

CONQUISTADORS WINTERGUARD

2010

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK



www.conquistadorswinterguard.org

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Welcome to the Conquistadors Family! You are about to become a part of something extraordinary.

The Conquistadors Performing Arts Association is about to begin a long and hopefully very illustrious journey and it all starts right now, right here, with you.

Our organization prides itself in being a professional learning atmosphere for members of all ages whether it be the youth of the Conquistadors Winterguard, the many talented performers that make up the Conquistadors Drum & Bugle Corps or the extravagant musicians that compile the Conquistadors Jazz Ensemble. Our focus is to give our members a unique and exciting opportunity to perform and to give them a chance to be a part of the vast world of the performing arts.

If I, or anyone on the Conquistadors Administrative Team, can answer any questions or be of assistance in any way, don't be bashful about approaching us. We will do everything in our power to help you have a great experience.

By opening this booklet you have begun your journey and I would like to take this moment to personally welcome you to the Conquistadors.

Sincerely Yours,

Harry Eldridge, Jr.
Executive Director

MISSION

The mission of the Conquistadors Performing Arts Association, Inc. is to promote the artistic advancement, education and welfare of the people in this organization, both youths and adults.

GOALS

The Conquistadors Performing Arts Association, Inc. strives to fulfill this mission by achieving the following basic goals:

- ❖ To attract, train and further the artistic skills of all members by providing a wealth of knowledge and expertise through our educators.
- ❖ To teach life skills to young people, including money and time management, conflict resolution, teamwork, self-discipline, and leadership. Young people will also learn from more mature veteran educators, members, and administrators.
- ❖ To provide this diverse group of people with the opportunity to perform locally and across the country while also experiencing other groups' musical and visual performances.
- ❖ To honor the longevity and history of this unique, special organization.
- ❖ To promote and support the performing arts through participation in parades, concerts, contests, and exhibitions. These opportunities develop personal enrichment through education, participation and performance for all members.

VALUES

The Conquistadors Performing Arts Association, Inc. will:

- ❖ Consistently demand personal excellence, and assist all participants in achieving this excellence.
- ❖ Foster and embrace an environment of acceptance and understanding of cultural diversity.
- ❖ Exhibit and promote sportsman-like conduct in competition.
- ❖ Create a family through compassion and respect.
- ❖ Accommodate members' divergent needs and learning styles. Learning through performance is a lifelong process and journey. Learning promotes the investigation of old and new ideas, critical thinking and aesthetic awareness, as well as alternative ways of knowing and understanding.
- ❖ Build relationships with our local and extended communities through interaction with and outreach through performance opportunities. This will broaden the Conquistadors Performing Arts Association's experience and reach.

What is Winterguard?

By Definition:

Winter Guard is an indoor color guard activity, derived from the outdoor summer activity that is commonly part of marching band or drum corps.

A Member's Perspective:

"Winterguard is spending 8 to 10 hours a week marching up and down a 50 by 70 foot area spinning a 3 1/2 pound rifle and/or a 6 foot flag. It's your free time to strive for perfection and have the time of your life doing it. It's riding countless hours on a bus cracking jokes and eating in more fast food restaurants than you can remember. It's learning routines, techniques, and work outs that make you a better, stronger, more coordinated person.

Just imagine Saturday morning, you wake up and leave your house in full uniform; Practicing from 10:00 in the morning till right before the competition. Night roles around and it's time to put on your show, in front of judges, instructors, and other guards cheering you on. For the next five or six minutes, the floor is yours to show off in front of everyone. You are really hoping, saying to yourself, "Please let this one be ours."

But winterguard is more than work and intense competition. It's closeness between young people that cannot be described. It is doing your best and knowing that you have your very own group of "fans" that will always encourage and support you, whether you win or loose."

General Rules and Guidelines

Winterguard is a team sport in which we all depend on each other for success and must adhere to the same policies, rules and guidelines. Rules and "zero-tolerance" policies have been established concerning issues such as underage drinking, illegal drug use, discrimination, and harassment. The administration expects every marching member, staff member, and support member to understand and accept these rules, as you represent the Conquistadors Performing Arts Association and we are judged by our actions both on and off the field.

There is no smoking while at guard functions. Much of our time is spent on school grounds and it is illegal to smoke on school grounds in the state of New York.

There is no offensive language at any time.

Members of legal drinking age will not consume alcoholic beverages at any time prior to or during a group function. Underage drinking will not be tolerated.

