



# MEMBER HANDBOOK

*(aka Tour Survival Guide)*

Welcome to tour!

Tour will be one of the most profound, important, and exciting experiences of your life! Tour brings great challenges and great rewards. It will not always go as planned, it will be exhausting, and it will involve excitement and new experiences. Mistakes will be made - some yours, some not, and there will be days you'll wonder how you got into this.

Please read this guide carefully - with your parents - so we start together. Advance preparation and planning on your part is important. This information is given as expectations, not suggestions. It will set you up for success.

Tour operates smoothly when everyone does their share, plus a little bit more. If you see something that needs to be done, it is now your job to do it. "We" take care of "Us." Always strive to do just a little more, and do it just a little bit better.

Be flexible, have a great sense of humor (*especially when it's not funny*), be positive, and be creative. It is important we can count on you, just as you need to be able to count on everyone else.

A Colt is respectful, responsible, courteous, compassionate, positive, determined, and self-assured.

Our goal is to operate in a way that leaves you free to concentrate on being great and reaching for excellence, while not worrying about what is going on around you. We are proud of our tour operation, and we expect you to do your part for our success.

Have a great summer, and before you leave, make sure you give your parents a big hug and thank them for making this possible for you. Welcome to the Colts and welcome to tour!

Sincerely,

Vicki MacFarlane  
Colts Director

P.S. Parents, we need your help on tour! We are still light in the kitchen at times, especially during cornfield tour. Please help or suggest someone! More information is available at [www.colts.org](http://www.colts.org).

# WELCOME TO TOUR!

No matter what happens, remember two things:

1. *THIS IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE EASY*
2. *YOU DECIDED TO DO THIS*

## **We only have two “rules”:**

You will not break the law.

You will not embarrass the organization.

That pretty well covers it, although we will spend the next dozen pages preparing you for tour. A rule of thumb is to think about doing something, and if you’re not sure it’s a good idea, it isn’t.

We have a great reputation in the activity, and it is very important. Please remember you are this organization. It takes years to create a great reputation, and seconds to ruin it.

### ***OUR PHILOSOPHY AND EXPECTATION:***

*There is a big difference between a problem and an inconvenience.*

Success on tour, and in life, hinges on knowing the difference. Have a positive, “we’ll work it out,” attitude in every situation, no matter how “dire” it first appears. There will be challenges and inconveniences, but very few problems.

You were selected because you are a motivated, responsible, and success-bound person. Tour is operated to a large extent by the members, with direction from staff, and support from volunteers. Internal leadership is critical, and it is an important part of the growth our member experience.

### **Important contact information**

- Colts website [www.colts.org](http://www.colts.org)
- Colts office phone 563-582-4872
- Colts office fax 844-347-5323
- Vicki (Director) cell 563-564-9016
- Vicki email [colts@colts.org](mailto:colts@colts.org)
- Jeff (Exec. Director) cell 563-599-8553
- Jeff email [jeff@colts.org](mailto:jeff@colts.org)
- David (Cadets/Money) 773-308-6710
- David email [david@colts.org](mailto:david@colts.org)
- Jason (Tour Director) cell 630-666-7489
- Jason email [jason@colts.org](mailto:jason@colts.org)
- Mike (Tour Director) cell 480-980-9687
- Mike email [mikelang844@gmail.com](mailto:mikelang844@gmail.com)
- Bill Symoniak cell 651-470-3553
- Bill email [colts.cooks@comcast.net](mailto:colts.cooks@comcast.net)
- Drum Corps International [www.dci.org](http://www.dci.org)

**PARENTS - TO REACH US** you may call the office, send an email or text, or call our cell phone directly. While the office is staffed all summer, we often have more calls than ears. Please leave a message! Texting is often best, and we can respond more quickly than a phone call. Check the website often for updates and news. The Colts Virtual Cooktruck is linked to the website and will have the daily schedule, menus, weather, a map of where we are, and other tidbits from the day.

## **REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS**

If you have a problem or a suggestion, discuss it with the right people. If it’s bothering you, it’s important, but be sure you discuss it with someone who can do something about it. At the same time, griping to people who can’t do anything about it is called complaining and that’s destructive to the corps.

*Good idea:* Always think of the whole first. What is best for the greatest number of people is best.

