

NGGC Youth Initiative Enrollment Agreement

The NGGC Youth Initiative Program strives to expose Choral American Gospel Music to aspiring youth between the ages of 16-19, who seek a unique musical experience. This program will help in building and developing their musical ear, vocal abilities, confidence, and communicative competencies while encouraging and supporting their mental and personal growth.

This is a one year program and can be renewed annually at the behest of the legal guardian (if the potential member is under the age of 18).

Please read the guidelines below and sign the Youth Initiative Form to confirm enrollment into the Program.

To maintain membership on NGGC Youth Initiative Program members agree to:

1. Follow the attached attendance policy (Please refer to **Appendix I** for a breakdown of our attendance policy).
2. Follow the attached singing framework (Please refer to **Appendix II** for a breakdown of this framework)
3. Recognize that there will be scenarios meant to pull members from their comfort zones to foster growth and development both musically, and professionally.
4. Pay a membership fee of \$100 per year of enrollment¹

¹ This fee helps to cover costs associated with special events and projects that provide vocal and professional development opportunities for youth initiative members

APPENDIX 1

Purpose:

The purpose of this attendance policy is to establish clear guidelines for attendance and to ensure that all members are accountable for their attendance at practice and events. Our goal is to establish a fair and effective policy that all members can agree with.

Circumstances for Consideration:

Members who miss **3 or more** rehearsals within a **2-month time frame** without **an acceptable reason for absence (see next section)**, may receive a follow-up from the **Internal Communications Coordinator**.

- During the follow-up, the member's availability for rehearsal(s) will be discussed along with possible alternatives and arrangements if deemed feasible at the time.
 - Depending on the nature of the arrangement, a member may be asked to take an extended leave from NGGC until an agreed upon date of return.
 - This is important to ensure consistency and fairness whilst preparing for large scale projects.

Acceptable Reasons for Absences:

Members may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Illness, injury, or death in the family
2. Other extenuating circumstances, once communicated to the **Internal Communications Coordinator**

Members are expected to attend rehearsals, performances, and/or special projects. If a member is unable to attend due to any of the reasons listed above, they must communicate with the **Internal Communications Coordinator** as soon as possible.

Outcomes of Absence:

Members who miss rehearsals or events may miss the following:

- New songs or routines
- Important information or announcements
- Team-building activities
- Opportunities for participation in upcoming performances, events, and special projects

We will keep a weekly attendance record for all members. If a member accumulates too many absences within a 2-month time frame, we will initiate a follow-up conversation to address the issue and discuss the member's availability and commitment.

This is valid for one year, to be renewed annually — NGGC 2023

Special Note:

We want to emphasize that communication is key. If you know in advance that you will miss a rehearsal or event, or if you have an unexpected absence, please notify us as soon as possible.

Additionally, we recognize the importance of mental health, and well being. If you are experiencing mental health challenges, affecting your ability to attend rehearsals or events, we encourage you to reach out to any member of the management team. We are open to supporting and working with you to ensure your time on NGGC is a positive experience.

APPENDIX II

Background:

In order to facilitate growth, development and responsibility in our youth initiative members, we provide an array of challenges and incentives that members must engage to participate in our singing endeavors.

This program is meant to be both challenging and rewarding, as such, members should expect to be taken out of their comfort zones, and engage in this process responsibly.

Regular Engagements:

To sing for any regular engagements, the member must attend rehearsals regularly as outlined in the ***attendance policy***. Additionally, all participants will be vocally evaluated by the director(s) based on 3 criteria:

- Notes
 - Does the participant demonstrate sound knowledge of the notes with 85% accuracy?
- Lyrics
 - Does the participant demonstrate solid knowledge of the lyrics of the song, with at least 95% accuracy?
- Structure
 - Does the participant demonstrate solid understanding of the structure, or sectional order of the songs with at least 90% accuracy?

If a member is unable to demonstrate mastery of these elements during rehearsals, they may (in consultation with the director(s)) work out alternative opportunities for demonstration.

Special Events

From time to time, we receive very special musical opportunities for the group to participate in such as music videos, studio recordings, and even work with well known musical artists — Shawn Mendes is an example of an artist we have worked with in the past.

The directors will choose 2-3 youth initiative members to participate if they meet all the criteria outlined above in addition to the final criterion outlined below:

- Delivery
 - Does the member utilize good dynamics, enunciation, gesturing, and engagement in intentional ways?

This system enables and fosters competencies that contribute to the future success of our youth initiative members.

Previous members have received scholarships and/or community recognition for their impact, and successful members of this initiative can request recommendation and reference letters when seeking future employment and applying for Higher Ed Programs.