

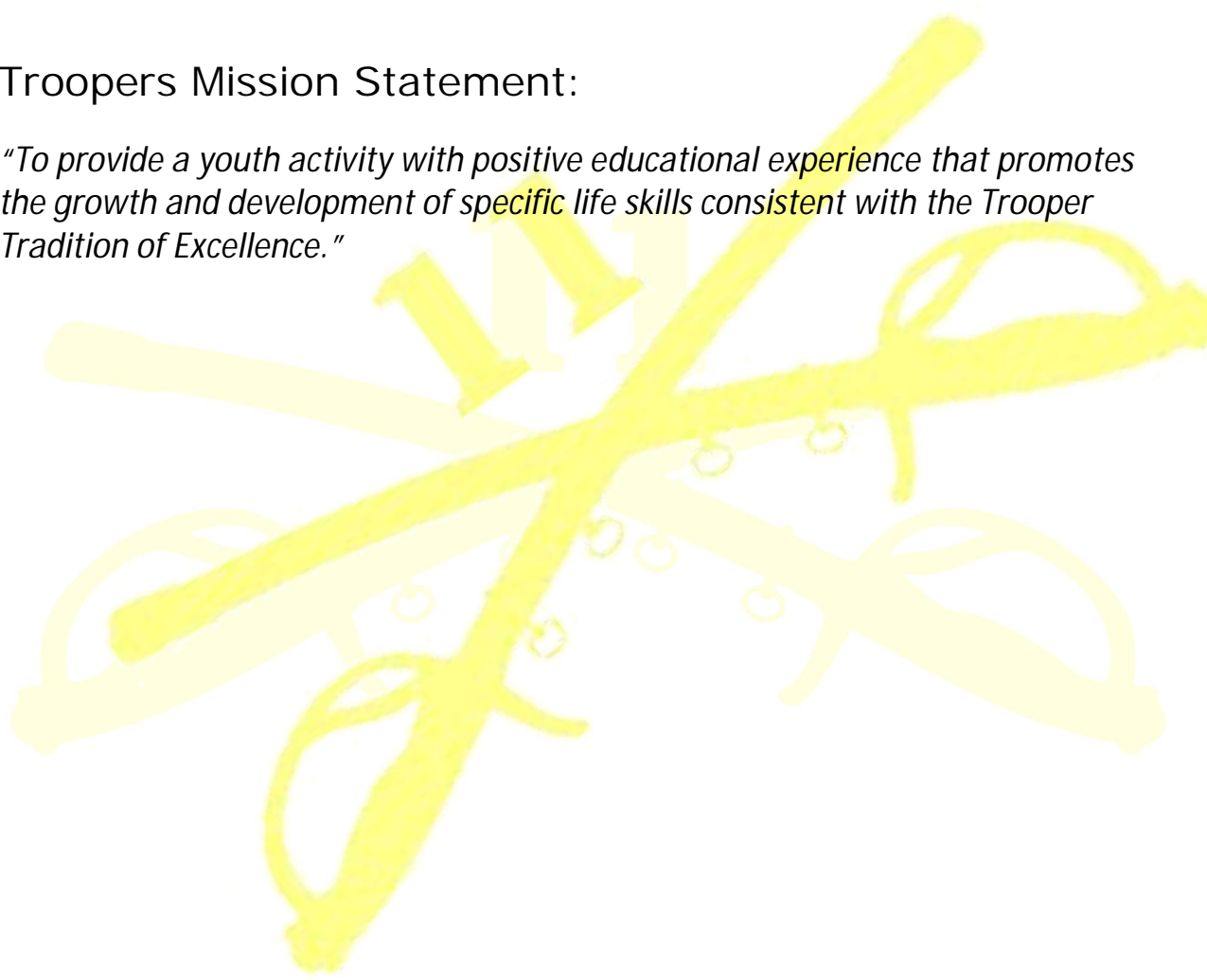
TROOPERS
2012
DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS
PARENT INFO PACKET

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Troopers Mission Statement:

"To provide a youth activity with positive educational experience that promotes the growth and development of specific life skills consistent with the Trooper Tradition of Excellence."



