

ILLINOIS SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Parent and Musician Handbook

2026-2027

Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras
501 West Elliot Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702

(217) 522-2838 www.ilsymphony.org

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This handbook is intended to offer guidance regarding participation in the Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras. To assist in an enriching and productive season, we encourage you to read this handbook in its entirety and use it as a resource for information. Please note that the information and schedules in this handbook are subject to change throughout the season. If significant changes are made, information will be updated on our website and/or an email notification will be sent to families.

MISSION STATEMENT

Illinois Symphony Orchestra Mission: *To inspire our audiences through exceptional live orchestral performances and programs.*

ISYO Program Purpose Statement: *The ISYO inspires young musicians through quality orchestral education, musical exploration, and enriching performance opportunities.*

ISYO OFFICES

Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras
501 West Elliot Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702

(217) 522-2838

Office Hours: By appointment only, contact ISYO by phone or email

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Elyse Morehead

Youth Orchestras Program Manager

emorehead@ilsymphony.org

(217)522-2838 Ext. 6

Jackie Mitra

Community Engagement Programs Manager

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(217)522-2838 Ext. 6

ARTISTIC STAFF

Jake Woollen jwoollen@ilsymphony.org

Conductor of Youth Orchestras

ISO Resident Conductor

(217) 522-2838 Ext. 7

2026-2027 ISYO SEASON CALENDAR

(Subject to change, members will be updated for any TBD listings)

Date	Time	Location	Event
8/16/2026	10:00 am-8:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	Auditions for current ISYO musicians <u>wanting to move up</u> to next ensemble & <u>any musicians new to ISYO</u> *Also chair placements for SO & CO
8/18/2026	4:00-8:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	Auditions for current ISYO musicians <u>wanting to move up</u> to next ensemble & <u>any musicians new to ISYO</u> *Also chair placements for SO & CO
8/18/2026	4:00-8:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	Auditions for current ISYO musicians <u>wanting to move up</u> to next ensemble & <u>any musicians new to ISYO</u> *Also chair placements for SO & CO
8/23/2026	1:00-3:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	Symphony Orchestra (SO) Weekly Rehearsals Begin (Woollen)
8/23/2026	3:30-4:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	CO & SO Parent/Guardian and musician meeting (required)
8/23/2026	4:00-5:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	Concert Orchestra (CO) Weekly Rehearsals Begin (Woollen)
8/23/2026	6:00-8:30 pm	Washington Park	Season Kickoff Potluck Party! ALL ensembles and families are invited (optional)
8/25/2026	6:30-8:00pm	Grant Conservatory	Preparatory Orchestra (PO) Rehearsals begin (Hsieh)
9/6-9/7/2026	-	-	NO REHEARSALS OR CLASSES: LABOR DAY WEEKEND
9/1/2026	5:30-6:20 pm	Grant Conservatory	Community Junior Strings Rehearsals begin (Emmons) (other Junior Strings schedules are TBD and will be sent out individually)
10/18/2026	-	-	Concerto Competition registration deadline (open to CO & SO musicians)
10/18/2026	12:30-3:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	SO Rehearsal- time change
10/18/2026	3:00-4:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	CO Rehearsal- time change
10/30/2026	7:30-9:30 pm (party at 6:30 pm)	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	ISYO@ISO – Concert Visit + Pizza Party (open to Junior Strings/PO/CO/SO musicians) Pizza Party at 6:30 pm.
11/1/2026	10:30-12:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	Concerto Competition (open to CO & SO musicians)
11/1/2026	12:30-3:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	SO Rehearsal- time change
11/1/2026	3:00-4:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	CO Rehearsal- time change

