




2019

AUDITION MATERIALS



CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Troopers – if you are reading this, you have already taken the first step towards becoming a member of **America's Corps!**

It is our goal to provide you with a **positive** and enriching **World Class** experience through performance, team building and personal development.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the information contained in this packet, as it should give you a solid understanding of what you can expect during the audition process.

Additionally, you are encouraged to join our audition group pages on Facebook. These groups provide access to Faculty, Staff and returning members who can answer your questions and provide helpful guidance and support as you prepare for auditions.

This season will prove to be a fantastic experience full of exciting opportunities, and we are excited that you've chosen to share this journey with us - **we can't wait to meet you!**

Sincerely,

Kristy Jackson

Corps Director

k.jackson@troopersdrumcorps.org



TROOPERS MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS

Our vision is to operate, behave, prepare, rehearse, and perform like a World Champion in every aspect – both on and off the field – with hard work, dignity, poise, professionalism, class, and respect, regardless of competitive placement or outcome.

1. Attitude

Members are expected to be professional, respectful, motivated, and responsible, holding themselves to the highest level of accountability at all times, while always remaining in control of themselves, their equipment and their emotions. A respect for each other, a trust in the staff, a desire to work hard and a commitment to excellence, as well as the ability to adapt and be flexible, are required attributes of every member.

2. Preparation

Preparation is the strongest indicator of personal commitment and dedication. You are expected to practice and prepare between camps to ensure that your ability to participate at your highest level. Member preparation has a direct correlation between individual growth and organizational success.

3. Talent

Your performance abilities are critical to your success with the Troopers. Members are expected to perform at their highest possible level at all times, while continuing to develop and improve throughout the season.

4. Attendance

Members are expected to attend every rehearsal. Absences are permitted on a case by case basis and must be approved in advance. Members must make every reasonable effort to attend any part of a rehearsal that does not conflict with an approved event. **All “No Call/No Show” participants will be removed from the roster.**

5. Participation

Participation in rehearsal, active communication and submittal of required assignments are necessary to maintain a cohesive environment and developmental progress. All assignments are required and will be evaluated by the faculty. **Non-participation will directly impact your membership status.**

6. Fitness

The Troopers consider all members to be professional athletes. All members must be in excellent physical health, and must be capable of sustaining a high level of cardiovascular activity for extended periods of time. Members are expected to meet detailed fitness expectations and to exercise regularly between camps.

7. Tuition

It is absolutely essential that you keep your finances up to date. Without your fees and tuition, we would not be able to operate. Always be mindful of your account status – communicating any financial issues as early as possible will allow more time for the administration help you find a solution.



LETTER FROM THE CAPTION HEAD

Dear Troopers Percussion Candidate:

Congratulations on taking the first steps to become a member of the Troopers Percussion Section! Auditions are a multi-step process that will begin in November and last for the entire duration of each camp. This packet is full of important details about our process - please read this information carefully and prepare the required material to the best of your ability.

Your audition will include several aspects including an individual audition, group playing evaluation and sight reading assessment. All candidates will perform an individual audition at the first event attended. Subsequent camps will only include an ensemble evaluation.

All percussionists will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Timing
- Sound Quality
- Rhythmic Accuracy
- Musicianship
- Technique
- Sight Reading Ability
- Attendance & Commitment
- Preparation between Camps

The technique exercises that we will utilize cover fundamental aspects of percussion performance.

Exercises will be distributed to at camp and will not be made available ahead of time.

We are certain this will be a successful year and hope that you will be part of it. Please direct any questions regarding the percussion audition process to **laurenteel@verizon.net**.

Best of luck at auditions!

Lauren Teel

Percussion Caption Head

laurenteel@verizon.net



GENERAL AUDITION INFORMATION

The 2019 Troopers Percussion Ensemble will be comprised of 33 on-field performing members: 9 Snare Drums, 5 Tenor Drums, 5 Bass Drums and 14 Front Ensemble (Pit).