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Who are the Troopers? And what is Drum Corps?.....	4
What has my child gotten me into?.....	5
What can one gain from marching drum corps?.....	5
What are winter camps and why are them important?.....	6
What are all days?.....	7
What is life like on the Road?.....	7
How does one audition for the Troopers?.....	7
What are the Fees to participate and what do they go towards?.....	8
Do we have to provide our own instrument?.....	8
Is there Member paper work?.....	8
Are there Fundraising opportunities?.....	9
What about volunteering?.....	9
Can my son or daughter get mail on tour?.....	9
Responsibility.....	10
Corps Contact Information.....	10
Sponsors	10

Who are the Troopers? And what is drum corps?

The Troopers are the only competitive junior drum and bugle corps in the state of Wyoming. The corps, founded in 1957 by Casper contractor Jim Jones, represents Wyoming in numerous performance events during the year and participates in the Drum Corps International Summer Music Games tour during the summer months.

The Troopers are proud to be a founding member of Drum Corps International. We have been serving the youth of America for over 49 years and during that time have held many championship titles including the World Open, CYO, VFW National, American Legion, North American and DCI regional titles. Aside from summer competition activities, the Troopers are a popular attraction at professional and collegiate sporting events including the Denver Broncos, Philadelphia Phillies and the United States Air Force Academy. The Troopers were the first competitive drum corps to participate in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade; represented the state of Wyoming at the 1993 and 2001 Presidential Inaugural Parades and have performed in concert before World's Fair attendees, NATO Defense College delegates and Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush.

Although most of our members are from the western United States, the popularity of the corps has attracted members from all across the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2003 we welcomed our first members from Japan. The corps is open to all young adults from aged 16 to 21. Members are required to audition for the corps each year and are accepted based on musical ability and marching skills but more importantly positive attitude, self-discipline and dedication.

Reflecting upon our western military heritage, our uniforms are reminiscent of those worn by the 11th Ohio cavalry stationed in Casper, WY in the late 1800's and our musical style is most reflective of the American spirit. The Troopers are widely recognized and respected by drum corps fans around the world. Ever building on a championship tradition and dedication to excellence, our corps has been nicknamed, "America's Corps", a title we hold with honor.

WHAT has my child gotten me into?

Drum corps is a sport which requires 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.

What can one gain from marching drum corps?

The drum corps experience itself provides a multifaceted education. First, there is the music and performance education provided by the corps' staff. Second, there is the life and values education that is attained by participation in an intense, focused effort to achieve excellence.

Aside from the music, performance and life education that comes directly from participating, many studies indicate that performing arts students show higher levels of academic achievement in all disciplines than students who do not participate in performing arts. More than 75 percent of the 1,100+ World Class corps students, who participated in DCI's 2008 Project Persona research study, reported a grade point average (GPA) above a 3.0 at either the high school or university level.

Each performer will be spending all day, every day with the same group of people with a shared purpose – the perfection of the performance. They will eat, sleep, live, rehearse, endure, perform and celebrate together. This is perhaps the single most positive aspect of the drum corps experience for most people. It is virtually impossible to go through an entire season of this and not come away a better person. Specifically, your son or daughter will reap the following benefits from his/her participation in a drum corps:

- Character development
- Improved self-confidence and self-esteem
- Earning the value of teamwork
- Learning the value of commitment to purpose
- Learning the value of responsibility, integrity, sacrifice and excellence
- One-on-one musical and performance instruction by world-class instructors
- Meeting and working with people with diverse backgrounds and origins
- Making new, lifelong friends

What are winter camps and why are they important?