Intentional misuse or abuse of property or equipment, or stealing of property or equipment, is not tolerated. This includes any item, no matter how “insignificant,” belonging to any member, another corps, a housing site, or a community.

We must be able to trust each other in every way. We leave a school cleaner than we arrived, and we are known as a trustworthy group. This reputation is earned over decades.

One legitimate complaint we have had involved using school computers without permission. Caution! Trick question ... logging onto a school computer to check email or Facebook isn’t a big deal - heck, some of us are computer science majors, right? **Answer! IF IT’S NOT YOURS, DO NOT TOUCH IT** – computers or anything else.

**School Computers:** *UNLESS GIVEN SPECIFIC PERMISSION, NEVER TOUCH OR LOG INTO A SCHOOL COMPUTER, NO MATTER HOW HARMLESS IT SEEMS!*

***“On campus”:*** You may not leave a housing site without checking with the tour director. No matter how good it smells, you may not go around the corner to McDonalds or Dairy Queen – you must eat with the corps during the day. You are given some freedom after shows. Treat yourself after a performance, not before. No one leaves campus during EPL.

***You may leave*** with family during laundry or free days, and you may bring a friend with you. Check out with the tour director and know what time and where to be back.

***ALCOHOL*** There will be no alcohol consumed by a member of any age until the corps is dismissed for the season. This includes laundry and free days. We have a broad age range and do not want to invite unnecessary issues into our season.

### **Proper Clothing**

Please wear appropriate clothing in appropriate places. While indoors at any facility and in the food line, wear a t-shirt. Every member MUST have a t-shirt with them at all times.

Normal people work in schools during the summer, and they don't always understand our manner of rehearsal attire. We may ask you to put on more clothing in a rehearsal. If we ask, please cooperate by putting on a t-shirt and rolling down the shorts. Yes, we know it's about tan lines, however, this is important or we wouldn't ask you to do it or spend time on it.

Many sections wear special section shorts, and each section determines the color and style. Each member buys their own.

### **Injury Or Illness**

If you are sick or injured, report to the wellness team, to your lead instructor at the time, or to the kitchen truck. We will take care of you.

Doctor runs are typically done around breakfast, or at any time in event of an emergency. We will error on the side of caution when deciding whether to seek care for you.

June heroes become August holes. Your participation is at the discretion of the Colts and you generally must participate in some rehearsal to be allowed to perform in the evening show. Changes are made each rehearsal block, and you could hurt yourself or someone else without rehearsal.

**Smoking:** Please don't smoke at all. If you do smoke, you must be 18 or over, and you may not smoke on school property, including parking lots and fields.

### **Travel And Truck Stops**

We travel mostly at night and stop every two to three hours for bathroom breaks, driver stretches, and fuel. You may get off the bus to use the restrooms, but unless you have been told otherwise, you may NOT make purchases. We cannot travel efficiently if 150 people buy things. Volunteers and staff may make purchases because this number can be checked out in the time we have, and they get less sleep than members. We know it's not fair.

### **Memories**

Good idea: Lots of pictures! Consider keeping a journal. There will be a day when you are 40 years old when you will be thankful you have so many photos, show programs and weird keepsakes of the summer. You will want proof for your kids you were once young, beautiful, tanned and hard-bodied with a six-pack.

### **Church**

It is rare, but on occasion members may find the possibility attend a Sunday AM church service prior to rehearsal. Most often, logistics, rehearsal, or crews interfere.

### **Gym Sleeping Arrangements**

Sleeping areas are separate and distinct for male and female. You are expected to be on the appropriate side of the gym, with your bedtime grooming and good night wishing done before lights out. We must maintain a 6-foot neutral zone between boys and girls in sleeping areas.

## **THE EQUIPMENT TRUCK**



The truck is everyone's lifeline. Things and people can get hurt on the truck if you are not careful and diligent. We must be efficient, coordinated, and organized (if everyone does things just a little differently, it does not work and is not safe).

