From the DRCJ:

Whenever a quartet or chorus completes the contest entry, they select the awards they want to compete for. A quartet, for instance, may be offered the choice of District Quartet Championship, or Novice Quartet, or Senior Quartet. There are options for choruses, too. They include District Chorus Champion, International Prelims, Most Improved, or Small Chorus Champ.

This past district contest PDX Voices selected District Championship but did not select International Prelims. That's why they became our 2026 Chorus champs but won't officially represent EVG at next summer's contest in Minneapolis. That honor was awarded to Northwest Sound Men's Chorus, our second-place finishers.

Here's the main reason for my article: the small chorus award was mistakenly given to the West Sound Chorus, when it should have been awarded to Acappella Road. Here's why. On the contest entry form, a few choruses had selected the option to vie for the small chorus award. On the contest entry form each group lists how many performers they expect to have on stage, West Sound listed 20, the maximum allowed to be considered a small chorus. At the contest, however, the chorus ended up with 23 members on stage. Too big to be considered a small chorus! But the Administrative Judges' computers didn't catch this, because there is no standard across BHS as to what constitutes a small chorus. (In fact, until two years ago, a BHS chorus had to have at least 12 members on stage or be disqualified; that's now been changed to 9.) Prior to the pandemic, EVG's small chorus definition stated that a group had to have less than 25 members on stage, but EVG officially reduced that number

after the pandemic to 20. Usually, the ADM judges will ask me the threshold for a small chorus, but they didn't this time. That's why West Sound received the award. I emailed them after the contest and they're graciously mailing the plaque to me, which I'll then send on to Acappella Road. So, now the revised Official Scoring Summary (OSS) shows Acappella Road as our 2026 small chorus champs!

Chordially,

Jay K.