



THE CADETS

2013 Parent Handbook

Youth Education in the Arts
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Who are The Cadets? And what is drum corps?

The Cadets Drum Corps is operated by Youth Education in the Arts (YEA!), the Allentown-based non-profit organization which also operates the US Scholastic Band Association. The Cadets are a touring group, essentially a “professional marching band” that tours the entire nation, competing with other drum corps in professional, college, and high school venues during a 12-week experience each summer.

The Cadets are 10-time Drum Corps International World Champions, and are considered the oldest and most honored drum corps in the entire world. They celebrated their landmark 75th Anniversary in 2009! Besides competitions, the organization has performed at the 56th Presidential Inaugural Parade, the 1996 Olympic Closing Ceremonies, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, NASCAR events, the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and many other high-profile events around the United States.

We run weekend camps from November until May and then the 150 members, along with staff and volunteers, move in mid-May FULL-TIME and stay with the drum corps until finals in mid-August in Indianapolis, IN. There is an administrative team in place year-round who also travels with the corps during the entire tour, ensuring your child’s safety as well as a positive experience!

What has my child gotten ME into?

Drum corps is a sport which requires a lot of time, energy, money and commitment from everyone involved – whether you are in the corps or NOT! The road from here until the final product is not an easy one but it is well worth it!

Travel to and from camp, needed supplies, member fees and a summer away from you are all things to consider when your child decides to participate in a drum corps.

Winter Camps

Beginning in November with the Audition Camp and continuing through April, we hold monthly weekend camps. The camps are for music rehearsals and further auditions. Brass and percussion are expected to attend all weekend camps throughout the winter. The colorguard is expected to attend the Audition Camp and then return at the April camp.

Winter Camp Schedule

*November 16-18 **Percussion & Guard only*

*Nov 30-Dec 2 **Brass & percussion only*

*December 27-30 **Brass & percussion only*

*January 18-20 **Brass & percussion only*

*March 8-10 **Percussion only*

*April 26-28 **ALL required to attend (round 2 of colorguard auditions)*

*May 15 **Spring Training Move-in*

Sample Winter Camp Weekend Schedule

FRIDAY

Plan to land/arrive at PHL before 6pm for pickups
7:00 pm Arrive & Unload & Registration
9:00 pm Welcome Meeting
***Parent Orientation Session from @9:00-10:30*
10:00 pm Sectionals
12:30 am Snack & Videos
1:30 am Lights Out

SATURDAY

8:30 am Breakfast
9:30 am Sectionals
1:30 pm Lunch
2:30 pm Sectionals/Marching
6:30 pm Dinner
7:30 pm Meet with Hopkins
8:45 pm Sectionals
12:00 am Snack
1:00 am Lights Out

SUNDAY

8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am Sectionals
12:30 pm Quick Snack & Setup
1:00 pm Show & Tell / Ensemble
2:00 pm Cleanup
3:00 pm Dismissed & Depart
Plan to depart PHL no earlier than 6:00pm

Life on the Road

Traveling with a drum & bugle corps is a unique experience. We travel with 5 coach buses, 2 tractor-trailers, and 4 small vehicles. Most of our traveling is done at night while all are asleep but there will be occasions when the corps will stay overnight at a housing site and will get a full night of "floor time". While traveling, we stop about every 3 hours at rest stops for all to get out to stretch and use the restroom.

When the corps leaves for tour, all are expected to be on-site with the corps at all times until after Finals. Members are not to leave the corps unless prior arrangements have been made with the Cadets office in advance. This is for your child's safety and because we are liable for their well-being at all times!

If your child's school lets out after the corps' move-in date, we will work with the administration to find a compromise with courses and final exams, so that they can take advantage of the Cadet experience without compromising their scholastic responsibilities. They are expected to report immediately following the ending of school and should also attend rehearsals on nights and weekends when possible. Most schools are willing to work with us, as they are proud to have their talented student take part in such a prestigious organization!

Basic Tour Daily Schedule

Once on the road, we settle into a routine daily schedule. The times listed below may change according to daily arrival times, but the basic outline is the same (Daily schedules are also posted online).

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Stretch & Run
10:00 am	Marching
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Sectionals
3:30 pm	Ensemble
5:00 pm	Dinner, Pack, Clean
6:45 pm	Depart for show
7:15 pm	Warm-up / Show / Retreat / Snack
12:00 am	Depart for next site
4:00 am	Arrive / Sleep

Audition Process

The Cadets approach auditions a bit differently than some other organizations. We do not make “cuts” in any way. Instead, we provide feedback and tips for improvement for each individual. The audition is intended to feel like a private lesson. At the end of the weekend, each individual receives a rating of 1, 2, or 3.

