

# Avon Grove Marching Band Color Guard 2009

*Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.*

~Vincent Van Gogh

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What do you do in color guard?**

Color guard members perform choreography with dance, flags, rifles, and sabers to the music played by the marching band. They perform at parades and field shows. Color guard is a growing activity with thousands of participants around the country. Here's some history: color guard originated from the military practice of guarding your nation's flag during a battle. Have you ever noticed that when the American flag is carried in a parade, there is always someone carrying a rifle or sabre next to it? That person is "guarding" our nation's colors—the color guard. Competitions were originally just displays of precision marching, but the sport has evolved into one of pageantry.

### **Will we have to audition?**

**No.** You do not have to audition to be part of the guard. Anyone willing to make the commitment will become members. Those with less experience may not be in the full field show but will still be able to train and improve skills while having time to focus on smaller parts of the show. We will audition for rifle and sabre spots in the show.

In place of auditions we will have a "commitment day" at our first mini-camp with the band on June 2, 2009. This is the date when we will finalize the roster so we can begin to design the show. This gives students a chance to attend a few rehearsals and see if this is an activity they want to join. It's very important that you complete the season if you make the commitment. Unlike sports, there is not another kid on a bench waiting to take your spot. The show is staged and your "spot" is integral to the overall show design. If someone quits mid-season the rest of the color guard has to RELEARN the show to "close the spot"

### **Can I be involved in other activities?**

If you are involved in other school activities we will work with you to try to make it possible to do both. This may involve some "splitting" of time with another activity. Many students have played fall sports and have still been successful members of the marching band and color guard. Several students have also played an instrument in concert band or wind ensemble but have performed with the color guard for marching band. Just make the staff aware of any other activities that you will be involved in for the fall.

### **When will we practice?**

During the summer we will meet 1-2 times a week to continue to work on skills and to start learning routines. Vacations during this time are not a problem, just let us know the dates. It is expected that if you are "in town" you are at rehearsal.

Band camp is August 17-24. It is a combination of a 3 day camp at the high school and a 5 day camp at Camp Pinemere in the Poconos. The preview show will be August 25<sup>th</sup>. These days are mandatory, please do not schedule vacations during this time.

During the fall, we will rehearse Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-8:30pm. We will also rehearse a few Saturdays as we work on our field show. Parades, Football games, and Competition dates will be distributed shortly.

### **How can our parents be involved?**

We will need help sewing flags, chaperoning, etc. More information on this will follow. Also, if your parent is not already a member of the Avon Grove Music Boosters, they should consider joining at the next meeting (Visit the AG Band website for more information: <http://www.aghsmusicboosters.org>) Most of all, we welcome parent supports as a "cheering section" when we perform. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to come at the end of rehearsals to see run-throughs. We are proud of what you accomplish and we know they will be too!

### **What is the Attendance Policy?**

All members are expected to attend rehearsals and performances. Attendance is extremely important, and mandatory for participation in this activity. All equipment skills, movement skills, routines, and drill can only be learned through active participation. Consider this if you think that other activities or work will interfere.

Any conflicts must be discussed with the staff at the beginning of the season. Any emergencies (illness, family emergencies, etc.) are excusable absences IF you contact me. Work, social events, etc. are not excused absences.

Please remember it is YOUR responsibility to let me know if you will be missing rehearsal AND to make up any work you missed. You may call, text, or email Michelle Adcock (610- 420-9171, [chellesilk@mac.com](mailto:chellesilk@mac.com) or [madcock@avongrove.org](mailto:madcock@avongrove.org)). TELLING another member (even a captain) to tell me you won't be there is not acceptable.

Repeated and/or unexcused absences jeopardize your ability to be a successful performer. The staff reserves the right to pull you from performance if absenteeism becomes a problem.

**What will we wear?**

We will have two uniforms, the parade uniform and the field show uniform. The parade uniform will be provided. Color guard members may need to purchase other uniform pieces.

**What will we have to buy? (prices may change slightly)**

- Equipment Bag: You can buy one or make your own (\$22)
- Shoes: "Kulerswift" outdoor guard black jazz shoe, needed for parade uniform same as last year (\$30)
- Shoes: "Kulerswift" outdoor guard TAN jazz shoe, needed for this year's field show uniform (\$30)
- Gloves: Leather fingerless sport gloves, natural color. (\$12)
- Warm-ups: We will be purchasing warm-ups for the color guard to wear at football games and other events. These should be less than \$100.
- Band Camp Fee: \$200 (est.)

Students may use money in their band fundraising accounts to pay for any costs.

Band camp deposits will be due soon. We will be doing an order for warm-ups, bags, shoes, and gloves at the beginning of the season. There are also "non-mandatory" items such as hoodies and sweats that we will be offering.

