

Honor Choir Overnight Chaperone Rules and Expectations

Thank you for offering to serve as an overnight chaperone. Whether you are the chaperone for your own child in your room with you, or you are the chaperone of a group of students, it is important that the rules and expectations are followed for ALL honor choir students for their safety and so that honor choir personnel are aware of how to contact these honor choir students at all times. Student behavior is a reflection of IMEA.

Once leaving the final rehearsal Thursday evening, students are to get settled into their rooms and are expected to stay there for the remainder of the evening.

Thursday has been a long day of rehearsal for your student singer. It is our intention that, while having a good time meeting new friends and getting settled in their rooms, the evening be a time of regeneration for a new day of rehearsals and performance on Friday. Accompany them to get their ice bucket filled if they so desire, but there is to be **NO** shopping, **NO** swimming, and **NO** wandering around the hotel after 9PM. Chaperones should be with their singers at ANY time that they are out of their rooms from the time they are dismissed from Thursday evening's rehearsal until they are 'deposited' into Friday morning's rehearsal after breakfast.

Check the students' room prior to moving in and report anything out of the ordinary to your Assistant Chairperson (whose information is given below)

Please check for things like "complimentary" bottled water. These are charged items –and should have been removed from the IMEA assigned block of rooms prior to our arrival. Students don't understand and think these things are free. They will be told this information in their session as well. For rooms having in-room food and drink items - these are to be locked with no key available to the students. Report any discrepancies to your choir's assistant state chairperson. (See Assistant contact information next) Coffee maker: remind students that this isn't the night to make coffee at 10:00 so they can "stay up all night".

TELL YOUR STUDENTS THAT THEY ARE TO OPEN THEIR ROOM DOOR ONLY FOR HONOR CHOIR LEADERS OR THEIR CHAPERONE. NOT HOTEL PERSONNEL OR ANYONE ELSE!!!

Make sure your student group(s) are told/shown what room you are in and how to contact you using the telephone. Emergency calls to you should be their only use of their room telephones. YOU should be in control of their room key(s.) If anyone other than IMEA leaders or chaperones knock on the students' door, or if another emergency arises, the students should be told to **first contact their assigned chaperone (you.)** If you need further assistance, contact the assistant for your honor choir:

Elementary – Alicia Rankin, (room number to be announced at meeting)

Middle School/Junior High – John Doty, (room number to be announced at meeting)

The assistants will contact Judy Becker, the honor choir state chairperson, if need be.

Lights out – no later than 10:00 p.m. for Elementary and 10:30 p.m for Middle School.

This allows some time for roommates to visit, and students to get settled into their rooms as well as time to prepare themselves and their things for bedtime and for another busy day in the morning. Students should be respectful of other patrons of the hotel by keeping their volume prior to lights out to a minimum. In the past we've had students who were rehearsing in their rooms. While we applaud their efforts and LOVE to know that they want to keep singing, this kind of sound carries all the way through hotel walls and is disruptive to the sleep of others. Please refrain from singing and use this time to rest. Chaperones are to monitor the noise level of their students, and check to see that they are making a best effort for the scheduled lights-out time.

Please let your students know that if behavior problems are unable to be controlled by the students themselves, their chaperones or state assistants, that by the time the state chair is notified of a behavior problem a call home will be warranted, and the possibility of being sent home for lack of cooperation is a sad reality.

Continued...

Wake up, sleepyheads!

With your students, agree on a time for a wakeup **visit** from you to allow enough time to dress for breakfast and pack their belongings in their suitcase. Only disposable water bottles and coats should be left outside of their luggage. They can pack their music in their luggage (I will let you know if our Guest Conductor requests them to have the music with them Friday morning). Meet students and bring them to drop off luggage in the designated luggage room, then back to breakfast. Stay with them (whether you are eating with them or not).

Chaperones should check the student rooms for things possibly left behind before leaving their room for the last time, and then turn the room keys in to the assistant at their choir's registration table before the end of that first rehearsal. ****Some chaperones like to get the kids settled in rehearsal with all luggage out of the hotel rooms before returning to check for any items that may have been left behind.**** That's fine, but please let us know at the rehearsal room that the students are up and at practice, as long as the room keys for both chaperone AND student rooms are turned in before the end of that first morning rehearsal.

Check your particular choir's schedule for rehearsal times, as there are situations when the elementary and middle school schedules differ – particularly on Friday.

Again, thank you for serving as a chaperone for our honor choir kids. We know that the service of a volunteer is vital to our success, but we also hope your experience is a rewarding one as well.

Sincerely,

Judy Becker, State Chair
John Doty, Middle School Assistant State Chair
Alicia Rankin, Elementary Assistant State Chair