Illegal drug use of any kind is prohibited while you are a member of the Conquistadors Winterguard.

No marching member, staff member, support member, or any individual involved with the Conquistadors Winterguard will make advances or comments of a sexual, threatening, or discriminating nature to another marching member, staff member, support member or individual involved with this organization. The Administration does not endorse these types of behavior and it will be cause for disciplinary action.

No marching member, staff member, support member, or any individual involved with the Conquistadors Winterguard will participate in any hazing or initiation activities. The Administration does not endorse these types of behavior and it will be cause for disciplinary action.

All members are expected to attend rehearsal in a timely fashion. If for any reason there may be a conflict, it is your responsibility to communicate with the Director or his designee regarding your absence.

We are fortunate enough to have facilities to allow the guard to rehearse; it is our job to leave the facilities in better condition than we found them.

Every member is expected to do their share to maintain and police the rehearsal facilities to ensure the premises are left in the same condition (or better) than which we found them.

If you miss two consecutive rehearsals and fail to contact us, we will assume that you are not interested in being a member of the Conquistadors Winterguard.

Please use mature judgment when you are with the guard (as well as when you are not with the guard.) Your actions can affect your membership standing and the image of this organization.

Registration (Audition) Fees

There are currently no registration fees required to be a part of the Conquistadors Winterguard.

Annual Dues

Annual dues are \$25.00. This dues obligation must be completed by December 4th, 2009.

In addition, when it is necessary for the guard to take a bus to a competition, all members will be expected to ride and there is a \$10.00 fee per person, per trip to help offset the cost of the bus.

Checks for dues payment should be made payable to: ***Conquistadors Performing Arts*** and they should be given to Harry Eldridge.

Fundraising

Throughout the season the guard will run different fundraising activities. ALL members are expected to participate in these fundraising events. These fundraisers are an additional way for the guard to generate income, which allows the administration to keep membership dues to a minimum.

Member Application Form

Each person of legal age who attends a rehearsal of the Conquistadors Winterguard will be requested to complete a Member Application Form and return it to a member of the administration prior to the end of rehearsal. If the person is under legal age, they will be required to take the form home for parental/guardian review and signature. This form must be returned at the next scheduled rehearsal.

Medical Release Form

Each member of the Conquistadors Winterguard will be required to complete a medical release form. This form will include a list of prescribed medications and their dosages, as well as any specific medical conditions that we need to be aware of. These forms will be maintained by the administration and utilized only in the event of a medical emergency. All medical information will be kept confidential. The member's signature on this form is considered to be affirmation that the member is medically fit to fully participate in guard functions and that the Conquistadors Performing Arts Association will not be held liable. It is the members' responsibility to update this information with the guard administration should there be any changes in medical information.

Uniforms and Equipment

The Conquistadors Winterguard will attempt to outfit all marching members to the best of our ability. However, when necessary, members may be asked to have uniform alterations made on their own.

For competitions, the uniform chosen by the guard is always worn. It will need to be augmented with shoes chosen by the staff, gloves, and possibly an undergarment such as a unitard. Fundraising will help to offset the cost of these uniforms and you will be responsible for purchasing what you could not obtain by fundraising.

With the exception of those who purchase their own, equipment is on loan to you as a marching member. It remains the property of the Conquistadors

Performing Arts Association. All equipment will be returned after M-YCGC Championships. Equipment will be returned in the same condition, less normal wear.

Guard administration will use any means at its disposal to affect the return of these items at the end of the season.

Transportation

It is the member's responsibility to secure transportation to all guard practices, camps, and meeting locations.

It is our goal to provide buses to competitions though the success of this goal relies on how much money we can secure through fundraising. The bus will usually depart from our regular rehearsal area. Please note that buses will depart on time so be ready to leave at the designated time. If you arrive late to the bus departure site, and the buses have departed, it is your responsibility to get to the guard's destination. When using buses, marching members will be seated first. Any remaining seats will be filled by staff and support members. Due to insurance reasons, ONLY members, staff and support members will be allowed on the buses. Please be respectful of those members who choose to catch up on sleep or quiet time during long bus trips.

Rehearsal and Travel Necessities

Members who require prescribed medication or have a medical condition that requires they carry a prescribed medication (i.e., EPI pen, asthma inhalers) are responsible to have these items on their person while with the guard.

Please bring proper clothing, shoes, etc.

Contact Information

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In the event that a guard function is cancelled due to bad weather, please refer to the website, www.conquistadorswinterguard.org, for an announcement.