11/15/2026	-	-	No Rehearsal for SO or CO
11/17/2026	6:00-7:00 pm 7:00-9:00 pm	UIS (exact location TBD)	CO + SO Dress Rehearsal at UIS CO rehearsal- 6:00-7:00 pm SO rehearsal- 7:00-9:00 pm
11/20/2026	7:30-9:30 pm (party at 6:30 pm)	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	ISYO @ ISO- Concert Visit + Pizza Party (open to Junior Strings/PO/CO/SO musicians) Pizza Party at 6:30 pm.
11/21/2026	12:00-1:30 pm	First Presbyterian Church 321 S 7th St Springfield, IL 62701	ISYO Masterclass (optional, open to the public)- Information will be sent out to families
11/22/2026	3:30 pm (plus ensemble soundcheck time)	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	Autumn Orchestra Festival Concert with UIS Orchestra – SO/CO/PO & Junior Strings 1:00 pm- SO Soundcheck 2:00 pm-CO Soundcheck 2:30 pm- PO Soundcheck 3:00 pm-Junior Strings Soundcheck 3:30 pm – CALL TIME 4:00 pm – CONCERT
11/25-11/28/2026	-	-	NO REHEARSALS OR CLASSES: THANKSGIVING BREAK
11/29/2026	Regular schedule	Grant Conservatory	CO & SO rehearsals as scheduled
12/6/2026	Regular Schedule	Grant Conservatory	Dress Rehearsal- CO and SO (required)
12/11/2026		UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	Holiday Pops Side-by-Side with ISO 3:30-4:30 Rehearsal 7:00 Call Time 7:30 pm- CONCERT
12/13/2026	3:30-5:30 pm (plus ensemble soundcheck time)	Sacred Heart-Griffin High School 1200 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62702	Holiday Concert - Symphony/Concert/Preparatory Orchestras 1:45 pm- SO Soundcheck 2:30 pm- CO Soundcheck 3:00 pm- PO Soundcheck 3:30 pm – CALL TIME 4:00-5:30 pm – CONCERT
12/14/2026-1/4/2027	-	-	NO REHEARSALS: WINTER BREAK (Concert & Symphony Orchestra – rehearsals resume 1/10/2027)
12/15/2026-1/4/2026	-	-	NO REHEARSALS: WINTER BREAK (Preparatory Orchestra – rehearsals resume 1/5/2027)

12/19/2026 -1/3/2027	-	-	NO REHEARSALS: WINTER BREAK (Starter & Junior Strings – rehearsals/classes resume 1/4/2027)
1/5/2027	6:40-8:10 pm	Grant Conservatory	Prep Orchestra Rehearsal Resumes
1/10/2027	Regular Schedule	Grant Conservatory	SO + CO Rehearsal Resumes
1/30/2027		TBD	Starter Strings Showcase – all Starter Strings ensembles School group assignments TBD (information will be sent out to families)
2/7/2027	6:00-7:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	Chamber Music Concert 5:30 pm – CALL TIME 6:00 pm - CONCERT
2/12/2027	7:30-9:30 pm (party at 6:30 pm)	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	ISO@ISO – ISO Concert Visit and Pizza Party (open to Junior Strings/PO/CO/SO musicians) Pizza Party at 6:30 pm.
2/21/2027	Regular Schedule	Grant Conservatory	Dress Rehearsal- CO and SO (required)
2/28/2027	3:30-5:30 pm (plus ensemble soundcheck time)	Sacred Heart-Griffin High School 1200 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62702	Concerto Competition Concert – PO, CO, & SO Soundchecks (subject to change): 1:30-2:30 pm - SO 2:30-3:00 pm - CO 3:00-3:30 pm – PO 3:30 pm - CALL TIME 4:00-5:30 pm - CONCERT
3/5/2027	7:30-9:00 pm	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	Starter Strings at the Symphony event – attending the ISO Good Witch/Bad Witch- <i>The Broadway Witches</i> - Pops (information will be sent out to families)
3/6/2027	12:00-1:30 pm	First Presbyterian Church 321 S 7th St Springfield, IL 62701	ISO Masterclass (optional, open to the public)- Information will be sent out to families
	-	-	Practice-A-Thon (information will be sent out)
3/28/2027	-	-	NO REHEARSAL CO & SO – Easter Holiday
4/10/2027 (to be confirmed)	12:00 pm departure 11:00 pm return	Grant Conservatory- Departure and Return	St. Louis Symphony Orchestra trip (open to SO & CO musicians, other ensembles as space allows) - To be confirmed.
4/11/2027	Regular schedule	Grant Conservatory	Dress rehearsal – CO & SO (required)

