

Tri-County Beard & Mustache Society -----FAQ's

1. **What exactly is Tri-County Beard & Mustache Society?** We are an Indiana 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that raises funds for music education for youth in Madison, Henry, and Hancock counties. We like to call it "Facial Hair Fundraising".
2. **How do you raise funds using facial hair?** Each fall, our organization hosts a beard and mustache competition. Competitors and spectators pay an entry fee to attend. The event includes raffle tables and auction- all of which generate monetary donations for the organization. Throughout the year, we also host golf outings, trivia, and other events that raise funds, just to name a few. In addition, we have our own line of beard oil, as well as t-shirts and other merchandise that can be obtained for a minimal donation.
3. **How do you apply for assistance?** The "Initial Application" can be found under the "Contact Us" tab on our website: www.tricountybms.weebly.com. Please print it out and follow the instructions.
4. **How does my child get approved for an instrument?** We have an application process and requirements that the student must meet in order to participate in our program. The initial application can be found under the "Contact" tab on our website: www.tricountybms.weebly.com
5. **What are the qualifications to get approved for assistance for my child?** There are three main qualifications: **1)** Student must be schooled in Indiana counties Hancock, Henry, or Madison. **2)** Student must have and maintain a "C" or above GPA. **3)** Student must submit an essay about what music means to them, minimum 500 words.
6. **What happens after my student has filled out the initial application?** After the initial application is turned in, and the requirements met and confirmed, it goes in front of our Board of Directors for a vote at our next monthly meeting. We typically meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. From there, if the student is approved, TCBMS would contact the student/parent, and we would meet to pick up the instrument and student/parent will fill out a TCBMS lease/gear agreement. The application process takes about a month or more, depending on when application was received, due to the fact our Board only meets monthly.
7. **If my child is approved, will the instrument be "Brand New"?** Not likely, but possible depending upon the instrument request. The majority of the instruments that we currently have in our possession have been donated to our organization by people in our community and are previously owned. We have them serviced before given to a student.
8. **Does the school my child attends become responsible for the instrument or take ownership?** No. The school does not receive the instrument. The individual student does. The instrument remains the property of Tri-County Beard & Mustache Society (TCBMS) for the life of the instrument.
9. **Can my child apply for funds for lessons or repair for an instrument that is already owned by the student?** Absolutely!
10. **Are there any fees associated with filling out the application?** No. But it may cost you a stamp if you mail in the "initial application".
11. **Can my student send in their application online?** Sure! Email it to: tricountybms@yahoo.com
Subject: Student Initial Application
12. **Will I ever be charged for the use of the instrument, such as a lease fee or monthly payment?** No. Any approved applications for instruments are at NO MONETARY COST to the student or their family.
13. **Can my child apply for funds for lessons and/or repair only?** Yes!
14. **Can my child apply for funds for help with a show choir dress or marching band uniform or something else of that nature?** Absolutely!
15. **Can my child apply for assistance for an instrument that is not a school band instrument, such as guitar, violin, banjo, cello, etc?** Yes!
16. **Where can I drop off instruments for a donation?** The Lapel Eagles serves as drop off location for instruments for our organization. This includes but is not limited to used, damaged, and/or in need of repair. Lapel Eagles address is: 110 E. 9th Street, Lapel, IN.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any other questions! Our email is: tricountybms@yahoo.com

For the love of music, keep it growing!