placement with the music director is a part of our process so that youth are singing in a comfortable range. As our singers become like family during the season, we strive to make high-quality choral music together and eventually produce young adults that will have a life-long appreciation for music.

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## **A. Guidelines & Policies**

### **1. Eligibility**

A FYC member must be in 4th-12th grades during the performance season (unless otherwise approved by the Music Director). The FYC Jr. Choir is for 4th-6th grade unchanged voices and the FYC Sr. Choir is for 7th-12th grade mixed voices, both changed and unchanged.

All FYC members are encouraged to be a member of their public school or private school music program, if such an organization exists. We know that some youth are unable to participate in school choir programs due to their academic schedule or a choral program may not be available. FYC seeks to work together with schools to support and extend their choral programs, and to build choral traditions and provide quality choral experiences and instruction for the community.

### **2. Attendance**

- Rehearsals are on Mondays 5:15-6:30 p.m. for the Senior Choir and 5:30-6:30 p.m. for the Junior Choir at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1601 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC 28305.
- Our rehearsal schedule is independent of any school calendar. FYC does hold rehearsals on some public and private school teacher workdays as well as some holidays.
- Illness that prevents school attendance or a family emergency is an acceptable excuse for being absent. Should this occur or should you have other unavoidable conflicts, please call, or send a chat/text in the Band App, or email the Director as soon as possible. Unnecessary or unexcused absences, particularly in excess, may result in the student being removed from FYC.
- In order to participate in a concert, youth must attend the prior two rehearsals unless there are extenuating circumstances pre-approved by the Director.
- Concert attendance is mandatory. If a serious, unavoidable conflict should arise, contact the director immediately.
- The Director's decision regarding absences and continued membership is final.

### **3. Rehearsal Procedures**

- Other than water in a bottle with a lid, members should not bring food, drink or gum to the rehearsal area. The rehearsal space does not belong to the organization and we must treat it with respect.
- Rehearsals begin promptly. Members are expected to use the restroom before rehearsal, and be on time, with music folders and a pencil.
- Members are expected to exhibit good manners and consideration of other singers and adults at all times.
- Should any negative attitude or behavior hinder or detract from the natural progress and positive environment of the rehearsal, parents will be notified.
- Electronic devices of any type, with the exception of medical monitoring devices, should not be used in the rehearsal space.
- Parents must come in the building to sign their child in and out each week. Unaccompanied 11th and 12th Grade Senior Choir members that are transporting themselves should sign themselves in and out each week, along with any younger siblings

they may be transporting. Parents should note on the registration packet if choristers will be driving themselves and younger siblings to and from rehearsals and performances, and fill out and sign all appropriate paperwork and sign all permission forms for all singers involved.

- Children will only be released to the authorized parent(s), guardian(s), or other individual(s) authorized by the parent(s) or guardian(s) as indicated on the registration forms.

#### **4. Performance Expectations**

- Bring as few personal items (purses, backpacks, etc.) to the performance venue as possible or give it to a parent. Do not bring valuables of any kind. The FYC will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items. Purses, cell phones, and electronic devices are not allowed anywhere near the concert stage.
- Plan to arrive 10 minutes before the concert call time.
  - **Always check the BAND App for any changes.**
- Always arrive in proper concert dress (see section entitled Concert Dress A or B) according to the directions of the Director. Dressing areas are not available. Hair should already be arranged and light makeup already applied, if desired. Refrain from using perfume or cologne due to allergies.
- Professional conduct is required at all times. Wait quietly in your designated area when not warming up or performing.
- If you feel ill during the performance please leave the stage, or if that is not possible, sit down on the risers.
- Do not make personal eye contact or gestures to people in the audience even if your family gestures to you. You should be focused on the director during the performance.
- The choir does not applaud for anyone associated with the performance. You may express your appreciation to a soloist or collaborative instrumentalist after the concert. Concerts with the Cumberland Choral Arts will be a ticketed event. One complimentary ticket will be given to each family, usually at the rehearsal prior to the concert.

#### **5. Scheduled Concerts for 2026-2027**

(Subject to change)

**Saturday, October 17, 2026**

**TIME PIECES: Celebrating CCA's 35th Anniversary**

**With The Cross Creek Chorale; The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Junior Choir, Lisa Packer, Director;**

**The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Senior Choir, Richard Butler, Director.**

**Hay Street United Methodist Church, Fayetteville - 7:30 PM**

**Saturday, December 5, 2026**

**TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!**

**With The Cross Creek Chorale; The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Junior Choir, Lisa Packer, Director;**

**The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Senior Choir, Richard Butler, Director.**

**Hay Street United Methodist Church, Fayetteville – 7:30 PM**

**February, 26-27, 2027 Choir Festival TBA for FYC Sr. Choir only  
First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC  
Tentative - more information to follow.**

**Saturday, March 20, 2027  
SONGS OF LOVE, LIFE, AND LONGING  
With The Cross Creek Chorale; The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Junior Choir, Lisa Packer, Director;  
The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Senior Choir, Richard Butler, Director.  
Hay Street United Methodist Church, Fayetteville – 7:30 PM**

**Monday, May 10 5:45pm FYC Family and Friends Concert (Free concert)  
The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Junior Choir, Lisa Packer, Director;  
The Fayetteville Youth Chorus-Senior Choir, Richard Butler, Director.**

## **B. Expenses**

### **1. Tuition**

Our parent organization, Cumberland Choral Arts has waived the tuition for the 2026-2027 Season. Many community youth choirs in our state have a tuition fee.

