What verb should I use with a collective noun?

A collective noun is a noun that names a group of multiple members (committee, Board, family, class, team, flock).

Always consider the collection as one unit and use a singular verb, unless you want to emphasize the individuals in the group.

EXAMPLES

One unit: The committee has a new leader.
Emphasis on individuals: Have your committee (members is implied here) signed their names to the resolution?

One unit: The audience was quiet during the performance.
Emphasis on individuals: The audience (members is implied here) struggle to get out the door after the performance.

One unit: The family has moved to Maryland.
Emphasis on individuals: All family (members is implied here) are required to register for the class.