- EVERY piece of equipment has an EXACT place.
- Safety is key. There is a 5-foot drop from the front door landing to the ground.
- The aluminum folding steps on the front door MUST be set up correctly so they don't collapse. If you have not been shown how, please don't set them up.
- The truck must be shut and locked in time for departure. Make sure your stuff is loaded on time. It's a long ride with your equipment on your lap.
- Hang uniform on the truck when it belongs there. No uniforms are to be stored in bus bays or on the bus.
- The handles on the outside of the truck doors must be folded down and latched when the doors are open. If they are not, when the doors get caught in the wind, these pointy door handles become weapons and will punch holes in the truck, or into you or a friend.
- Locks are hung unlocked in the appropriate handle, not anywhere else.
- No garbage, no matter how insignificant, is to be left on the truck. If you see garbage, throw it away.
- All members, especially front ensemble, MUST wear tennis shoes while loading or unloading. Open-toed shoes are dangerous. Protect your feet.
- Please do not bother the sleeping driver for a key. Drum majors and some members have keys.
- Please do not shout, drum, clank, or warm up near the tractor (the part with the motor). Our truck driver is sleeping during the day and often at the show, too.



# THE BUS - HOME ON WHEELS



We have 3 member buses: TWIT, BUTT PARTY, and MIKE. Each has its own legacy and culture. Ask a veteran which one will fit your style. They are VERY distinct communities and cultures. There are a number of bus traditions. Prom and staff look-alike night are two examples.

Aside from getting along with your seat partner, there are several things you can do to make living with your 55 “closest friends” a little easier. Most importantly is respect. Respect each other’s space and stuff. The seat is yours, along with a reasonable amount of the space under and over the seat. Divide space accordingly.

## **Bus Restrooms**

Each bus has a restroom that is NOT TO BE used (only for an emergency). If an emergency, tell the driver right away. (If you don’t notify your driver, we’ll all know eventually. Picture tank chemicals, summer heat, a stuffy bus, and your “contribution” which creates a memorable experience if ignored.) Restrooms are not to be used for storage or garbage.

Get off the bus **only** when instructed to do so. Information is shared each time we stop, **before** you get off the bus.

We do not waste time doing a roll call before we pull out. Sit in your seat and be sure your seat partner is there. This way, we don’t leave anyone behind. ***It is your responsibility to ensure your seat partner is on the bus before we depart!*** Be ***CERTAIN it’s your seat partner and not just a rolled up blanket!*** Yes, it’s happened...If you get off the bus, take your cell phone with you, just in case...

## **Bus Captains**

Each bus has a captain who will handle any bus issues, monitor cleanliness, and often give you information. Bus captains are appointed and are ultimately responsible for what happens on the bus. They must keep an exactly perfect roster and maintain a bus-cleaning schedule/routine.

Members are responsible for their own behavior, and we expect veterans to establish parameters. If a situation arises where an adult needs to correct behavior, it will likely be time for a new bus captain or passengers.

## **Bus Seat Assignments**

Bus seats are selected at the end of Spring Training. Line up a seat partner in advance. The most veteran member selects the seats for both of you. (One or more years of Colt Cadets counts as one year of seniority for this purpose). You may change seats within your bus with the approval of your bus captain and the new seat partners. We generally do not allow bus changes – see the tour director with questions.

***Good idea:*** Bring a pillow and blanket for the bus. Nights get chilly and seat partners can be lumpy.

***Good idea:*** Sleep across the aisle (not down it). Members may sleep on the floor, but never in the racks. If you sleep on the floor, **you** assume the risk of being stepped on, and you must get off the floor each time we stop.

Don’t ever walk or stand on armrests, even if you are trying to avoid stepping on somebody (the edge of the seat is ok).

Bus lights usually are turned off soon after departure. ***Bus sleep is critical to your survival!*** Most nights, you’ll be out before the lights are, but if you do stay up for a while, keep quiet and get to sleep soon. Formal “lights out” is one hour after departure.

## **Special Note For Percussionists**

Drumheads and practice pads are designed to be hit with sticks. Bus armrests, windows, other people, gym floors, table tops/sides/legs, and the like, are not.

## **Your Belongings**

The Colts are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings. We do not control public access to our areas, especially in housing sites, and we can be stolen from. We do not lock the bus or the bays. Do not bring anything you can’t afford to lose, and don’t leave anything important on the bus.

If you leave something on the bus, leave it on your bus seat. The floor and the overhead racks should be empty for cleaning. This includes your bus box. Pick it up off the floor and leave it on your seat so the bus can be swept.

