

LET'S TALK!

Sit down with your quartet and go through these questions – and come up with some of your own. It's so important that all four members come to agreement and understanding of these topics. Everyone brings different skills and life experiences to the group and they are all to be respected; this is simply a way to learn more about your new best friends and to establish expectations. Be honest and forthright – this builds trust!

- What is your level of quartet experience?
 - Is it same or different from each other?
- How well do you know each other?
 - Just met recently or long-time friends?
 - One new person in the group?
- What is your main goal in this quartet?
 - Do you set goals for the group and work to achieve them?
 - Do you commit time to practice skills between rehearsals?
- How competitive are you?
 - Highly competitive
 - Just want to perform “for fun”
- Do you read music?
 - If not, do you have someone who can prepare learning tracks?
- How do you learn music?
 - Sight-read
 - Audio tracks
 - Piano plunking
 - Need help
- How long does it take you to learn a song (~4 pages)?
 - All 4 will be different - agree on acceptable amount of time (some flex)
 - What to do if someone doesn't uphold her agreement?
 - Do you rely on your coach or others to find note errors?
- How often and how long do you want (or need) to rehearse?
 - Weekly?
 - Monthly?
- Do you genuinely look forward to rehearsals?
 - Or do you or fear them?
 - Do you laugh a lot and have generally compatible personality styles?
 - Do you communicate easily and often?

- How will you pay for expenses? As individuals and as a quartet?
 - Costumes (and bling)
 - Coaching
 - Hotels
 - Travel (esp. if long-distance group)
 - Other miscellaneous expenses.
- How often do you want to perform?
- How many songs are already in your repertoire? What's missing?
- How do you find music for your quartet?
 - SAI: <https://sweetadelines.com/resources/find-purchase-music>
 - SHEET MUSIC PLUS: <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/>
 - BARBERSHOP ARRANGERS: <https://barbershopconnections.com/arrangers/>
 - BARBERSHOP TRACKS: <http://barbershoptracks.com/>
 - Only legally purchased music
- How do you select your music?
 - Preview arrangements for range, difficulty level. If unsure, ask your chorus director or a coach, or a Music Judge.
 - Competition songs – check with Music Judge on barbershop merit and suitability
 - Special occasions – birthdays, anniversaries, patriotic, holidays
- What about coaching?
 - How often do you work with a coach?
 - What kind of coach do you want/need?
- What is your general health?
 - Any concerns that may affect your quartet?
- How many hours a week have you already committed to your chorus? Look at calendar!
 - Rehearsals
 - Performances
 - Meetings/Committees
 - Fundraising projects
 - Coaching sessions
- Will you attend Regional events – conventions and workshops?
- Will you attend International events - conventions and workshops?

- How do family, career, and other obligations affect your quartet calendar?
 - Family - children's sports, lessons, school activities and schedules
 - Career – business trips and frequency
 - Church and other personal activities
 - Vacations and holidays

What other questions/topics do you think are important to you/your quartet?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____