

## CAST

2010 Tour Draft

November 30, 2010

One of our goals in the Nebraska Choral Arts Society is to develop leadership experience and independence among our singers. Travel is an integral part of this development and all NCAS Choirs travel regionally, nationally, or internationally.

Dates: Monday, July 26 to Sunday, August 1  
Location: Colorado Springs  
Event: In Harmony Pikes Peak International Music Festival  
Cost: Preliminary total \$650 (could be as much as \$750)  
We are awaiting final festival details about the meals provided, etc., before we finalize our tour budget.

- Subject to change
- Final cost will be based upon number attending

### Includes:

- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- Festival cost
- Meals
- Hotel accommodations on Saturday, July 31
- Chaperone costs
- Coach driver fees and tip
- Sightseeing
- Tour t-shirt ? (Does anyone know who might sponsor our shirts?)

Fee Deadlines: Non-refundable deposit: \$100 November 30  
Raffle Ticket Sales January, 2010  
Final payment due March 30, 2010  
Note: **All tour payments are non-refundable.**

### Frequently asked questions:

#### ***Is tour required?***

Our "tour" costs are separate from tuition because this is an extra activity that can be almost entirely fundraised. The Nebraska Choral Arts Society handbook state that tour is required for all singers. To represent NCAS in the best possible manner, every singer is needed to ensure the sound of the group while on tour.

#### ***Will my singer miss school?***

This year our tour will not be during the school year, however, it may conflict with other summer activities.

#### ***How did you select this destination?***

When considering tours, NCAS staff seek to what is best educationally for the singers. Tour is not merely a chance for singers to "get away" to some place "new and exciting". This festival offers CAST singers a rare opportunity to participate in an international setting without the expense of traveling abroad.

#### ***Can I go along?***

Chaperones will be selected by NCAS staff, based upon volunteer participation in the past, ability to work with young people, and familiarity to the NCAS staff.

Although you know your child best and we can't stop you, we discourage the family from following behind us in the family car. Part of the experience is developing independence as a

young adult, and this structured tour gives young people an excellent opportunity to feel independent and “on their own” (but of course, because of the way we structure things, they are not entirely on their own). Singers are always expected to stay in groups together.

***How will my son/daughter be supervised?***

During the day, your singer will be assigned to a group. Since our choir members are teens, they are expected to handle a bit more responsibility than singers in the younger choirs. When we are at a museum, or other public venue, they are expected to stay with their group. We do share cell phone numbers so that anyone who gets separated can easily contact a chaperone or other singer.

During the festival our singers will be able to homestay, staying with families of other singers in the Colorado Spring choirs. Singers will always be assigned to homestays in pairs; no singer ever goes to a home stay alone.

For Saturday night, four singers are assigned to a hotel room (with two double beds). Singers are expected to remain in their rooms from “lights out” until morning. All CAST rooms will be on the same hallway/vicinity at the hotel. (This procedure is consistent with all the NCAS choirs.)

Parents not traveling on the trip are encouraged to contact their PIC prior to the trip, to get to know them, discuss particular needs of the singer, etc.

***If selected as a chaperone, I'll be able to keep an eye on my child, correct?***

Chaperones should keep in mind: You're really going along to supervise all the singers, not your own. Although you will certainly be allowed to interact with your child during the trip, he/she will not be assigned to you during the day. We encourage you to help them foster a sense of independence from you on this trip. During the day, you will be assigned to supervise singers other than your own child.

***Who will my child “room” with?***

Singers will select a partner with whom to room and be assigned another pair of singers. NCAS staff will make assignments two to three weeks prior to departure.

***Where are you performing?***

We will be participating in a variety of performances at the Pikes Peak International Festival. We provide further details as our tour date approaches.

***Is this safe?***

Although this may be a new experience for you and your child, this is not a new experience for NCAS. Our choirs have been traveling domestically and internationally for many years. Every precaution has been taken to ensure that our most precious commodity, the singers, will be taken care of and come away from the trip benefiting educationally and musically.

***To whom do I address questions, suggestions, or concerns?***

We welcome parent comments. Please pass your suggestions along to director Kat Doebel, your PIC Colleen McNamara, or Kris Tannehill, NCAS Operations Coordinator, for consideration. With our years of travel experience, the NCAS staff attempts to address concerns ahead of time, but if we've forgotten something, let us know!

Transportation & Bus Driver	\$173	Festival	\$300
Meals	\$57	Sightseeing	\$20
Chaperones	\$60	Hotel (1 night)	\$40

***Preliminary Total \$650 (Based on 25 singers)***