

**TROOPERS DRUM
& BUGLE CORPS
COLORGUARD AUDITION PACKET**



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INTRODUCTION

Thank you in your interest for the 2012 Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps. The Troopers are currently accepting applicants for 32 positions in the 2012 Colorguard. We are looking for talented, driven and dedicated members to continue the standard of performance excellence associated with the Troopers.

If you think you have what it takes to be a part of the Troopers' legacy, you are invited to RSVP for an audition camp for the 2012 colorguard.

The following information in this packet will outline each step that you need to take to prepare for our audition process as well as address commonly asked questions. Any questions or concerns about the audition process not covered in this packet can be addressed to:

Karen Prince, Colorguard Caption Supervisor
k.prince@troopersdrumcorps.org

How Do I Become a Trooper?

To potentially earn a spot within the Troopers colorguard section, please complete the following 4 steps before you audition:

STEP 1) Audition Interest form

Please fill out the 2012 Audition Interest form here:

<http://members.troopersdrumcorps.org/interest.htm>

STEP 2) Financial Obligations

Pay your audition, camp/travel fees:

<http://www.troopersdrumcorps.org/store/index.php?act=viewCat&catId=9>

****payments accepted at the door****

STEP 3) Travel Plans/RSVP

Choose the audition date that you wish to attend. Once decided, RSVP and submit your travel information. www.troopersdrumcorps.org/members/rsvp

STEP 4) Paperwork

Please complete all of the required forms bring them with you to your audition.

Forms can be found here: <http://members.troopersdrumcorps.org/join.htm>

CAMP TRAVEL INFORMATION

Cheyenne Audition Experience, Nov.18-20th, 2011

Storey Gymnasium - Cheyenne, WY
2811 House Ave.
Cheyenne, WY (Laramie County)

Check-in Starts 7:00pm Nov 18th
Camp Wraps-up Noon Nov.20th

Flight Information: If you are flying to this camp, please book your flights into **Denver International Airport** to arrive and depart with the following guidelines:

Arrival Friday Nov.18th no later than 12:30pm. Meet at the water fountain by baggage claim in main Terminal.

Departure Sunday Nov. 20th, no earlier than 5:00pm.

**If you are driving you should arrive at Storey Gym by 7pm on Friday. If you are in the Denver area, you can meet us at the airport and ride the bus with the rest of the members.

Houston Audition Experience, Dec 16th-18th, 2011:

Waller High School
20950 Fields Store Rd.
Waller, TX 77484

Check-in Starts 6:00pm Dec 16th
Camp Wraps-up 2:00pm Dec 18th

Flight Information:

If you are flying to this camp, please book your flights into **George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)** to arrive and depart with the following guidelines:

Arrival Friday Dec. 16th no later than 4:00pm.

Departure Sunday Dec 18th no earlier than 6:00pm.

*Please note that the corps shuttle will only run from IAH airport. If you book into Hobby, you will be responsible for finding your own transportation to camp site.

WHAT IS THE COST?

The cost of participating in a DCI-affiliated corps varies group-to-group. For World Class participation like The Troopers, the costs are likely higher than those of an Open Class corps, mainly due to a more extensive travel schedule. Regardless, each corps independently sets its own tuition and fee schedule. Drum Corps International has no role in determining or regulating the tuition and fees corps charge.

The corps usually refers to the basic cost of participating in a DCI drum corps as a "tour fee" or "dues." In keeping with the educational component of Drum Corps International's mission, the annual fee the students pay the corps is referred to as tuition. The tuition amount covers instruments, equipment, uniforms, instruction, facility rental as well as transportation, food and housing during the tours.

Considering the cost of a two- or three-day travel trip with a high school marching band to perform at a national parade, or a two week-long summer sports camp can run upward of \$1,500 or more, keep in mind that tuition with your son or daughter's drum corps will include travel, food and housing over the course of more than 60 days during the summer!

2012 Trooper's Tuition and Audition Fees

**Please note that all 2012 fees will be due by August 31, 2012.*

Audition Fee	\$75 at the door **1 time fee only	Covers: All audition fee logistics
Summer Tuition	\$2400 Payable in installments	Covers: All summer costs
Camp Fee	\$50	Covers: Meals, instruction, lodging
Bus Fee	\$40	For: Transportation to and from camp if needed

What is the Audition Weekend like?

The full weekend audition experience is a great insight into what the Troopers are like day to day in camps and on tour. Throughout the weekend you will experience first-hand instruction in a true Trooper's rehearsal setting. You will get world class instruction from an incredible staff as well as perform alongside returning veterans of the drum corps.

Within this weekend, the instructional and administrative staff has three goals:

- 1) We want to give you specific instruction on how to be a better player, marcher and performer.
- 2) We not only want to audition for potential Troopers, but we also want to start to prepare potential members for the summer tour experience for the 2012 season and beyond.
- 3) We want you to have a blast!

What is the audition process like?

The audition process for the Colorguard will involve demonstrating technical skills in both movement and equipment and will be supplemented with choreography so that you may demonstrate how well you perform those skills combined. It is important that ALL members have a strong base of movement and flag technique. If you wish to audition on rifle or saber, you will learn our technique program as well as choreography so that we can access your range of skills.

If you spin flag only, that is ok, although you may be asked to spin a weapon just so the staff can get an idea of your range of skills. If you spin rifle or sabre, you will be asked to audition on those.

We are looking for members who demonstrate a solid foundation of technical skill as well as the ability to learn various styles of choreography in movement and flag. However, the audition is not solely based on your abilities when you first arrive. We will also assess how well you apply the information you receive from the staff in order to improve. We want to give you every opportunity available to show that you have what it takes to be a Trooper- and the most important qualities involved with that are dedication and determination.

