

Seattle Girls' Choir

Tours and Festivals

Touring is an important part of the choir experience. The girls gain confidence and pride in their accomplishments through bringing their music to new audiences and getting to know other choirs. They can judge their own performances more critically in light of their observations of the other choirs. They make friends in other regions and countries, broaden their perspectives, and build lifetime memories.

SGC tours are **organized by Parent Auxiliary committees**. Typically the SGC conductor has made preliminary contact with the potential host choir, sponsoring organization, or festival and makes the assessment that the girls are ready musically for this experience. The board then presents the proposed tour to the parents of that choir level for a vote. If 50% or more vote in favor of the tour then plans will move forward and all girls in that choir level are expected to go. The tour committee then takes charge of the itinerary, billing the families, transportation, housing, chaperoning, and fundraising as necessary.

The youngest girls rarely travel. Touring increases as the girls advance through the levels of the choir. Prime Voci generally takes at least one trip every season. Short tours may involve participation in a festival or a music convention, or visiting another regional choir to perform a concert there. Major tours may be as long as three weeks and can involve travel worldwide.

The costs of tours vary depending on distance, hosting opportunities, other housing and food costs. The total cost of the tour is divided evenly among that choir level's choristers. As noted above the Tour Committee try to help make fundraising opportunities available early in the planning stages and families are encouraged to participate as part of the touring community.

The Tour Manager and Tour Chaperones are important positions and again are filled by parent volunteers. Chaperoning is hard work, and every effort is made to choose parents who have experience, know the girls well, and can work with the girls, the conductor, and the accompanist. Successful chaperoning at camp is a significant factor in Tour Chaperone selection. As with other chaperoning opportunities in the Guild the daughter of a chaperone will not be assigned to that parent's group so that impartial leading can be more successful on the trip.

As the tour/event date approaches it is common for the conductor to schedule additional rehearsals which are often called "intensives". This could be scheduled on a weekend or several consecutive days during a school break. As soon as the conductor sets the intensive dates the choristers are notified and are expected to attend.

Please note, that if a choir level is on a "short" tour during the season **we still expect** attendance at camp in August. Fundraising can be used to fund the tour as well as your daughter's camp expense.

Tour Fund Scholarship

The **Parent Auxiliary** began fundraising for a "Tour Fund" in 2003 by using a portion of the money raised from the holiday silent auction as well as by an initial request to choir supporters

and alumnae. The fund has been growing slowly and steadily and the Board recently created some guidelines to manage its future distribution.

As domestic or international tour opportunities are approved and the cost per chorister is \$500 or more the Scholarship Committee will make the fund available to applications. A letter will be sent to the choir level(s) involved in that approved tour reminding them of the availability of the Tour Fund.

For each fiscal year up to 25% of the fund will be made available for applications. Consistent with the tuition scholarship process the scholarships will be awarded based on financial need and be managed with complete confidentiality by the Scholarship Manager.