



Boise Chapter
of the
Barbershop Harmony Society

2026 Strategic Plan

BOISE CHORDSMEN

BARBERSHOP CHORUS



The Boise Chordsmen
P.O. Box 4663
Boise, ID 83711
Phone (208) 254-2031
contact@boisechordsmen.com

Introduction:

The Boise Chordsmen are dedicated to preserving and sharing the art of barbershop harmony throughout the Treasure Valley and beyond. As a volunteer-based nonprofit organization, we rely on the generosity of donors, sponsors, and grant-funding partners who share our belief that live music strengthens communities and changes lives. This strategic plan serves as our roadmap - guiding how we grow as singers and performers, strengthen the bonds between our members, deepen our ties to the community, and ensure our organization thrives for generations to come. The four goals outlined below reflect who we are and who we aspire to be: a chorus committed to musical excellence, genuine fellowship, meaningful service, and long-term sustainability. Together, they chart a course that will enrich the lives of our members and everyone who hears us sing. We invite you to join us in that mission - whether through partnership, financial support, or simply spreading the word about the power of harmony in our community.

Goal 1: Build steady growth in vocal and performance skills

The main goal of the Boise Chordsmen Music and Directing Teams is to help every member grow as a singer and performer. This includes both musical and visual performance skills. Through regular rehearsals and personal practice, members continue to improve, resulting in higher-quality performances that are recognized by our audiences, community, peers, and adjudicators.

Objective 1.1: Strengthen each member's vocal and visual performance

The chorus's overall sound begins with each individual singer. When each member improves, the entire chorus benefits. To support this goal, members may take part in:

- Private voice instruction
- One-on-one coaching sessions
- Quartet coaching
- Listening and recording exercises
- Regular rehearsals

Objective 1.2: Strengthen the chorus's group performance

The Boise Chordsmen sound depends on how well members perform together as a team. To enhance our group performance, the chorus may use:

- Chorus and quartet coaching
- Chorus retreats
- Sectional rehearsals with music leaders

- Recordings of rehearsals and performances
- Structured, focused rehearsals

Rehearsals will continue to be designed to help every member grow and achieve a higher level of musical and visual excellence.

Objective 1.3: Maintain strong support systems for members

Each Boise Chordsmen event is organized so that no single member carries the full responsibility for planning or logistics. The chorus will build and maintain systems that support member participation and connection by:

- Expanding volunteer involvement
- Managing details like deadlines, music, and performance attire
- Promoting teamwork and camaraderie

These systems allow members to focus on singing and performing at their best, while enjoying the sense of friendship and unity that defines the Boise Chordsmen experience.

Outcome and Impact

Over the next several years, this plan will help the Boise Chordsmen continue to build a culture of consistent improvement in vocal, musical, and visual performance. As individual singers, quartets, and chorus leaders strengthen their skills, the group's sense of connection and teamwork will also grow. That spirit of unity will be felt by our audiences, deepening the bond between our members, the chorus, and the community. This unity will enrich the lives of the membership of the Boise Chordsmen and all who hear us.

Goal 2: Enrich the lives of our members

While the main focus of the Boise Chordsmen is music, we also value friendship, service, and community. We believe that strong relationships between members make our group stronger - both on and off the stage. These connections create a feeling of brotherhood that our audiences can see and feel when we perform. This goal looks beyond singing and rehearsals. It encourages members to build lasting friendships and to serve each other and the organization, helping the Boise Chordsmen grow and thrive for years to come.

Objective 2.1: Create more ways for members to connect and build friendships

We will continue to grow our sense of community by offering more opportunities for members to spend time together and get to know one another. Examples include:

- Social events like an annual cookout, pizza night, afterglows, and the installation banquet
- Member Spotlights where members share short stories about their lives and musical journeys
- Group trips to competitions, performances, and shared lodging opportunities
- Weekend coaching sessions that include both work and fun activities
- Surveys to learn about other interests members may have, to create new small groups and activities

Objective 2.2: Expand service opportunities within and for the organization

We will help members find ways to give back and stay involved by:

- Asking members what kinds of service or support roles interest them
- Gathering input from the board and members about organizational needs
- Setting clear expectations that all members take part in helping with the group's activities and structure

Outcome and Impact

Putting this goal into action over the next few years will help build a stronger, more caring community within the Boise Chordsmen. By creating a culture of teamwork, fraternity, and service, we will bring more unity and harmony to every part of the organization, enriching the lives of all our members.

Goal 3: Serve and Strengthen Our Community

The Boise Chordsmen have long been an active part of the local community, singing at festivals, schools, senior homes, sporting and other community events. This goal focuses on creating a clear and organized plan to strengthen our community connections and bring more music to the Treasure Valley. As this plan grows, we will reach out to even more parts of the community.