Additional information:

Flags will be provided for everyone to spin. We spin 6 ft. flag poles with thirds. Rifles and sabres will be provided as well, although you may bring your own if you would like. If your weapons do not match the ones we spin, you may be asked to spin with ours. We spin 39" elite rifles and 39" King sabres.

How will I know if I make the corps?

By the end of the audition date/weekend you will have one of the three following statuses:

Accepted: Congratulations! You are a fully contracted member of the 2012 horn line.

Call back: You have shown us some of the needed skills necessary to earn a spot, but we want to see improvement in one or more skill areas before we can feel comfortable with giving you a contract.

Since the guard does not hold winter camps, I may require you to submit videos of your progress in the areas that I wish for you to improve upon.

Not Accepted: We are sorry, but at this point we did not enough of the necessary skill sets demonstrated and we cannot offer you a contract for the 2012 season.

****** Everyone that is accepted or called back is **REQUIRED** to attend the April camp. This is a mandatory camp because the Colorguard does not meet throughout the course of the winter and this is our only time together before the full corps moves in at the end of May.

APRIL CAMP INFORMATION:

University of Wyoming- Field House.
1000 East University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

Check in begins: Friday April 27th, 7:00pm
Camp ends: Sunday April 29th, 12:00pm

Flight Information: If you are flying to this camp, please book your flights into **Denver International Airport** to arrive and depart with the following guidelines:
Arrival Friday no later than 12:30pm. Meet at the water fountain by baggage claim in main Terminal.

Departure Sunday no earlier than 5:00pm.

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm not too sure that I'll make the corps, but should I audition anyway?

Absolutely! You never know for sure until you try and even if you are not yet ready for membership you will learn a great deal which will help you in your current performance situation and in future auditions. Do not be afraid of auditioning! If you think you can or you think you can't, you are right! Also talent is not the only basis on which we accept members. Attitude, desire to be the best and ability to attend camps are three of the biggest determining factors of becoming a member of the Troopers.

I can't attend any (or most) camps. Can I still march with the Troopers?

No. Why? As this drum corps only meets once a month, it is imperative that all our members are available as much as possible. Your availability for camps will determine our consideration of you as a member.

I cannot attend any of the audition weekends. What are my options?

You can send a video audition via YouTube video or live Skype audition. No contracts will be given until we can continue your audition process in person. Preference will be given to in person auditions. Please email colorguard caption head Karen Prince, k.prince@troopersdrumcorps.org for more information on what is required for your video audition.

I cannot attend some camps due to school conflicts. What are my options?

Since most of us are certified teachers, it is our policy that school always comes first. However, your effort and ability to work out your school conflicts so that you can attend camps will also be a focus for us in considering you for membership. Camp conflicts are handled on a case by case basis. There are some conflicts that we deem not appropriate to miss a camp for. Work, studying for finals, school vacations etc. are not appropriate reasons to miss a camp.

How do people pay for a summer with the Troopers?

The summer tuition is \$2400 payable in twelve monthly installments from December 31st 2011-December 31st 2012. With the increasing prices of food & fuel, it does cost quite a bit to operate an organization like the Troopers. Believe it or not, member tuition fees account for only about 1/3 of the total cost to run the corps! The rest comes from donations, corporate sponsorships, and other fundraising projects within the Troopers. Members have a few fundraising opportunities through the corps, and will be supplied with literature and advice on finding personal sponsors to assist with tuition fees. Many of the Troopers' members have paid for their ENTIRE fee through hard work and great fundraising...where there's a will, there's a way! If you are set on marching drum corps- start saving now!!

Can I get a sponsorship?

Sponsorships are available on a very limited basis through the boosters' organization. Applications to apply are made available to contracted members only. If you feel that the only way you can march is through donations/sponsorships, please look into our fundraising opportunities. Raising the money to do this activity might be some extra work for you, but in the end the reward is priceless.

Are there physical requirements for the Troopers?

As this is physically demanding activity, we are looking for members that have chosen to live a healthy life style and are physically fit. This is usually taken a look at on a case by case basis. Additionally, any prior injuries/surgeries (torn tendons/ligaments, knee surgeries, etc.) will need to be reviewed and approved by a physician and accompanied with your physical forms. Additionally, we highly recommend that you start a physical training regimen as you start planning and practicing for your audition. The more physically fit you are, the better you will audition and perform.

Do I have to bring my own equipment?

No. Flags will be provided. We have some weapons available but you are certainly allowed to bring your own if you would like. If your weapons do not match the length/type we use then you may be asked to spin ours so we can see how you do on the correct equipment.

Camp Packing Checklist

Sleeping Gear

- Sleeping bag / Air mattress
- Pillow
- Blanket(s)

Rehearsal Clothing

- Athletic shorts / pants
- Athletic socks (required)
- Tee-shirts (loose and comfortable)
- Tennis shoes / sneakers (required)

Toiletries

- Towel
 - Shower flip flops
 - Toothbrush & toothpaste & mouthwash & floss
 - Soap, shampoo, body wash
 - Deodorant
 - Shaving Cream & Razor
 - Hair product
 - Any medication
- *keep in mind TSA liquid and Gels travel restrictions (3.4oz max, 1 quart size bag)

Instrument & Equipment

- Gloves
- Form fitting clothing for dance class
- dance shoes (not required)

Fun Stuff

- iPod or CD player with headphones & batteries
- Book to read
- Camera
- \$ for Troopers merchandise and souvenirs

Important Camp Items

- Have you RSVP'D?
- Have you submitted your travel information?
- Do you have all your paperwork?
- Do you have the camp items you need?