



# COUGAR CHOIR CAMP

Unleash your power

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## CAMP HANDBOOK

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**July 18–21, 2018**  
Residential Camp

**August 1–4, 2018**  
Day Camp

University of Houston  
Moore School of Music

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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### ABOUT COUGAR CHOIR CAMP

Program Description.....	3
Contact Information.....	3
Directions & Parking.....	3
Faculty and Staff.....	4
Typical Day at Camp.....	5
Starting & Ending Times.....	5
Final Concert & Lunch.....	5
Safety and Security.....	5
Contacting Your Child.....	5
Emergency Departures.....	6

### REGISTRATION & FEES

Registration & Payment Procedures.....	7
Fees.....	7
Payment Options.....	7
Cancellation & Refund Policy.....	8
Waiting List.....	8
Roommate Requests.....	8

### HOUSING, MEALS, & HEALTH CARE

On-Campus Housing.....	9
Loss of Items & Theft.....	9
Meals and Nutrition.....	9
Health Care.....	9
Medication Dispersal.....	10
Accessibility.....	10

### FIRST DAY OF CAMP

Residential Camper Check-In.....	11
Day Camper Check-In.....	11
Residential Camper Packing List.....	11

### LAST DAY OF CAMP

Dormitory Check-out.....	12
Luggage Retrieval.....	12
Final Concert & BBQ Lunch.....	12

### POLICIES

Camper Code of Conduct.....	13
Medical Consent for Treatment Policy.....	14
Authorization for Use of Image, Voice, Performance, Artwork, or Likeness Policy.....	15

## ABOUT COUGAR CHOIR CAMP

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Houston Cougar Choir Camp is open to all students entering grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 at a Texas high school. ***The primary focus of the camp is preparation for upcoming All-State choir auditions, although other educational opportunities will be provided, including conducting classes, sight-reading instruction and beginning yoga.*** Students will receive expert instruction from Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, Director of Choral Studies; Dr. Jeb Mueller, Associate Director of Choral Studies; world-class UH voice faculty members; and outstanding high school choral directors with decades of experience. The camp culminates with a required student concert that celebrates the week’s learning. Students of all ability levels will find appropriate challenges within a positive and nurturing environment.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Camp Website ..... <http://www.uh.edu/kgmca//music/cougarchoircamp>  
 Camp E-mail ..... [choircamp@uh.edu](mailto:choircamp@uh.edu)  
 Camp Office (Room 165) ..... (713) 743-7390  
 Mailing Address..... Cougar Choir Camp  
 3333 Cullen Blvd., Room 120, Houston, TX 77204-4017

### DIRECTIONS & PARKING

**Moores School of Music & Moores Opera House** [Google Map](#)  
 3333 Cullen Blvd., Houston, TX 77204  
 From Interstate 45: Exit Cullen Blvd. Follow signs to University of Houston. Moores School of Music is located at Entrance 16, one block past Elgin Street on the left. Parking is located directly across from the Moores School of Music.

**Cougar Village Dormitory** [Google Map](#)  
 4285 Wheeler Ave., Houston, TX 77204  
 From Interstate 45: Exit Cullen Blvd. Follow signs to University of Houston. Turn left onto Wheeler Avenue, and Cougar Village is located approximately two blocks down on the left.

**Parking**  
 Family members may park for free in the lots directly opposite the Moores School of Music for registration and the Saturday concert/lunch.

We highly recommend that campers catch a ride to and from camp. However, if they need to park on-campus, they must purchase a parking pass (\$40) from the camp office prior to arrival.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Cougar Choir Camp faculty are chosen based on a track record of successful teaching, student-centered care and a fun, positive demeanor. University of Houston faculty members are recognized around the world for their teaching excellence and for distinguished careers. Complete biographies for all faculty may be found on the [Cougar Choir Camp website](#).