Spots will be awarded to the best available candidate on a first come, first serve basis.

All candidates, regardless of experience, are required to audition every year. Returning members must audition and are held to a higher standard of conduct and preparation.

Live Auditions

In the interest of making the audition process as accessible as possible, we will be offering multiple live audition events. You may choose the date and location that is most convenient for you. Each event will offer time to perform an audition and receive feedback from the Troopers Faculty.

Video Auditions

If you are unable to attend a live audition event, you may choose to submit a video audition. If considered a strong candidate, you will be invited to attend the next scheduled rehearsal. A live audition is required to be eligible for a membership contract offer.

To **register for camp** or for more information regarding the audition process, materials, dates, locations and fees, please visit **www.marchtroopers.com** or contact us with questions at **audition@troopersdrumcorps.org**.



WHAT TO BRING

Due to the large number of expected participants, we rarely have enough corps-owned instruments for everyone at the early season camps. **If attending an event in November or December, you must bring your own drum and sticks/mallets – there will be no corps equipment available.**

Snares

Please bring your own snare drum, stand, carrier, sticks and drum pad to at least the first 2-3 camps.

Tenors

Please bring your own drums, stand, carrier, sticks and drum pad to at least the first 2-3 camps.

Bass Drums

Please bring your own sticks/mallets and drum pad to at least the first 2-3 camps.

Front Ensemble

Please bring your own sticks, mallets and drum pad to at least the first 2-3 camps.

REQUIRED REHEARSAL MATERIALS

All percussion candidates attending a 2-day audition event are required to have the following materials:

Backpack

A backpack allows you to efficiently carry all the items you need to have with you at every rehearsal.

Black Three-Ring Binder w/ Clear Plastic Sheet Protectors

This will contain all registration forms, audition materials, music, drill and handouts you receive

Pencil

All members must have a pencil at all times. Notes should be taken at every rehearsal.

Athletic Clothing (Battery Only)

Wear athletic clothing & shoes that allow you to perform marching, movement & fitness skills.

Water Bottle

You are required to have a **1-gallon water jug** that must be filled with water at all rehearsals.

Medication

Any necessary medication, including inhalers, must be kept on your person at every rehearsal.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

The audition consists of a demonstration of your skills and abilities in individual, section and ensemble settings. You will be evaluated based on your Attitude, Preparation, Talent, Participation and Fitness, as well as your ability to fulfill the Attendance and Tuition obligations.

We understand that auditions can be a potentially stressful experience – the most important thing is for the faculty to be able to get a sense of who you are and how you perform.

RATINGS & RESULTS

Following the conclusion of your audition, you will receive feedback and be given a rating based on your performance and evaluations. This rating will fall into one of the three following categories:

1	<p>You are ready to be offered a contract.</p> <p>You have been invited to, and you must attend, the next live event.</p> <p>If you fulfill all required obligations, you will be a member of the Troopers</p>
2	<p>You have shown the basic skills required for membership, but improvement is needed.</p> <p>You have been invited to, and you must attend, the next live event.</p> <p>Most people who eventually earn a spot in the Troopers fall into this category.</p>
3	<p>You do not have the skills that will allow you to be successful at the Troopers at this time.</p> <p>You will not be invited to the next live event.</p> <p>Our hope is that you will apply the lessons learned and come back stronger next year.</p>

Audition results, attendance, evaluations, and assignment grades are tracked. These metrics are averaged to create an overall ranking of participants. These rankings are used to determine placement within the ensemble and serve as the basis by which contracts are awarded.

VISUAL GUIDELINES

The key elements we look for in every member of the Troopers are attitude, timing, work ethic and fitness. You should be a good student with the ability to receive, react, and respond to information as well as maintain an open mind. Your ability to learn carries equal weight to your skill level.