4/18/2027	3:30-6:30 pm (Plus ensemble soundcheck time)	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	Spring Showcase Concert with UIS Orchestra - All Ensembles (Soundcheck times TBD) 3:30 pm - CALL TIME 4:00-6:30 pm - CONCERT
4/23/2027	7:30-9:30 pm (party at 6:30 pm)	UIS Sangamon Auditorium 2200 Ernest Hemingway Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	ISYO@ISO – ISO Concert Visit and Pizza Party (open to Junior Strings/PO/CO/SO musicians) Pizza Party at 6:30 pm.
4/24/2027	12:00-1:30 pm	First Presbyterian Church 321 S 7th St Springfield, IL 62701	ISYO Masterclass (optional, open to the public)- Information will be sent out to families
5/3/2027	5:00-7:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	Auditions for current ISYO musicians <u>wanting to move up</u> to next ensemble <u>and any musicians new to ISYO</u>
5/5/2027	5:00-7:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	Auditions for current ISYO musicians <u>wanting to move up</u> to next ensemble <u>and any musicians new to ISYO</u>
5/8/2027	10:00 am-4:00 pm	Grant Conservatory	Auditions for current ISYO musicians <u>wanting to move up</u> to next ensemble <u>and any musicians new to ISYO</u>
5/9/2027	Regular schedule	Grant Conservatory	SO & CO dress rehearsal
5/16/2027	3:30-5:30 pm (plus ensemble soundcheck time)	Sacred Heart-Griffin High School 1200 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62702	Season Send-Off Concert – PO, CO, SO, & Chamber Groups Soundchecks TBD 3:30 pm - CALL TIME 4:00-5:30 pm - CONCERT
5/16/2027	6:00-8:30 pm	Washington Park	End of season potluck party – ALL ensembles and families are invited (optional)
5/17/2027-5/21/2027	-	-	Final Week of Starter Strings & Junior Strings classes
6/4-6/6/2027	-	Millikin University	Heart of Illinois Festival
TBD	8:30 am-12:00 pm & 1:00-4:30 pm	Grant Conservatory	Summer Strings Camp (information will be sent out) 8:30 am-12:00 pm – for current Starter Strings musicians 1:00-4:30 pm – for current Junior Strings, PO, & CO musicians

Please note: Rehearsals and classes will not take place if the host site is closed due to holidays or weather events. In-school Starter Strings classes will not be held if their site school is closed. Any season calendar updates will be sent to families via email. For questions regarding the season calendar, please contact ISYO Program Manager Elyse Morehead at emorehead@ilsymphony.org or 217-522-2838, ext. 6.

Ensemble key:

SO – Symphony Orchestra, CO – Concert Orchestra, PO – Preparatory Orchestra, JS – Junior Strings

School days off: Families who have musicians in ISYO classes that are on-site in schools should follow their individual school calendars regarding school days off. Sometimes school breaks may be different than the ISYO calendar, so please follow your school calendar first and communicate with your instructor regarding any dates that may differ.

Inclement weather/class cancellations: If a school closes due to weather or another emergency, ISYO classes that take place in that school will not be held that day. Occasionally, schools have a late start due to cold, in which case there would be no morning ISYO classes. If school is cancelled early due to the weather, there will be no after-school ISYO classes. If a school is open, but it is not possible for your instructor to travel to your class due to the weather or an emergency, we will notify the school as soon as possible regarding the need to cancel a class.

Ensembles held at Grant Conservatory: We will monitor any weather situation and make any determinations regarding cancellations. If an ensemble held at Grant Conservatory is cancelled, families will be notified by email at least two hours before the cancellation.

ENSEMBLE BENCHMARKS

For complete and up-to-date descriptions of each ensemble, visit our website: www.ilsymphony.org. The following are approximate playing proficiency levels necessary for placement into each of the respective ensembles:

Starter Strings

Musicians with no prior playing experience. During their first year of instruction, musicians should master the first half of “Sound Innovations for Strings: Book 1.”