**Are there fundraisers?**

You may participate in all fundraisers sponsored by the Music Boosters. This not only helps to fund ALL the music programs here at Avon Grove (including the color guard), but it helps members offset the cost of shoes, supplies, and band camp. When you participate in fundraisers you earn money for your own "student account" which can be put toward any supplies or trips for marching band and indoor guard. The Music Association has been very supportive of the color guard and it is imperative that we support their fundraising efforts. Please don't let any concerns about costs deter you from participation. If you are committed to membership, we will work with you.

**Is there a dress code for rehearsals?**

YES! You must wear the following for rehearsals:

- Shorts or close-fitting leggings/capris (so that we can see your "leg line" during practice.)
- Sneakers or Jazz shoes
- Sports bras
- NO JEANS
- Dress for the weather (hot or cold)

**What should I bring to rehearsals?**

- Equipment (at the first mini-camp we will sign out flags and rifles.)
- Gloves
- Once we start the show you will need your drill book and dot book. We'll go over this more later.
- Hats and sunscreen for summer rehearsals
- WATER: bring your own water to every rehearsal. It's also a good idea to bring a light snack. During warmer weather Gatorade or Propel are highly recommended. Soda, tea, etc. are not the best for hydration in warm weather.
- NO GUM during rehearsals

**If my friend missed the first spring clinic, is it too late to join?**

NO! Take a packet for them and bring them to the next rehearsal.

**I still have questions, what should I do?**

Contact Michelle Adcock (610) 420-9171 or [chellesilk@mac.com](mailto:chellesilk@mac.com) or [madcock@avongrove.org](mailto:madcock@avongrove.org)

Information is always available at the color guard website: <http://agcg.pbworks.com>

Fill out the Membership Information Form online:  
Go to the Color Guard Website at <http://agcg.pbworks.com>

### ***Requirements / Expectations***

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory! Exceptions would include...absence from school due to illness, family emergency, etc. Be committed to your fellow guard members by faithfully attending all practices and shows.

- 1) BE PUNCTUAL (“to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is not to be”) The set practice time is when rehearsal begins. Arrive at the school before this scheduled time to allow you to gather your equipment, guard box, radio, etc.
- 2) Practice Healthy Habits: eat right, exercise, get enough rest, etc. Color Guard is a SPORT; you are an athlete. Your body is your instrument, keeping it in shape helps your ability to perform.
- 3) Come prepared to rehearse at each rehearsal: know where and when to report (if you’re not sure, ASK). Have all of your equipment.
- 4) Dress APPROPRIATELY to rehearse (see above)
- 5) Behave appropriately at all rehearsals and performances. Remember, you not only represent yourself at various rehearsals and performances, but you represent your school and the AGHS Music Department! At the director's discretion, inappropriate behavior may lead to dismissal from the ensemble.
- 6) Maintain your grades. Manage time efficiently so that schoolwork and guard practice do not conflict. (Don’t wait until the night a project is due and make the choice to skip rehearsal to complete it.)
- 7) Practice at home regularly.
- 8) Practice teamwork and good sportsmanship at all times:
  - Try your best at practice and during performances; learn from your mistakes, accept constructive criticism, and do not get angry with yourself or others for making a mistake.
  - Pay attention to and respect your instructors.
  - Accept roles you have been assigned, even if they are not your first choice.
  - Be positive and encourage fellow guard members.
  - Take pride in your team, no matter the score or placement.

# Avon Grove High School Marching Band Color Guard Contract

In order to insure that we have full participation in rehearsals and performances, we, the AGHS Marching Band Staff, have established the following list of attendance requirements.

- Attached is a schedule as of the date listed. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. In other words, if something else comes up, you are already committed to color guard.
- Keeping in mind that everyone in the marching band color guard is a varsity starter (there are no reserves or substitutes), your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary.
- Band camp is the most important time of year for the marching band. It is when we have the most concentrated and focused rehearsal times to learn basics, drill and routines. Attendance by all is critical to our success. For varsity athletes in a fall sport, arrangements will be made with coaches to allow you to miss Friday, August 21 practice. We will arrange to have you brought to camp on Thursday evening, August 20 and returned Sunday evening, August 23.
- Once the school year begins, attendance is mandatory at all functions.
  - If you have an unexcused absence from rehearsal during the week, you will not march in the game/parade that week. You will still be required to be at the game and sit in the stands.
  - If you have a second unexcused absence from a rehearsal, you will be dismissed from the marching band.
  - An unexcused absence from a performance will result in dismissal from the marching band.
  - For student leaders, one unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in loss of student leader status.
- Anything you already have on your schedule that conflicts with rehearsals is considered excused, provided you supply Mr. Moczydlowski or Mrs. Adcock with that information in writing prior to the end of this school year.
- Emergency situations that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis by the staff.
- Signatures are required. One copy of this form is to be returned to Mrs. Adcock by June 2. Failure to do so will result in your being written out of the marching band drill.

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Student Name

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date

Fill out your Membership Information Form online and return this contract to Mrs. Adcock by Tuesday, June 2, 2009.