It is NOT essential that you know The Troopers visual technique to audition. We want you to perform your best and encourage you to use whatever technique you feel most comfortable with.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT DURING AUDITIONS

- Team Introductions
- Stretch-Out with a Focus on Body Awareness & Alignment
 - Physical Training (including a 1-Mile Run)
 - Posture & Equipment Carriage
 - An Introductory Movement Class
 - A Variety of Step-Size & Tempo Exercises
- A Series of Basic Drill Exercises (ex. Move 8/Hold 4, Bow Tie Drill, Box Drill)
 - A written visual assignment (will be distributed at camp)

Physical Fitness

The Troopers consider all members to be professional athletes, and being fit both in is essential to be able to perform at the high levels we require. You need to be able to move at a variety of tempos (60-200 bpm) while maintaining proper body control and technique at all tempos.

All members must be in excellent physical health, and must be capable of sustaining a high level of cardiovascular activity for extended periods of time. You are expected to meet detailed fitness expectations and to exercise regularly between camps. The better physical shape you are in for your audition, the more successful your prospective summer will be.

**Please direct any specific questions related to the visual portion of the audition process to:
visual@troopersdrumcorps.org**



AUDITION RECOMMENDATIONS

Many talented individuals do not audition because they don't believe themselves to be good enough. While auditions can be stressful, do not let your nerves stop you from attending.

Preparation

- Practice and preparation are the keys to success
- Work the audition material into your daily practice regimen – don't try to cram before the event
- If possible, meet with an instructor on a regular basis prior to the audition
- Record yourself – critically evaluate the recording and work to perfect your performance

The Audition

- You will have time to warm-up outside of the audition room prior to your individual audition
- Make sure your equipment is working properly and complete any paperwork before your audition
- Be sure to ask questions if you are confused about anything you are being asked to perform

Dealing with Performance Anxiety & Nerves

- Do not fight your nerves - they are a natural part of the performance process
- Take several slow, deep breaths to calm yourself before performing
- Perform for friends and family prior to coming to camp to get comfortable with an audience
- When nerves are present, mistakes may happen – ***do not stop or dwell on them***
- Never apologize for your performance

Final Thoughts

- We are all on your side – ***we want to help you become the best version of yourself!***
- Remember to relax, take a breath and enjoy the experience!

BATTERY AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

All Battery candidates should prepare and perform the specific material listed below.

1. Prepared Selection

- Select and perform a 1 to 3-minute etude or solo excerpt of your choice
- Excerpts may be an original composition or an excerpt/transcription from a marching show
- Choose something that will showcase your strengths and abilities

2. Technique Exercises

- Select and perform your own technique exercises showcasing the following skills:

8's, Accent Tap, Double Beat, Triplet Beat, Rolls, Flam & Flam Taps

- Perform your exercises with an audible metronome **while marking time**

Submitting A Video?

All video submissions should include the following:

- A **brief** introduction giving your name, age, location and experience.
- Performance of the required components outlined above.
- Performer must be focused in full frame with an audible metronome in the background

FRONT ENSEMBLE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

All Front Ensemble candidates should prepare and perform the specific material listed below.

1. Prepared Selection

- Keyboard: Select and perform a 2 to 3-minute, 4-mallet etude or solo excerpt of your choice
- Timpani: Select and perform a 2 to 3-minute etude or solo excerpt of your choice
- Piano (Synth): Select and perform a 2 to 3-minute piano etude or solo excerpt of your choice

2. Technique Exercises

- Select and perform your own technique exercises showcasing the following skills:
 - Scales & Arpeggios (2-Mallet)
 - 4-Mallet Dexterity & Block Chords (Marimbas - Stevens Grip / Vibraphones - Burton Grip)
- Perform your exercises with an audible metronome

Submitting A Video?

All video submissions should include the following:

- A **brief** introduction giving your name, age, location and experience.
- Performance of the required components outlined above.
- Performer must be focused in full frame with an audible metronome in the background