1 = we feel that you’re ready to become a Cadet, so begin getting your finances, schedules, and plans in order!

2 = we feel that you have potential to be a Cadet, but we need you to work on some specific items, come back to the next camp, and show us your progress...

3 = we don’t feel that you’re quite ready to be a Cadet this year, but we’ll provide you with suggestions for improvement, marching with another group, or anything else that may help you to reach your goal of being a Cadet in the future.

It is the responsibility of each student to make sure that all of their questions regarding their audition are answered prior to the end of each camp.

Fees

The member fees charged cover about a third of the corps total expenses for the entire season. Fees are the same for every member. Members have the option to participate in one of two discount options.

Member Fees

Registration Fee (waived for returning members)

Winter Camp Fee

Spring/Summer Tuition

Expenses covered in these fees include:

Lodging

Food

Instruction & Staffing

Uniform Care & Maintenance

Equipment Care & Maintenance

Transportation & Fuel (summer tour)

Member Paperwork

There is a Member Contract and Financial Contract that your child, and you if they are under 18, will be required to sign and submit. These contracts cover the variety of member responsibilities, including their commitment to the corps, to themselves and to one another, as well as their financial commitments. You should ask your son or daughter to view their contracts when they receive them.

A great deal is expected of your child in terms of the time commitment as well as monetary commitments but the experience is WELL worth the investment!

We also require a copy of their birth certificate and insurance card and a completed Member Medical History Form. Whether your child is insured or not, the corps is not responsible for personal medical bills.

Fundraising

These fundraising opportunities are covered in more detail in the 2013 Financial Agreement.

Mandatory Fundraising

There will be 1 mandatory winter/spring fundraiser for the 2013 season. Each fundraiser will include a "kickback incentive" to members for outstanding performance. Fundraiser details will be distributed and discussed through email, and at winter camps.

Extra Opportunities for Fundraising

The corps may provide opportunities for members to "work off" tuition fees whenever possible. Details for these opportunities, and more, will be discussed through email and at winter camps.

Call A Thon

Post Tour Work

Recruiting Work

Sponsorships and Tuition Fees

Many individuals seek assistance in paying for tuition fees, through sponsorships and personal donations. Please read this section carefully if you plan to seek sponsorship for your tuition, so that you may provide clear and accurate information to your sponsors.

CorpsData

CorpsData.net is the database system used by the Cadets' administration. It is the main information source for everyone involved with the corps, including members, staff, volunteers, parents and applicants. We require all members to maintain an account; we also require them to link at least one parent/guardian to their account. We send out informational emails, itineraries, and your child can link your account to theirs for emergency contact information.

Tour Itineraries

A complete itinerary for the 2013 Cadets Summer Tour including housing sites, mail drops, emergency numbers, and show information will be compiled. The initial version will be sent in late May or early June and updates will be sent during the summer as needed. These will be sent to the email of the member and the email of the parents that are on file in CorpsData. There will also be a link to the itinerary on cadets.org so that you may view it at any time.

Mail on Tour

The corps members do receive mail over the summer at various locations across the nation as well as at the main office in Allentown, PA. This information will be given to you when the dates get closer. Care packages (home-made cookies) are always welcome on tour! ☺ This information is also posted on our website during the summer months for all to view.

Volunteering for the Cadets

Volunteering is an investment of your time, energy and travel but allows you the chance to see your child become a part of something as real as The Cadets. It is impossible to explain the feeling that drum corps emits, you must experience it yourself!

You can come to the winter camps with your child and see just how the season is started and built. We have sleeping accommodations at the camp site for our volunteers.

You may also choose to join us in the summer. We schedule to have a minimum of 8 people on the food service crew each day of Spring Training and Summer Tour. Preparing food for 200 people 4 times a day is no small task. I have no doubt you will leave with some new found cooking knowledge. Our volunteers travel with the corps, if you should decided to volunteer for a few days. If we come close to your hometown, we would love to have you help out for the day.

Also, some companies will match your volunteer hours with a donation. So please, if you decide to volunteer, check with your company to see if they have a matching program.

Responsibility

We treat each and every member as a mature young adult. They are responsible for taking care of their communications, finances, paperwork and themselves. We will provide all information and any assistance that is needed, but at the end of the day, they must be sure that all aspects of their membership are taken care of.

Contact Information

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