

*"So, I've never been to a show choir competition...
What should I expect?"*

Show Choir 101 for Parents

by John Husbands, parent of 4 Encore alums

Before You Leave Home

Double-check directions to the location and the times of Encore's performance before you leave home. Make sure you have someone's cell phone number to call if you get lost.

Bring money, for both you and your child (they love to take your money):

- Admission tickets for yourselves
- Food and drinks (Could be both lunch and dinner)
- Shout-outs (can range from \$1.00 to \$10.00)
- You may want to order a DVD of the competition

Maybe bring a book or something to do. It will be a long day and there is a lot of downtime.

When You Arrive

You'll be at a high school, so you may have to park far away. (People will be directing traffic to help you).

Find the main doors to enter. Follow the crowd or ask.

Be prepared for chaos!

Buying Admission Tickets

This is usually the first thing you do (it's either a wristband or a stamp).

Prices vary per competition but generally are broken down as follows:

- Daytime shows only
- Combined Daytime-and-Evening shows = higher price but discounted
- Evening Finals show only

If you think you are only staying until dinner or earlier, then just get the day pass. If you are thinking of staying all the way to Finals, then the daytime-and-evening ticket is cheaper to buy.

Buy a program where you buy the tickets. It tells everything about the day (who, when, and where).

Now That You Have Your Wristband, you can....

Find people that look like you (*You know, other Encore parents*). We normally wear our spirit wear.

The safest spot to gather is in the Cafeteria (the Mecca of all competitions). Most parents end up here.

Or, you can go in and watch other schools perform. Check your program to see who is up next.

Ultimately you will end up in the auditorium.

NOTE: Some auditoriums are small in size, and lines form to get inside. Be sure you know where the auditorium is and where the line is forming. Most competitions have live feeds (via TV monitors) showing what is going on inside the auditorium and who is on stage.

Where is my Child?

Encore students are in a couple of classrooms in the school that serve as their home base/dressing rooms.

For most events, parents are not allowed back in the classrooms at all for the whole day.

Before their performance, they are:

- Getting dressed
- Warming up
- Putting on makeup and doing hair
- Rehearsing

Most likely, the first time you will see them will be on stage.