**Camp & Music Director** Dr. Jeb Mueller, University of Houston  
**Music Director** Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, University of Houston  
**Assistant Camp Director** Catherine Genzer  
**Social Director** John Gallagher

**Sectional Instructors** **July 18–21**  
 Emily Chandler, Seven Lakes High School  
 Karla Cruz, Anderson High School  
 Christopher Fiorini, Langham Creek High School  
 Jen Goodner, Westlake High School  
 Heather Orr, Montgomery High School  
 Ed Snouffer, Westlake High School

**August 1–4**  
 Cynthia Douglas, Cypress Ranch High School  
 Deidre Douglas, Cypress Falls High School  
 Levi Duncan, Sterling High School  
 Jen Gallagher, Shadow Creek High School  
 Michael Kessler, Pearland High School  
 Dorothy Wilson, Cinco Ranch High School

**Collaborative Pianists**  
 Carl Braden, Atascocita High School  
 Michael Grauvogl, Robert E. Lee High School  
 John Markert, Northbrook High School  
 Saleel Menon, Ridge Point High School  
 Dan Miner, Bondy Junior High School  
 Carla Summers, Florida  
 Brenda Varvoutis, South Houston High School

**Elective Faculty**  
 Dr. Betsy Cook Weber  
 Dr. Jeb Mueller  
 Dr. Zach Averyt, University of Houston Voice Faculty  
 Joseph Evans, University of Houston Voice Faculty  
 Melanie Sonnenberg, University of Houston Voice Faculty  
 Hector Vasquez, University of Houston Voice Faculty  
 Lisa Borik, Big Power Yoga  
 Anna Diemer, Houston Symphony Chorus  
 Deidre Douglas, Cypress Falls High School

**Counselors** Outstanding University of Houston students

## TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

Each day is structured slightly different, but campers will rehearse for several hours, attend an elective class, eat, and enjoy a social activity. Every moment is structured to encourage learning, enrichment, enjoyment, and social growth.

***All campers must be in attendance during all instructional times.*** If the dates of camp conflict with another activity or event, the camper and parent must choose between the two events prior to registering. ***Doctor/dentist/orthodontist/etc. appointments should not be scheduled during the week of camp.***

## STARTING AND ENDING TIMES

### Residential Campers

Wednesday: 8:00 AM check-in  
 Thursday: All day  
 Friday: All day  
 Saturday: Concert at 11:30 AM, lunch follows

### Day Campers

Wednesday: 8:00 AM–6:00 PM  
 Thursday: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM  
 Friday: 8:00 AM–6:00 PM  
 Saturday: Concert at 11:30 AM, lunch follows

## FINAL CONCERT & LUNCH

All campers are required to participate in the final concert on Saturday. A celebratory barbeque lunch will be provided afterward, and parents and family members are encouraged to participate (at an additional cost per person).

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Student-to-Counselor Ratio

We maintain an approximate 10:1 student-to-counselor ratio. Counselors are assigned to the same students throughout the camp, so that they better know their assigned campers. Campers are supervised during all activities, and attendance is taken at all classes/rehearsals. Bed checks are performed each evening, and hall monitors will patrol the dormitories during the night. We make every possible effort to insure your child's safety.

### UH Police Department

In the unlikely event that an emergency occurs, all counselors and faculty will have access to the University of Houston Police Department. They typically respond within two minutes of a call.

## CONTACTING YOUR CHILD

Campers may carry cell phones with them, but they must be silenced during rehearsals, and students may not have them out for any reason during instructional periods. Parents may also leave messages for students through the camp office.

## EMERGENCY DEPARTURES

In rare instances where parents/guardians must pick up their child in an emergency situation, the ***guardian must first contact the camp office to make them aware of the situation.*** Campers must check out with their counselor and with the camp office before leaving the premises, and the parent/guardian must be seen before the child will be released. These procedures help maintain every child's safety, and exceptions will not be made.

## REGISTRATION & FEES

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### REGISTRATION & PAYMENT PROCEDURES

All registrations occur online at <http://www.uh.edu/cota/music/cougarchoircamp>. **A \$100 deposit is required at the time of registration if full payment is not provided.** Credit card payments are accepted online, or checks made payable to “University of Houston Cougar Choir Camp” may be sent to the camp office. Camp registration fees must be paid in full by July 1 or the cancellation policy goes into effect.

### FEES

#### Residential Campers

Registration fee includes tuition, on-campus dormitory housing, all meals, t-shirt, All-State Choir music packet, social events, and one Saturday BBQ lunch ticket.

