

How does the BHS contest cycle work?

Conceptually, it is a very simple process.

1. **Division Contests:** Choruses and quartets register to compete in their own Spring Division contests. The top chorus and top quartet automatically qualify to compete at the Fall District Contest. Others may also qualify based upon a minimum score set each year by the District Board. Additional quartets may be invited to participate to fill the Fall Contest number of contestants. Trophies are awarded.

The top five Senior quartets across all divisions are invited to compete at the Fall District Contest. Previous District Senior Quartet champs allowed to compete at the district contest to qualify for the International Sr. Contest (if they have not already won).

Super Senior Quartets do not advance to the Fall District Contest. Once all division contests are over, the highest scoring Super Senior Quartet is announced as the district champion.

The top College quartet in each division wins plaques. They do not advance to the Fall District Contest. Once all division contests are over the highest scoring college quartet is announced as the district champion and the representative to the International College Quartet Contest. Other college quartets may be invited to the international contest based on their scores.

2. **Fall District Quartet Contest and International Chorus Qualification Contest:**

Qualified and invited choruses compete. The top chorus becomes the new District Champion and qualifies to compete at International as the District Representative. Additional wildcard choruses may be invited based on scores.

The top quartet becomes the new District Champion. Trophies are awarded. Quartets wishing to compete in the International Quartet Contest must compete at the Spring Quartet Prelims Contest.

The highest scoring Senior Quartet who has not previously won District Senior Quartet Champion becomes so and qualifies to compete at the Mid-Winter Senior Quartet Contest as the District Representative. Additional wildcard Senior Quartets may be invited based on scores.

3. **Mid-Winter Contests:** The International Senior Quartet contest is held and the top five win medals. The International Youth Chorus is held and the top three win medals.
4. **Spring District Prelims Contest:** Held in conjunction with one of the Division Contests, quartets register to compete in order to qualify for International. The top quartet becomes the District Representative to the International Quartet Contest. Other quartets qualify for international by achieving a Society set score, which has been an average of 76 points per song per judge.
5. **International Contests:** Qualified and invited affiliate choruses and quartets compete. The top chorus and top quartet become the International champions. All members of the top five competitors win medals.

What can be confusing is that it takes more than a year to complete the process so that the Division contests of a following cycle begin before the International contests of the current cycle.