### **2. Concert Tickets**

The Fayetteville Youth Chorus is a non-profit organization.

Tickets for concerts that feature the Cumberland Choral Arts cost \$20 for adults, \$5 for students, active duty members and children 5 and under are free. One complimentary ticket will be given to each family. All other family members will need to purchase a ticket. Complimentary tickets are usually given to families at the rehearsal prior to the concert. There will be a link provided to purchase additional tickets online closer to each concert. FYC members are expected to remain for the entire concert, even after the FYC has completed their portion. Please speak with the director if other arrangements need to be made. Additionally, some FYC events (such as festivals or tours) may incur extra costs.

### **3. Concert Dress**

**All concert dress is to be provided or purchased by parents and guardians.**

- Short-sleeved black polo shirt with FYC logo (purchased from CCA/FYC online store - a link will be provided to parents)
- Black dress pants (no sweats, leggings or jeans), if skirt is worn then you must wear black tights to keep the uniform dark bottom
- Black closed toe dress shoes and black socks

**\*Hair should be worn either up or behind the shoulders for performance; hair should not fall in eyes or cover any part of the face. Please refrain from wearing any jewelry other than small stud earrings.**

## **C. Choral Octavos and Folders**

All music distributed to the choristers is the property of the Fayetteville Youth Chorus. Each member will be given a paper folder in which to keep the music, but the octavos should be turned in upon the request of the director. Choristers may purchase a black three ring binder for their music, marked with their name inside. The repertoire of the FYC is chosen at the sole discretion of the directors and will include music of diverse genres, cultures, and religious traditions as well as secular music, to include patriotic (the National Anthem) and holiday music. All members and their parents must agree to sing all the repertoire.

## **D. Youth and Volunteer Protection Policy**

The Cumberland Choral Arts, Inc. (CCA, formerly Cumberland Oratorio Singers) and Fayetteville Youth Chorus (FYC) endeavor to provide a safe and healthy environment in which to experience the joys of singing. Accordingly, the Board of CCA has implemented the following policies for FYC in order to provide guidance regarding proper conduct of volunteers. The intent is to avoid situations that might result in abuse or give rise to a false claim of abuse. The policies are as follows:

- 1) Two-deep adult presence:  
At all activities of the FYC, there shall be at least two adults present.
- 2) Privacy: In general, no volunteer/adult shall accompany a FYC member into a bathroom or bathroom stall unless health or other emergencies arise.  
Youth are encouraged to use the restroom before rehearsal begins.
- 3) Avoid one-on-one contact: Adults/volunteers shall endeavor to avoid situations where they are alone with a child in a closed room other than with their own daughter or son.
- 4) Overnight Accommodations: If youth participants include males and females, ideally the adult leaders/chaperones would be males and females. Unless with their own child, adults/volunteers shall not share housing accommodations with any member of the FYC, either alone or in groups.
- 5) Screening: For overnight trips and extended travel by bus or other modes, FYC shall find adult chaperones that have been screened (background check) in accordance with the CCA standards. If necessary FYC may pay volunteer screening.
- 6) Transportation: On occasions when FYC asks adult volunteers to provide transportation from one event to another, unless emergency circumstances arise, volunteers shall not unreasonably deviate from the direct route to and from the event(s).
- 7) Sexual Activity: Any sexual activity among adults/volunteers and FYC choir members is forbidden. Such activity shall include, but not be limited to, sexual comments or jokes, the showing of sexual material, the exposure of sexual parts of the minor's body and/or the adult's body. In addition, appropriate attire shall be worn by volunteers and choir members at all times.

- 8) Discipline: Volunteers shall refrain from any form of physical discipline of choir members. In the event that appropriate verbal measures are ineffective, the volunteer shall report the misconduct as directed by line 12 – reporting policy. Inappropriate verbal measures would include demeaning, shaming, name calling, and profanity. By extension, any form of verbal, emotional, physical, sexual abuse are prohibited.
- 9) Age Eligibility Requirement for Volunteers: Unless also a member of the choir or an alumnus who has obtained approval from the Board, no volunteers shall be younger than 21 years of age. Youth under the direct supervision of approved adult staff or volunteers may assist with supervision of younger children, provided they are at least 3 years older than the children in question.  
*For example: 9th graders (high school) could assist with the supervision of 6th graders or younger (middle school/elementary), provided they are under the direct supervision of approved adult staff or volunteers.*
- 10) Tobacco and Alcohol: While supervising children and youth on behalf of FYC, volunteers will refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol. When transporting FYC members, adults will not be under the influence of alcohol or prescription or non-prescription medication (to include illegal substances), which could impair the ability to drive safely.
- 11) Illegal Substances and Weapons: The use or possession of illegal substances and/or weapons of any kind while supervising children on behalf of FYC is strictly prohibited.
- 12) Reporting: Any occurrence inconsistent with these policies shall be reported to the Music Directors and/or any Board Member of the CCA immediately. These individuals shall be empowered to take immediate action to prevent imminent harm to the choir members. Regardless of whether harm is imminent, all reportable instances shall be made known to the Chair of CCA who shall coordinate and assure compliance with an appropriate response.