- \$375 tuition
- \$200 for All-State Choir members (*will be verified by office staff*)

#### Day Campers

Registration fee includes tuition, lunches, t-shirt, All-State Choir music packet and one Saturday BBQ lunch ticket.

- \$260 tuition
- \$85 for All-State Choir members (*will be verified by office staff*)

#### Miscellaneous Expenses

- \$40: 4-day pass to park on-campus
- \$15: Extra Saturday BBQ lunch meals for family and friends
- \$202.50: Lost room key fee
- Case-by-case: damage to UH property

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

#### Credit cards

MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover Card are accepted.

#### Checks

Checks should be mailed to the camp office and made payable to “University of Houston.”

***Full payments will be processed at the time of registration unless a parent or guardian contacts the camp office to make other arrangements.***

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

### **Prior to July 1**

All but \$100 (non-refundable deposit) will be refunded if requested by phone or email. Those who paid by credit card will have their card credited in the proper amount.

### **After July 1**

No refunds will be provided because expenses cannot be recouped.

## WAITING LIST

Participation is limited to the first 280 campers who register and pay their fees in full. After that, students will be placed on the waiting list, and parents will be notified if space becomes available.

## ROOMMATE REQUESTS

Although requests cannot be guaranteed, residential campers may indicate a preferred roommate on the registration form. **Roommate election or changes will not be permitted within two weeks of the start of camp.** If no roommate preference is indicated, an effort will be made to match students of the same age. **Campers may not switch roommates upon arrival at or during camp.** Visitation between campers of the same gender housed on different floors is allowed at the discretion of the campers' assigned counselors.



## HOUSING, MEALS, & HEALTH CARE

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### ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Residential campers stay in either Cougar Village I or Cougar Village II, state-of-the-art dormitories that opened in 2010 and 2012, respectively. Students have one roommate and share a bathroom with three other campers. Counselors stay on the same floor as their assigned campers.

[Cougar Village website](#)

### LOSS OF ITEMS & THEFT

Campers should keep their rooms locked and never leave items of value unattended. Cougar Choir Camp **cannot be** responsible for campers' personal money or other assets. Items left behind at the end of camp will be held for two weeks. ***Campers should contact Cougar Village directly for any items left in the dormitory.***

### MEALS & NUTRITION

#### Meals & Facilities

Residential campers will eat breakfast and dinner at Moody Towers, a 33,000 square foot facility with delicious, nutritionally appropriate portion sizes. Professional chefs cook fresh, non-frozen food at nine all-you-can-eat stations. All dietary options are available, including vegetarian and gluten-free. Taco Cabana, Chick-fil-A, Dominos, Alonti Catering, and similar vendors will cater other meals.

[Moody Towers website](#)

Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options will be made available to those who request it during registration. Please note that residential campers may not access their rooms during the day except in cases of emergency, and then only with a counselor. Those who need to pack their own meals should plan accordingly.

#### Breakfasts

Students should eat breakfast prior to arriving on-campus.

#### At the Dorm

The Cougar Pause, CCC's convenience store, will be open during common dormitory time. This will include food, drinks, and merchandise.

### HEALTH CARE

In the case of illness or a non-life-threatening event, Cougar Choir Camp personnel will contact parents to make appropriate health care arrangements. Typically, parents will pick up their children and take them to the doctor of their choosing, should that be required. Minor issues, such as cuts and scrapes, will be handled by UH counselors and staff. A first aid kit will be available at all times.

***In the case of an emergency, UH personnel will contact the appropriate health care providers until parents can be reached.*** Guardians must sign the Medical Information & Consent to Treat Form in order for their children to participate.

### **MEDICATION DISPERSAL**

#### **Residential Campers Only**

***Campers who require daily medications should turn in all medications in their original bottles in a plastic bag with dosing instructions during Wednesday morning check-in.*** Counselors will discharge medications at all meals or at predetermined intervals. It is the camper's responsibility to take his/her medications.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

All areas of the Cougar Choir Camp are accessible to those with disabilities. Please notify the Cougar Choir Camp office of any special needs your child may require.