Winter camps are held once a month starting in November and continue through May until our all days rehearsals. During these weekend camps the corps works on visual and musical fundamentals, the show and performance quality. All of these camps are comprehensive thus it is imperative that our members attend all of these camps. For the 2012 season, we will only have a total of 14 days of rehearsals together to prepare for our 2 month long competitive season. Additionally, not only is the time spent during these camps necessary for us to gain an edge against our competition but they are necessary to build a positive and trusting relationship between members and staff.

Occasionally there will be school conflicts with winter camps. In this case, every effort should be made to see if the conflict could be rescheduled to an earlier or later date. In the case of this not being a possibility, conflicts need to be verified at least two weeks in advance via the camp conflict form found in the 2012 audition handbook.

The ability to attend all or most camps is a strong determining factor in our selection process for the membership of the drum corps.

Emergencies before camps are always handled on a case by case basis, please contact: Brass Caption Head, Kyle Thompson (k.thompson@troopersdrumcorps.org) for further assistance.

What are "all days?"

All day rehearsals are our last preseason push before our competitive season starts. When these rehearsals start, we expect our members to be moved-in to the Troopers full time. 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 Troopers 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!

What is life like on the Road?

Traveling with a drum & bugle corps is a unique experience. We travel with 4 coach buses, 2 tractor-trailers, a full gourmet kitchen and a few small administrative vehicles. Most of our traveling is done at night while we 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 Troopers office in advance. This is for your child's safety and because we are liable for their well-being at all times!

While on tour, the corps provides 99% of the meals that your son or daughter will eat. Our members eat off of our state of the art mobile kitchen which was newly renovated prior to the 2010 season. From this we serve all members and staff 4 well rounded meals a day.

How does one audition for the Troopers?

The audition process might seem scary at first, but it is anything but that. There is a detailed, step-by-step guide in the 2012 Audition Info packet.

We as a staff are always rooting for those that audition. We WANT you to be a part of our corps. One of the most influential aspects that we look at when we are looking to accept a member is not only talent, but more often than not a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and the potential for growth.

What are the Fees to participate and what do they go towards?

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 basic cost of participating in a DCI drum corps is the annual tuition. The corps often call this 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

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

Do we have to provide our own instrument?

The Troopers will provide all instruments for our contracted members. Usually, these are brand new or only a season or two old.

Currently, our corps has a sponsorship with Yamaha Band and Wind Instruments for brass instruments and the Pearl Corporation for percussion instruments. These two companies provide us with superior professional level instruments that allow our members to maximize their true potential.

Is there member paperwork to fill out?

All member paper work can be found here: <http://members.troopersdrumcorps.org/join.htm>

This paperwork should be submitted by the first camp.

Are there Fundraising opportunities?

During the 2006, 2007 and 2008 seasons, Drum Corps International conducted a series of surveys and interviews with corps members titled "Project Persona." One issue included in that research was how student performers pay for participation in their corps. In the most recent study, covering approximately 1,100 students, more than 80 percent indicated they received some amount of funding assistance from their family. 53 percent indicated they used savings from their job, while 40 percent received some sponsorship assistance. (Sponsorships normally happen when the corps refers the student to an alum or other interested party who pays some portion of the student's tuition.) Note the total funding percentage is more than 100 percent because funding can come from multiple sources. With the Troopers, there will be a few corps sponsored fundraising opportunities available. This will be made available to contracted members throughout the preseason.

What about Volunteering?

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 Troopers. 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 several 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 decide 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.

Can my son or daughter get mail on tour?

The corps members do receive mail over the summer at various locations across the country. 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 and well as given to the members.

Responsibility?

We treat each and every member as a mature young adult. They are responsible for taking care of their communications, finances and paperwork. 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.

Additionally, it is the goal of the Troopers to provide a safe environment on and off the field. We take every precaution necessary to ensure that our members are making wise and mature decisions. In the end, just like life, we cannot control everything that happens, however, we strive every day to make the Troopers a positive and fun and safe place to be.

Corps Contact Information

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The Troopers Horn line is proudly sponsored by:

