



COLLEGIATE

LEADERSHIP ADVOCACY SUMMIT 2026

**2026
NAfME Collegiate
Leadership
Advocacy Summit
Resource Toolkit**



COLLEGIATE

Why Attend?

The NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit (June 22-24) is a multiday event unlike any other. Two days of leadership-centric learning sessions, advocacy training, and collegiate networking make for an opportunity full of excitement and professional development.

The event concludes with NAFME's annual Hill Day event during which all attendees head to Capitol Hill to meet with congressional representatives and staffers to advocate at the federal level on behalf of music education.

Below are some takeaways from the event:

- You will have attended invaluable leadership training from the country's leaders in music education
- You will have networked with NAFME Collegiate peers from around the country
- You will have gained a deeper understanding of education policy and the impact of advocacy at the nation's capital
- You can share your story of the impact music education has on you with federal legislators
- You can spread the impact of this event with your chapter and community



“It was incredibly powerful to be seen and understood by so many people -- my age, older and younger -- and validated in the career choice that I have made for myself.”

– Michelle Langelier, Berklee College of Music, *2025 Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit Attendee*

Schedule Overview

Below is a general overview of the schedule for the 2026 Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit. The schedule is subject to change and will be updated on the [CLAS webpage](#).

Monday, June 22

10AM	Attendees check-in
1PM	Day 1 of Summit begins
5PM	Day 1 of Summit concludes

Tuesday, June 23

7:30AM	Breakfast/Roll Call/State of the Association
10AM-12PM	Day 2 Summit Sessions
12PM	Collegiate Group Photo and Lunch
1-2PM	Day 2 Summit Sessions
2-4PM	NAfME Division Meetings
5PM	Day 2 of Summit concludes

Wednesday, June 24

6:45AM	Hill Day visits on Capitol Hill
5PM	Hill Day Visits conclude / Summit concludes

Attendees may depart at the conclusion of Hill Day activities on Day 3.



Planning Ahead

- 1. Overview of the Summit.** You can use the Summit website (bit.ly/NAfMECLAS) to share general information with your Chapter Advisor and other stakeholders.
- 2. Estimated cost for attending the Summit:** \$ _____
 - **Summit Registration:**
 - \$150 NAFME Collegiate members / \$225 nonmembers
 - **Lodging:** \$200 + taxes per night
 - Is another member planning to go from your chapter? From your state? Consider cutting costs by rooming together.
 - **Travel:** \$ _____
- 3. Have a plan to request funding.** Don't intend to pay out-of-pocket? Check out the [Finding the Funds: Getting Yourself to the NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit](#) blog!
- 4. Be aware of space limitation.** Due to event size and space limitations, registration is limited. Plan to register early!
- 5. Register for the 2026 CLAS.** Visit the [2026 Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit Registration page](#) and secure your spot at the Summit.
- 6. Your plan to share when you return to your chapter.** Begin planning how you will share what you've learned with your chapter and your community to share the impact.



Funding Possibilities

The bullets below are adapted from the blog [*Finding the Funds: Get Yourself to the NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit.*](#)

- 1. Institutional Funds.** Start with your college/university as often there are funds in place specifically for events like this. It's recommended you work your way up. The structure of your institution will vary, so please adapt as necessary.
 - **Music Department Level (Dean/Director)**
 - **College Level (Or the next highest level)**
 - **Student Government Association (SGA)**
 - **Other (Fine Arts Funding Boards, University Foundations, etc.)**
- 2. State Music Education (MEA).** This will vary by state but consider asking what funds are available for this through your State MEA through your MEA President or Executive Director. Visit the [state's MEA](#) website for contact information.
- 3. Chapter-Based Fundraising.** Consider designating a chapter-wide fundraiser or two throughout the semester/year to cover one or two of the expenses. Particularly helpful if it's tradition to only send the Chapter President to the Summit.
- 4. Crowdfunding.** Online fundraising platforms can be helpful for events if given enough time and if you're telling the right story. Explore your options and construct a compelling narrative as to why the Summit is important for you to attend.
- 5. The Not-So-Obvious.** Consider exploring these other alternatives to raise some additional funds.
 - **App-Based Income:** Picking up a few extra dollars here and there completely on your own schedule works well with the schedule of a music major.
 - **Art Commissions:** If you create jewelry, draw, or are good with photography, consider opening commissions to others with the intent to raise money to attend the Summit.
 - **Budgeting:** Sometimes cracking down on where every dollar is going can allow you to shave off a few dollars and take you across the finish line.

Email Template

This email template may be helpful as you draft your requests for funding for the NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit (CLAS). Please feel free to edit the letter to best meet your needs. Before you submit, have your letter proofread by your Chapter Advisor or another faculty member.

Dear _____,

My name is _____, and I am a member of the XYZ College/University NAFME Collegiate Chapter. I am writing to request full or partial funding to attend the 2025 NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit (CLAS) in Washington, DC, June 22–24, 2026.

This event is an opportunity to network and collaborate with collegiate music education students from around the United States through a variety of robust leadership and advocacy-centric learning sessions led by music education leaders.

The event concludes with NAFME’s annual Hill Day, an in-person advocacy event on Capitol Hill during which attendees participate in meetings with U.S. Representatives and Senators and staffers to advocate on behalf of music education at the federal level.

The total cost for this event—including registration, travel, and lodging—is \$ _____. The positive impact of my attendance at this event on me, my NAFME Collegiate Chapter, and my music education community would be massive! Below are some examples of how I intend to share this impact:

- Represent [your college/university] on the national level for music education
- Presentation to my chapter on what I learned
- Lead advocacy efforts in my community
- Pave the way for another chapter member to attend in the future
- Submit a presentation to my state music education association conference on the impact this event had on me and what I learned to advance the music education profession
- Adapt any of the above reasons to attend, or create any others

Option 1: Attached is an agenda for the 2026 CLAS so you may see the opportunities in store for me should I be able to attend, and I encourage you to read about last year’s Summit in this blog detailing the activities.

Option 2: The agenda for the 2026 CLAS is being finalized, but please see attached for the 2025 CLAS agenda so you may see an idea of the opportunities in store for me. I’ll be glad to share the 2026 agenda as soon as it’s available. I encourage you to read about last year’s Summit in this blog detailing the activities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

View Past Events



Read Now:
[The 2024 NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit](#)
[The Now and Future of Music Education](#)

Watch Now:
[The 2025 NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit](#)
[Recap Blog and Video](#)