## FIRST DAY OF CAMP

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### RESIDENTIAL CAMPER CHECK-IN

Eat breakfast before arriving on-campus. **Parents/guardians and campers should check-in at Cougar Village (directions on website or in this handbook) between 8:00–9:30AM.** Each camper will be given a room key. The parent/guardian is asked to walk through the dorm registration with the camper, [see his/her room and](#) drop off luggage. Once the camper is settled in his/her room, parents are encouraged to depart campus. Residential campers have a meeting with their counselors at 9:30AM. Camp administrative staff and/or counselors will be on-hand to answer any questions and to provide directions.

### DAY CAMPER CHECK-IN

There is no special registration for day campers. They should arrive between 7:30–8:00AM each day at the Moores School of Music.

### RESIDENTIAL CAMPER PACKING LIST

This is not a comprehensive packing list, but rather a suggestion of things to bring. **Parents should carefully review their child's luggage before dropping them off for camp.** It is suggested that campers use a rolling piece of luggage, as they will be responsible for carrying their own luggage to the Moores School of Music on the final day, an approximate six-block walk.

#### Clothing

- Underwear
- Socks
- Short-sleeved shirts
- Shorts
- Jeans
- **Comfortable shoes**
- **Hoodie or light jacket** (rooms can get cold)
- **Raingear or umbrella**

#### Accessories

- Sunglasses (inexpensive suggested)
- Wallet
- Small purse
- **Batteries for electronics**
- Pencils for rehearsal
- **Cash for Cougar Pause**

#### Toiletries

- **Soap** and facial cleanser
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Comb or brush
- **Deodorant/antiperspirant**
- Contact lens solution
- **Toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss**
- Lip balm & lotion
- Personal hygiene products
- Razor and shaving gel
- Sunscreen

### Medications

- **Put all medications in a Ziploc bag with the camper's name on it.**
- Prescriptions must be in their original containers with dosing information.
- Over-the-counter medications may be included.
- Students may carry inhalers and similar devices with them.

### Linens

- **Twin, extra-long bed sheets** (*fitted and flat*) OR *sleeping bag*
- Pillow
- Pillow case
- Blanket
- **Towels and washcloths**

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## LAST DAY OF CAMP

### DORMITORY CHECK-OUT

Counselors will inspect every room before residential campers are allowed to check-out of the dormitory. Campers will carry their luggage to the Moores School of Music, an approximate six-block walk.

### LUGGAGE RETRIEVAL

Luggage will be stored in a locked room until after the final concert. Counselors will then open and monitor the luggage holding room until after the BBQ lunch. Parents/guardians/students may retrieve their luggage anytime between the end of the final concert and the end of the BBQ lunch. Any unclaimed items will be held for two weeks before being donated to Goodwill Industries.

### FINAL CONCERT & BBQ LUNCH

Residential and commuter campers will perform a final concert that culminates the week's learning in the world-class Moores Opera Center (located in the Moores School of Music) at 11:30AM. Admission is free, and parents/guardians and family members are heartily encouraged to attend.

A catered BBQ lunch will be provided for all campers following the concert. Family members may purchase additional BBQ tickets ahead of time (\$15/person) or at the door (\$20/person).

## CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT

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In order to provide a fun and safe environment, all campers are required to abide by the following rules and expectations while participating in the University of Houston Cougar Choir Camp.

1. Students are expected and required to follow all directions given by any faculty or staff member.
2. We care about your safety and about our facilities. With this in mind, no horseplay, bullying, hazing or participation in dangerous games or activities will be allowed.
3. In the unlikely event that there is an incident that represents inappropriate behavior, it should be immediately reported to a counselor or staff member.
4. Students may not leave campus without authorization from a staff member.
  - a. Day campers will turn their car keys into their counselor at the beginning of each day; they will be returned at the end of the day.
  - b. Residential campers must stay in the dormitory once evening activities have concluded. Students with vehicles may not drive off campus for any reason. All keys will be given to a housing coordinator upon check-in; they will be returned at the end of camp.
5. Students are expected to show consideration for others. Voices, music, and other noises should be kept at a reasonable volume.
6. The use of alcohol and other controlled substances is not permitted. All medications must be given to the camp medical coordinator upon check-in.
7. Weapons of any kind are not allowed. These include, but are not limited to: guns, pocketknives, razor blades, etc.
8. Students are responsible for keeping their rooms clean and for keeping all the fixtures and furniture in their room and bathroom in good condition. Charges will be assessed for:
  - a. damages to room equipment or the building
  - b. unauthorized use of rooms, equipment or building
  - c. alterations of any room equipment and/or building facilities
  - d. special cleaning necessitated by improper or unreasonable care of room
  - e. lost key/lock charge is \$202.50 each
9. Practicing of any musical instruments is not allowed in the dorm.
10. Dormitory floors will be separated by gender. Members of the opposite sex are not allowed on each other's floors or in each other's rooms at any time.
11. No one will be allowed in the dorms during the day unless accompanied by a counselor.
12. Students may bring personal electronics, including a phone, television, or game system for their rooms. However, students may not bring any cooking devices for use in their rooms. Cougar Choir Camp cannot be responsible for any loss of personal property.

