

# Etiquette expectations for members



## General

- Arrive tuned (or arrive early enough to tune) and don't hold up the group
- Bring the right materials: uke, capo if needed, music/chord sheets of paper, pencil
- Follow the leader's count-ins and tempo, don't rush or drag
- Mute/stop promptly when the leader cuts off the group
- Volume awareness — strumming too loud can drown out singers or weaker players
- No side conversations or private noodling while someone's being taught
- Respect skill-level differences — no shaming beginners, no showing off over the material

## Responsibilities toward the leader

- Watch for hand signals/cues (start, stop, dynamics, key changes)
- Ask questions at appropriate breaks, not mid-song
- Give the leader authority to make song/arrangement calls without questioning every choice
- Show up prepared so rehearsal time isn't spent re-teaching basics

## How groups set these norms

- A short verbal "house rules" rundown in the first session (most common — low friction)
- A one-page printed/emailed "group charter" covering attendance, punctuality, phone etiquette, chord-chart formatting
- Modeling — the leader demonstrates the behavior (e.g., stopping strumming instantly) and members mirror it over a few sessions
- Consistent hand signals used every rehearsal until they become automatic
- Gentle in-the-moment correction rather than confrontation — most uke jam groups skew casual/social, so norms are usually enforced with humor, not strict discipline

## A common structure for hand signals

- Fist raised = stop
- Hand flat, patting down = play softer
- Hand raised = play louder
- Pointing = your turn/solo
- Circular motion = keep looping this section