

Section Leader Responsibilities

1. **Understand what being section leader means.** Being a section leader is harder than being a non-section leader; not only do you have to worry about your music, but you have to worry about the music of your section. It also doesn't mean you get to be some dictator; you have to help your section. You are there to serve the people in your section, not to rule over them.
2. **Lead by example.** Not only will this let your section know what to do, but it is also a very kind method of leadership. You were most likely chosen because of your vocal skills and sight-reading abilities; now is your time to pass these on.
3. **Get on friendly terms with your section.** When you become friends with your section, they'll be more likely to listen to you, and you'll get a better feel of their vocal ability.
4. **Learn your music.** As section leader, you're expected to know it before everyone else. If you don't know your music, how can you help others with their music?
5. **Hold sectionals.** Sectionals are time when your section is the focus, not the entire choir. Find the difficult passages and go over them with your section. Make sure your section knows exactly what they're trying to fix; if they don't know what they're trying to fix, it probably won't get fixed.
6. **Help your section when they need it.** Let them practice, but if you see someone struggling with a part or playing it wrong without realizing it, go and help them.
7. **Hold your section to their promises.** If someone said they'll learn a passage by next Tuesday, they better have it down when next Tuesday comes rolling by. If they don't, ask them why they didn't.
8. **Be understanding.** If someone can't make it to the sectional because their grandma died, don't hold that to him. People have lives outside of choir.
9. **Keep your section under control.** This doesn't mean order them around, but when they get out of hand, let them know. If necessary, seek help from another section leader or the choir teacher.
10. **Listen to both sides of a conflict.** If there's a conflict between two sides, you will probably have to be the third party to step in and solve it.
11. **Be on the same page as your co-section leader, if you have one.** If you're telling your section something completely different than the other section leader, it will only confuse your section.
12. **Remember the team.** No matter what goals you may have for your section, don't lose sight of what is best for the entire choir. Each section must work together to achieve what is best for the entire ensemble. Your director's goals should take priority over your own. Also, being a section leader is a privilege, not a right. Remember... with great power comes great responsibility.