***Violation of any of these rules may result in immediate dismissal from camp without possibility of a refund. This will be left to the discretion of the Camp Director.***

## **MEDICAL CONSENT TO TREATMENT POLICY**

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Parents/guardians hereby authorize such diagnostic, medical and/or surgical treatment as may be considered necessary or appropriate under the circumstances for the treatment of any illness or injury. The attending physician, appropriate staff and University of Houston and its officers, regents, and employees shall not be responsible in any way for any consequences from said diagnostic, medical and/or surgical treatment and are hereby released from any and all claims and causes of action that may arise, grow out of, or be incident to such diagnosis, treatment, or surgery insofar as the law allows and provides that these services are performed with ordinary care and to the best of their ability.

Those without health insurance agree to pay all medical expenses incurred during Cougar Choir Camp. The University of Houston, Cougar Choir Camp, and all affiliated entities will not be held financially responsible.

## **AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF IMAGE, VOICE, PERFORMANCE, ARTWORK, OR LIKENESS POLICY**

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Parents and guardians hereby permit and authorize the University of Houston (the "University") and its employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and personnel who are acting on behalf of the University to create and/or obtain and use my photograph, a video and/or audio recording, my voice, and/or quotes/excerpts of my written or verbally expressed words (hereinafter collectively referred to as "My Likeness") for purposes related to the educational mission of the University, including instructional and/or educational purposes, publicity, marketing, and promotion of the University and its various programs without compensation to me. I understand My Likeness may be copied/reproduced and distributed by means of various media, including, but not limited to, video presentations, simultaneous television broadcast/rebroadcast, radio transmission/retransmission, news releases, mail-outs, emails, brochures, placement on websites and/or electronic delivery, publication, display, or promotion on any and all other media, and I further understand that My Likeness may be subject to reasonable modification or editing. I acknowledge that the University has the right to make one or more photographs, audio recordings, videotape or disk presentations, or other electronic reproductions of My Likeness in accordance with this Authorization for Use of Image, Voice, Performance, Artwork or Likeness (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "this Authorization"). I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product or material in which the University may eventually use My Likeness.

I relinquish and give the University all rights, title and interests in and to My Likeness, including any copyright therein. This Authorization shall be binding upon my heirs, successors, assigns, and legal representations.

I understand that, although the University will endeavor to use My Likeness in accordance with standards of good judgment, the University cannot warrant or guarantee that any further dissemination of My Likeness will be subject to University supervision or control. Accordingly, I release the University from any and all liability related to the dissemination, reproduction, distribution, and/or display of My Likeness in print or any and all other media, and any alteration, distortion or illusionary effect of My Likeness, whether intentional or otherwise, in connection with said use. I also understand that I may not withdraw my permission for use of My Likeness which was granted in this Authorization.

### **LIKELY USAGE & PRIVACY POLICY**

Photographs, audio recordings, and video footage may be taken during all public "CCC" events, including rehearsals, performances, breaks, meals, walks across campus, and social events. "CCC" may use photographs, audio excerpts, and/or video clips to produce promotional materials.

Cougar Choir Camp's first priority is always camper safety. To that end, "CCC" staffers and/or faculty will never take video/audio footage in a camper room or bathroom except when to document damage to the facilities and/or behavioral/safety issues. This footage will not be shared with the public.

"CCC" staffers and/or faculty will never include camper names or contact information in any public posting (including names with pictures) unless a parent/guardian provides prior consent. That information remains confidential.

"CCC" staffers and/or faculty will never intentionally post something potentially embarrassing.