Junior Strings

Musicians in Junior Strings will continue to work through Book 1 of Sound Innovations for Strings. At a minimum, musicians should be able to hold their instrument and bow correctly, play a D major scale, be able to play in tune by placing fingers correctly on the finger tapes, be able to produce a good tone, and accurately perform basic rhythms. Musicians are encouraged to study privately and should be working through “Suzuki Book 1” or musical literature that is of an equivalent level.

Preparatory Orchestra

Preparatory Orchestra musicians should have, at a minimum, completed and mastered all of the skills covered in “Sound Innovations for Strings: Book 1.” Musicians are expected to demonstrate proper posture, position, and bow grip. They should be able to name and read notes on all 4 strings in first position from Book 1 and be able to apply the correct finger patterns to play pieces and scales in the keys of D, G, and C major. Musicians should be able to count and perform simple rhythms, which include whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 meters. They should be able to play the following bowing articulations: legato, detaché, staccato, 2 & 3 note slurs, and hooked bowings. Musicians should consistently demonstrate accurate intonation, rhythm, articulations, bowings, and continue developing good tone quality. Musicians are strongly encouraged to study privately and should be working through “Suzuki Book 1” and “Suzuki Book 2” or musical literature that is of an equivalent level.

Concert Orchestra

Concert Orchestra musicians should have completed and mastered all the skills covered in level 2 “Sound Innovations for String Orchestra/Band” or “Essential Elements for Strings/Band.” Students should demonstrate correct posture, position, and bow grip (strings). All students should be able to play pieces and scales in the keys of C, G, D, A, F, and Bb major. String students should be actively learning 3rd position and beyond. In addition to understanding basic rhythms, musicians should be able to play the following advanced rhythms: dotted quarter, sixteenth, dotted eighth, and triplet note and rest patterns in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, and mixed meter rhythms along with simple syncopation. Musicians are expected to consistently demonstrate accurate intonation, rhythms, articulations, bowings, dynamics, and play with a good tone. Musicians are strongly encouraged to study privately, and string students should be working through “Suzuki Book 3” and “Suzuki Book 4” or literature that is of an equivalent level.

Symphony Orchestra

Musicians should be comfortable playing multi-octave scales and repertoire in concert keys up to 4 sharps and

4 flats. Woodwinds and brass players should have a well-developed range and advanced technical abilities (multiple tongue articulations, advanced breath and sound quality control, etc.). String players should be comfortable shifting and using vibrato, as well as using a variety of bow strokes (detaché, spiccato, martelé, etc.). Percussionists will be expected to utilize timpani, auxiliary, and mallet techniques.

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Membership in ISYO ensembles is open to students in grades 1-12. Musicians must meet the benchmarks for a given ensemble and qualify in the audition process, if applicable.

Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras members spend a significant amount of time and energy in weekly rehearsals as well as individual practice and preparation at home. By accepting membership into Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras, each musician is expected to attend all rehearsals, performances, and special events in which their ensemble participates.

TUITION

Tuition fees help offset the costs of administration, artistic direction, venue and rehearsal space rentals, sheet music, and more. Full tuition payment or payment plan enrollment is due prior to the beginning of rehearsals. If you would like to request financial assistance options for tuition, please email Jackie Mitra at jmitra@ilsymphony.org. Tuition will not be refunded if your child withdraws or is dismissed from the program. Tuition will not be prorated for missed rehearsals or withdrawal from the program.

Tuition fees are as follows:

- Starter Strings - \$225
- Junior Strings - \$275
- Preparatory Orchestra - \$300
- Concert Orchestra - \$350
- Symphony Orchestra - \$400

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Music is sent out digitally and through a shared drive. Musicians are responsible for bringing their folder, music and/or any required method books to each rehearsal. Original sheet music for use in Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras ensembles is issued to musicians on loan and members are responsible for the care, maintenance and return of sheet music. Members will be charged replacement costs for any lost or damaged piece of original music. Method books are not provided by ISYO and will need to be purchased by families. Required method books for the season are as follows:

Starter Strings

- Sound Innovations for Strings – Book 1

Junior Strings

- Sound Innovations for Strings - Book 1 (2nd half)

Preparatory Orchestra

- Sound Innovations for Strings - Book 2

AUDITIONS

The Conductor will conduct auditions, with assistance from qualified adjudicators of their choosing. Please note the following about auditions:

- Format: scales, prepared solos, and sight reading
- No accompaniment is allowed during the audition
- Auditions will be private
- Applicants will be informed of their acceptance and orchestral placement shortly following the auditions

Auditions to join ISYO or to audition up to a higher-level ensemble will take place in both May and August. Potential new members may also contact the ISYO office to schedule an audition at any time throughout the orchestra season at (217) 522-2838 Ext. 6 or at emorehead@ilsymphony.org.

