



Young Women in Harmony Ideas

Remember that Sweet Adelines International has a **Nonrecruitment policy**

It must be emphasized that this program DOES NOT solicit membership of these young women into Sweet Adelines International. The program in the schools introduces the joy and fun of singing four-part harmony, barbershop style.

Build a relationship with your local high school choral directors

How do you find them?

- Ask chorus members if anyone in their family or neighbors have kids involved in choral.
- Search internet – search by school name or town name and High School
 - Most high schools have web sites and many list faculty by department.

Initial Contact

The best way to make contact is through someone who knows the choral director. If you have that person, team up and go together. But call or write for an appointment first. See sample contact letter in the YWIH Guide for Chapters

Talking Points

- What is Sweet Adelines?
- What is the Young Women in Harmony program?
- Why sing Barbershop Harmony?
- Benefits of teaching barbershop harmony to students
- Demonstration presentation available
- Resources available – free

See related IES handouts:

“YWIH in Schools”.

“Why Teach Barbershop?” outlines MENC standards

Invite the school’s top girls choral group

Note: They don’t need to sing barbershop, this is just a step in building the relationship.

- Perform at your rehearsal
- Perform on an upcoming show
- Participate in a program, such as Music After Five, Singing Classes before chorus, a barbershop workshop or festival.

If nothing else, give the choral director 2 free tickets to your show. They need to see us to appreciate us. Do this every year even if they don’t come at first. If they do come to your show, contact them immediately after for possible programs or to provide the Music Educators Package. DON’T GIVE UP!

Offer free resources to help build barbershop harmony into their curriculum

SAI has a free Music Educators Package that contains comprehensive information for teaching young voices four-part harmony along with music, and a learning CD. To order, provide the school and choral director mailing information to the Education Department at SAI headquarters. Call 800/992-7464 or e-mail education@sweetadelineintl.org.

Or, you may contact Diane Landry, singlandry@sbcglobal.net Regional YWIH Coordinator to order the materials.

REMINDER!! Make sure everyone involved in your youth outreach and programs understands SAI guidelines regarding our Non Recruitment Policy



Program Ideas

Music After Five [[brochure attached](#)]

The program was established as an effective way for school age singers to discover barbershop harmony. Young participants will learn basic vocal and performance skills, plus develop an appreciation for music.

Girl Scouts "Singing for Others" Activity Day

Contact a local Girl Scout troop. If the girls learn a song and participate in a performance, they get a new badge. Plan an activity day to teach a simple song, maybe some tags and rounds. The performance could be for a local nursing home or hospital. Use quartets and/or your chorus to teach and back up the girls. What a great way to plant the barbershop seed!

Young Women In Harmony Singing Classes

Singing classes for girls age 12 - 25.

A great chance to have fun singing and learning about four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. Class before chorus rehearsals for an hour. Use YWIH books from International and chose a song from one of them to start learning and taught a few tags to the girls. Explain about barbershop music, posture, vowels, etc. Played some videos of choruses and quartets to let them see what we do. Possibly plan a performance for friends & family along with the chorus.

Presentation in the schools

- Have a quartet that is of good quality and available during school hours ready to do this if you offer.
- If the quartet isn't comfortable with the speaking portion explaining barbershop, enlist someone from your music staff.
- Contact local barbershop chapter to see if they want to participate.

The agenda may go something like this. (See sample agenda in the YWIH Guide for Chapters)

- Male quartet sings (7 min)
- Explain history of barbershop, how voicing works & the differences between barbershop and SATB. (see Barbershop Basics – Vocal skills for explanation of the voice parts, the cone and the difference between BBS & SATB) (5 min)
- Female quartet sings (7 min)
- Explain about the BHS & SAI organizations and our goal to introduce the barbershop style of acappella singing to young people. Let them know about any barbershop festivals, workshops or contests coming up in their area. (5 min)
- Teach a tag & what is it? (10 min)
- Ask the kids to sing (5 Min)
- Questions & Answers (10 min)

Half-day or Full-day Festival

See the resources and the YWIH Guide for Chapter for ideas, tools, etc.

Chapter Open Night with YWIH

Groups perform for each other. Students can invite their parents & friends. A chance to share different vocal styles and introduce barbershop to the student groups. See sample invitation letter in the YWIH Guide for Chapters

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Area competitions for male & female high school choruses and quartets

Region 3 has one competition in northern Illinois and any high school group is welcome to participate. We will also advise any chapter that might want to start a similar competition in the Michigan/Indiana area.