Objective 3.1: Increase participation in local community events

The Chordsmen will review our past performances and measure how active we were in local events. We will then create a multi-year plan for more community performances by:

- Gathering feedback and reviews from audience members
- Conducting after-action reviews with our membership
- Planning and participating in events that have great community impact

Objective 3.2: Instill a sense of community among members

We will remind every member that their singing helps enrich lives and strengthen our community. Quartets and small groups will be encouraged to:

- Sing at local restaurants, coffee shops, and libraries
- Perform at veteran memorials, ceremonies, and appreciation events
- Support nonprofit and volunteer fundraisers
- Visit retirement homes and assisted living communities

Objective 3.3: Build partnerships with schools

The Chordsmen have shared the joy of barbershop harmony with thousands of students through the Idaho Youth Barbershop Festival and other school events. We plan to grow these efforts by:

- Forming ongoing partnerships with local schools to support music education and fundraising
- Creating a young quartet to visit schools and teach students short barbershop songs ("tags")
- Having our artistic team visit classrooms, work with teachers, and spread awareness of barbershop singing

Objective 3.4: Build partnerships with other community organizations

The Chordsmen will continue to build relationships with local music and arts groups by:

- Having our artistic director guest conduct and collaborate with other choirs and ensembles
- Seeking joint performances with groups such as Sawtooth Serenade, Star Harmony, Capitol City Sound, Boise Women's Chorus, Opera Idaho, the Boise Hawks, and others
- Supporting Sawtooth Serenade as a new chorus in our chapter, both musically and logistically

Objective 3.5: Deepen the relationship with Cloverdale Church of God

The Chordsmen have rehearsed and performed at Cloverdale Church of God for the past four years. We deeply value this partnership and will continue to give back through:

- Donations
- Complimentary show tickets for church staff
- Offer to perform during a worship service near Christmas
- Other acts of appreciation

Action Items for 2026

Create a Community Liaison Committee to build and maintain relationships with schools, government offices, businesses, first responders, veterans, and other community and volunteer organizations.

Outcome and Impact

By following this plan, the Chordsmen will strengthen our connections in the Treasure Valley. These efforts will lead to more performances, new partnerships, and more people experiencing the joy and unity that come through barbershop harmony.

Goal 4: Be a Lasting Organization

Every volunteer group hopes to last forever. For the Boise Chordsmen, this means building a group that can sustain itself for many years. Because barbershop singing is a unique style of music and our members will naturally age over time, we must always welcome new singers who share our love for this music and our mission to bring harmony to our community. We also need to maintain strong finances in order to provide the strongest impact for the benefit of both our members and the community.

Objective 4.1: Define Roles and Responsibilities

To meet our goals, the Chordsmen need a strong and organized leadership team. We will ensure consistency and clarity by:

- Defining each board member and committee leader's responsibilities and how they support the mission
- Documenting roles and organizational hierarchy so the work stays consistent even as team members change over time

- Setting clear expectations before volunteers take on leadership positions

Objective 4.2: Develop Training and Accountability

Once leadership roles are clear, the Chordsmen must focus on building a strong pipeline of future leaders by:

- Recruiting and training new leaders from within the group
- Providing ongoing support to current leaders
- Sharing regular updates on leadership activities with membership

Objective 4.3: Recruit and Retain Members

Our singing members are the heart of the Boise Chordsmen. Research shows that people who stay for at least three years often remain for life. We will grow and sustain our membership by:

- Actively recruiting new singers who are excited to learn and perform barbershop music
- Creating a welcoming and supportive culture that keeps current members active and involved
- Recognizing that both recruitment and retention are equally important to our long-term success

Objective 4.4: Maintain Financial Health

The Boise Chordsmen need strong financial support to reach their goals. We will build stability and financial freedom by:

- Making the most of current income sources such as dues, show revenue, and grants
- Identifying and pursuing new sources of revenue
- Forming committees to manage budgets and coordinate fundraising efforts

Objective 4.5: Explore a Community-Based Board of Governors

Many arts organizations benefit from having a community board that helps with fundraising, outreach, and long-term planning. The Boise Chordsmen will explore the formation of this group by:

- Surveying members for input and interest
- Connecting with local leaders and supporters as potential candidates
- Learning from other organizations that have successfully built community boards

- Designing a board of governors that expands our reach while allowing the Boise Chordsmen to stay focused on sharing harmony with the community

Outcome and Impact

The Boise Chordsmen are building a strong and lasting future. By clearly defining leadership roles, training new leaders, and welcoming new members, we ensure our music and mission will continue for years to come. Strong finances and community partnerships will give us the freedom to grow and share barbershop harmony with even more people.

Conclusion

The Boise Chordsmen are more than a chorus — we are a community of singers dedicated to excellence, fellowship, service, and lasting impact. In the year ahead, we will sharpen our craft, deepen the bonds between our members, bring more live music to the Treasure Valley, and build the leadership and financial foundation to sustain this mission for generations. None of this happens alone. Whether you contribute through financial support, volunteer your time and expertise, help us connect with new community partners, or simply invite someone to hear us sing, you become part of something that changes lives through the power of music. We welcome you to join us.