

# Marching Hornets Band Camp Survival Guide

*Band camp is not the worst thing in the world. The worst thing in the world is to come to band camp unprepared. The following guidelines should help you arrive at band camp prepared, and more importantly, survive the week!*

## ***What do I need to bring?***

- Eat Breakfast before you come!
- Your Instrument & equipment (Yes, there have been a few that have forgotten this before!)
- Section Leaders bring a 3 ring binder with 40-50 clear page covers to help teach drill.
- Flip folder and lyre (to hold flip folder on your instrument). It is mandatory, do not come to practice without this.
- Dot Book is a small spiral notebook. It is mandatory; do not come to practice without this.
- Water Bottle/Cooler (water is provided, but it is highly recommended that you bring your own)
- Lunch (in a cooler, will discuss more below)
- At least three red, white and blue poker chips
- Pencils/Highlighter (sharpened, with erasers)
- Reeds, lubricants, etc.
- White marching t-shirt at every rehearsal (the one we paint a black I on to gauge your marching)
- Shorts (comfortable, board shorts are ok, NO JEANS OR LONG PANTS)
- White socks and white tennis shoes (NO SANDALS, FLIP-FLOPS, or other shoes inappropriate for marching)
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Sunscreen (SP 15 or greater)
- Bug Spray (a necessity at night)
- Chapstick (optional)

## ***Why do I need all of these things?***

**Sunscreen:** Sunburn is a given at band camp. Even if you never wear sunscreen, you need it at band camp because you will get tan, and possibly burnt.

**Breakfast:** We have seen far too many students throw up and have to sit out the first day of band camp because they did not eat breakfast. You must eat breakfast during camp. It will not sit like a lump in your stomach or make you feel sick while you are marching.

**Water:** This one is obvious. You will sweat a lot at band camp. If you are not soaked by 10:15 each morning, see a doctor soon, because you are very sick. During breaks, you will need to fill up with water. Important note: Do not bring water bottles filled with carbonated sodas or sugar drinks (Kool-aid, juicy juice), it will just make things worse. Water is best, but sports drinks are acceptable too.

**Clothes:** Wear shorts every day to band camp. There's no big explanation. It's just going to be hot.

**Chapstick:** Only if you think you'll need it - many brass players will.

**Sunglasses:** These definitely keep the UV light from your eyes and make the glare bearable, since you have to look up sometimes into the sun.

**Hat:** It will keep the sun out of your eyes and face (*Lets you avoid "Raccoon Eyes" from sunglasses, which look silly in your school pictures.*)

**Lunch & Dinner:** Lunch and dinner are the relaxation times of the day. Bring a cooler with your favorite food or ask your parents to drop you off a sub or some other tasty food during the designated lunch or dinner period. Make sure you pack a good healthy meal. It's always better to have more food, then to be hungry, and trust me you will be hungry after a block of work. A typical meal includes (1) a sandwich, (2) some fruit, (3) chips, (4) Gatorade, and (5) a small desert. **Do not drink large amounts of carbonated soda, eat greasy foods, or eat a lot of candy or sweets.** You will get sick! Depending on the hours of the rehearsal day, make sure you have the appropriate meals and snacks planned.

# Marching Hornets Band Camp Survival Guide

## Page Two

**Flip Folder w/lyre and Dot Book:** Make sure you have pencils and a highlighter accessible to make corrections in your music and to highlight your position on your drill. Your Dot Book is a small spiral notebook which contains all of your drill dots available for easy access on the field. Place a string through the corner of the page, and wear it on your body or horn.

### ***What should I expect?***

**Expect to work and work really hard.** Expect a suntan or sunburn, with tan lines from your shirt and socks. Expect to get bossed around by others. Expect the unexpected - every previous year's band camp holds several stories. Find an upperclassman for details. But, also expect to learn the majority (hopefully all) of this year's show and expect to be proud of the hard work you will put into making the Marching Hornets one of the best bands around! There is nothing to fear about the camp experience. Returning members look forward to camp as one of the highlights of their summer. The staff and upper-classmen work hard to provide a nurturing environment for first time members of the marching band. I am excited about this year's marching season and I look forward to getting to know all our new members.

### ***What can I do at camp to make it a better experience?***

**Show up:** There have been a few cases of people who completely messed up and didn't realize that there was a band camp, or that band camp was required. The 60 hours of rehearsals that take place during this two week span will equate to 10 weeks of regular rehearsals. It is imperative that members attend ALL rehearsals with no interruptions. Difficulties with families, vacations, doctor visits, and jobs must be eliminated during the camp period. Should one member of this fine ensemble miss one hour of rehearsal, it means that we ALL must go back and learn the same material again....a loss of one hour multiplied by 50 members equals to 50 hours of lost rehearsal time. The staff and director want to put the best possible musical product on the field at every performance. Clearly, this is a monumental task in itself. It becomes next to impossible to achieve with members having to attend to other business during rehearsal time.

**Be on time:** If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are LATE. If you are LATE, you're creating extra work for everyone. You are responsible for being on time. You can not blame this on traffic, car trouble or on your parents. You take shall full responsibility! The only exception is if you call the band room BEFORE the time you are supposed to arrive and explain the situation (i.e. car trouble, parents overslept, etc). The band room phone number is 487-0859.

**Behave:** Just get in line, stay in step, do whatever is asked of you. The staff members are not insane bullies, contrary to popular opinion. If you work hard they will take note.....as well as the other members around you. *Behaving also tends to get things done a lot quicker.* Nothing is worse than resetting over and over again because the band isn't behaving or listening to instructions!

**Keep cool:** Both literally and physically. First make sure you are not overheating (the intent is not to make anyone sick), but also keep a calm mind. So you can't hit the line the first time you try it? As long as you keep trying, and listen graciously to advice, you WILL eventually get it. Our staff and officers are here to help you, so let them.

### ***What are the main things to remember?***

- Respect the directors, staff, officers, and each other. Follow the rules of behavior.
- Eat breakfast EVERY DAY.
- Wear shorts and white tennis shoes.
- Bring your INSTRUMENT and plenty of reeds, oil, etc.
- ALWAYS HAVE A PENCIL, DRILL BOOK (LEADERS) and DOT BOOK.
- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Freshman, go out of your way to meet upperclassmen, it'll be worth it. Get to know other people.
- Upperclassmen, freshmen are people too, treat them like your little buddies. Get to know other people.

***Band camp is hard work, but you will find that there is something really cool about working hard, and then seeing the result of that hard work - and being really proud of it....being the best we can be. GOOD LUCK!***