ENSEMBLE PLACEMENT AND SEATING

Ensemble and seating assignments are made at the discretion of the ensemble conductors, whose decisions are final. ISYO encourages all musicians to take pride in their playing, learning, and contributions to the orchestra in all ensembles and seating assignments.

The ensemble conductors consider these factors when making seating assignments:

- Audition evaluations
- The best educational setting for individual members
- The need for strength and balance within the sections and among the orchestras
- The student's maturity and leadership ability

The ensemble conductors will assign all principal seats (strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion). The ensemble conductors may rotate seating for educational purposes at any rehearsal and may change seating assignments at any time during the year. Any questions regarding seating should be addressed to the Conductor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Membership in ISYO is a serious commitment. Just as in other team activities (sports, theater, clubs, etc.), attendance is essential for both individuals and the ensemble as a whole. An individual absence affects the

entire ensemble. Together, we are more than the sum of our parts. Members are expected to adhere to the following attendance policies in order to help the entire organization grow and reach its fullest potential.

Rehearsal Absences

It is expected that all members attend all rehearsals in a concert cycle to be appropriately prepared for the concert. ISYO reserves the right to address excessive absences with musicians and/or their parent or guardian.

Reporting an Absence

All absences should be reported through the Absence Report Form on our website, www.ilsymphony.org, and be reported as soon as possible. For an absence to be considered “excused”, it should be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to rehearsal. In cases of illness or emergency, absences should be submitted no later than 12:00 pm the day of rehearsal. Please report any known upcoming absences at the beginning of the concert cycle. All absences should be reported through the Absence Report Form on our website, www.ilsymphony.org.

Dress Rehearsal and Concert Attendance

Attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory except for an emergency. In the event of an emergency, please notify us as soon as possible by email to emorehead@ilsymphony.org. At the discretion of the Conductor, an unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal may result in exclusion from the concert.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Reasonable standards of behavior are expected while rehearsing, performing, or participating in any event in connection with Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras. Please demonstrate appropriate, respectful behavior toward ISYO staff, fellow musicians, visiting artists, instruments, and at all performance and rehearsal venues.

The ensemble conductor sets expectations for rehearsal and concert behavior. Failure to abide by the requirements will result in the following steps:

1. The ensemble conductor or Programs Manager will speak to the musician and parents concerning the problem.
2. If the problem persists, ISYO may decide to temporarily suspend participation.
3. Continued or extreme problematic or disruptive behavior may lead to the dismissal of the musician from the organization. If a musician is dismissed, tuition is non-refundable.

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

In order to maintain a uniform look throughout our ensembles, we have adopted the following concert dress guidelines. Concerts occasionally include alternate dress requirements or options, but musicians will be notified of this in advance.

Starter Strings, Junior Strings, Preparatory Orchestra, and Concert Orchestra:

White, button-down dress shirt, polo shirt, or blouse

Black dress pants or solid black long skirt no higher than mid-calf and slit below the knee (belts should be black, if worn)

Black closed-toe dress shoes with black calf-length socks or hosiery

No exercise or dance clothing, deep necklines, denim, t-shirts, or sweaters

Symphony Orchestra:

Options for top:

Solid black suit jacket with black dress shirt, solid black button-down shirt, solid black blouse (long or ½ length sleeves) *If wearing a button-down dress shirt, please include a long red or black (solid or pattern) tie

Options for bottom:

Black dress pants, slacks, or solid black long skirt no higher than mid-calf and slit below the knee (belts should be black, if worn) Other options:

Solid black long dress no higher than mid-calf and slit below the knee

Black closed-toe dress shoes with black calf-length socks or hosiery

No exercise or dance clothing, deep necklines, denim, t-shirts, or sweaters

PRIVATE LESSONS

Musicians of all levels in Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their orchestral instrument. With a wide variety of ages and ability levels in the orchestra and with the limited amount of rehearsal time each week, private lessons are the best way to ensure *individual* progress. We are happy to assist you in finding a private teacher for your student. For a list of instructors please send an email to emorehead@ilsymphony.org.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

ISO offers a limited number of full and partial tuition scholarships to assist musicians who would otherwise be unable to participate in ISYO programs due to financial barriers. Our organization also offers a payment plan for families to divide the tuition into four monthly payments through registration on our website. To request information about tuition assistance, visit our website, ilsymphony.org, under ISYO, Membership Information, Registration & Tuition, and click "Learn more about tuition assistance" to complete a Financial Assistance Information Request. You may also contact the ISO office at (217) 522-2838 Ext. 6 or email jmitra@ilsymphony.org for further details.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Many of our musicians rent their musical instrument. We do not recommend purchasing an instrument without consulting with your ensemble instructor. ISYO musicians can find rental instruments available at either of two local music shops: The Music Shoppe or Capital City Music. ISO partners with The Music Shoppe and their Share the Music program for students who meet their financial need criteria. ISO also has a limited number of rental instruments available for use by musicians requesting financial assistance. Please contact the ISO office at (217) 522-2838 Ext. 6 or email jmitra@ilsymphony.org for further details.

SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS

Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras recognizes the importance of school music programs. With a shared goal of educating musicians, our hope is to serve as an enrichment and extension program to school programs. We encourage continued active participation by ISYO students in their school music programs in addition to participating in ISYO.

Some local high schools offer the opportunity for students to receive credit for their participation in Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras. Please contact your school administration to find out if this is an option available at your student's school. If your student would like to receive credit for ISYO participation, please contact the ISYO office at least 2 weeks before a letter for credit is due to the school, usually quarterly or each semester. Please include the student's name, instrument, ensemble, and any specific information required by the school to be included in the letter. Be aware that schools have different allowances regarding maximum absences allowed for those wishing to receive credit. Letters can be sent directly to school administrators or given to families. Please let us know what your family would prefer if your student would like to receive credit for ISYO.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY & OTHER VOLUNTEERING HOURS

Illinois Symphony Orchestra and the Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras programs are currently approved as a volunteer organization for the National Honor Society chapters at Springfield High School, Glenwood High School, and Rochester High School. If you are interested in your high school having ISO/ISYO approved as an NHS volunteer organization, please contact your school's NHS chapter sponsors to request this. ISO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. You or your school's NHS sponsor may contact Jackie Mitra at jmitra@ilsymphony.org with any questions about volunteering.

PARENT INFORMATION

PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING

We request that all families of Concert Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra attend a parent orientation meeting at the beginning of the season. The date and time of the meeting will be sent out with the beginning of the season email, usually from the conductor.

VOLUNTEER and SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Tuition covers approximately 30% of the actual program costs of the Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras. ISO also offers financial assistance to those who need it. Thanks to the generosity of our individual supporters, we work to keep tuition costs as low as possible and provide assistance to those in need. We encourage our members and families to help support ISYO programs through volunteering their time, connecting our organization to corporate donors and foundations, and providing individual financial contributions. We have a variety of ways that you can contribute to the success of ISYO and help support our mission:

- Participating with the ISYO Parent Committee
- Concert production – stage setup, taking tickets, program stuffing
- Setting up chairs and stands for rehearsals
- Assisting conductors at rehearsals
- Assisting with fundraising events
- Making a donation
- Securing donations from individuals and businesses
- Advertising in our program booklets
- Sponsoring a concert performance

We hope that each family will support our programs in these and other ways as they are able. Each member and their family come with a unique set of resources that can help us continue to provide excellent musical opportunities to youth and to our community. If you have an idea for how you can support ISYO programs that is not listed above, please contact the ISO office at (217) 522-2838 Ext. 6 or jmitra@ilsymphony.org.