***Good idea:*** A bus box - a plastic box with a lid for snacks, stationery, or a book or two. It **MUST FIT UNDER** your seat, which has a 9” clearance and is about the width of your butt.

***Good idea:*** A small plastic shower caddy with suction cups. Stick it on your window to hold small stuff you use often.

***Good idea:*** Do not spray colognes, perfumes, hair sprays, deodorants, etc. on the bus. Some people have allergies.



# GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

## Message Board System

The day's schedule and important information is posted on the kitchen truck. Information will change during the day and you must check every meal for updates.

We have a large map on the truck door and our location is updated daily. This is the only way you'll know what state you're in. Fields and parking lots all look the same.

## Lost And Found

We do not operate a lost and found. Certain items of value left behind (phones, glasses, wallets) will be kept by the tour director. Other items (towels, shampoo, shorts) are thrown away by cleaning crews before we depart a housing site.

## Laundry

Members do laundry every 14-16 days, using 3-5 laundromats simultaneously, dropping a busload at each one. The process takes about 3-4 hours, and is a nice break from tour, too. Keep a dirty clothes bag in your suitcase, not loose under the bus, and remember dirty clothes use WAY more space than clean clothes. Pack smart.

*Good idea:* Do not bring detergent with you or bring pods. It can spill, it's heavy, and it smells. If bringing pods, consider a plastic container, or definitely a plastic bag.

*Good idea:* Trash bags in your suitcase to hold dirty laundry. This helps keep your clean clothes clean. Throw in a sheet of Bounce to keep the fragrance in check.

## What To Wear, What Not To Wear

Only wear shirts from the companies endorsing us - Remo, Sabian, Yamaha, Innovative, FJM. You never know when a sponsor will be at rehearsal, or if we have media coverage. While we encourage you to support other corps, do not wear anything with another corps name while you are with Colts.

## Adults On Tour

The adults who travel with us are there to support you. Whether driving, teaching, cooking, fitting uniforms, please respect the fact they are working hard for you and mean well. Respond to their direction.

## Souvenirs Of Your Summer

- KEEP A JOURNAL!
- Get autographs on your show shirt, drum head, or a program. (If you wish to use a drum head, keep and use the last head changed. *Do not use a new head.*)
- Carriers, brass parts, flags, uniforms, weapons are NOT souvenirs. They belong to the corps and are reused or sold.

## Grocery Stops

Every 2-3 weeks, we stop at a Wal-Mart for toiletries, snacks, and other personal necessities.

## Tour Itineraries

We will prepare several itineraries during the summer. The itineraries will be posted on the web site and distributed via our text messaging service. They may come out at the last minute, as we invariably wait for late information from a few show sponsors. The itinerary contains housing and show details, departure and arrival times, mail drops, free days, laundry days, grocery stops, and other information as needed.

## Money You Need

The amount of money you need for personal spending is entirely up to you. Some members have spent less than \$100 all summer and others spend that much in a week. A good rule of thumb is \$3 - \$5 a day; more for the avid shopper.

There are a few things for which you definitely need cash: laundry (\$10 a time), free days, and some souvenirs. You need personal meal money for free days.

We suggest you carry a limited amount of cash. Carry a credit card or an ATM/cash card. Our souvenir stand will cash personal checks or run your debit card for cash. If you plan to use a check, have it made out to you, not the Colts.

<p><b>Parents, do not</b>, under any circumstances, wire money to your member! If an emergency, we'll work something out.</p>
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## Discipline And Consequences

Significant discipline or behavior issues are rare. Issues that do arise are handled internally, often by peers and always in a fair way, at the lowest possible level of authority.

Members may "volunteer," for example, to wash a bus or do some extra work to help them "arrive at a new level of understanding," and it is proportional to the infraction.

Illegal activities, activities deemed to be a danger to someone's well-being, or actions damaging to the organization will be handled as we see fit, including involvement of legal authorities and/or immediate dismissal. In such a rare event, travel costs home are the responsibility of the member or their family. Although we would not abandon anyone, we don't have to make it convenient.

Consider:

There are no secrets on tour  
Drug possession on school property is usually an automatic felony which will haunt you *for life*  
*Incarceration and the penal system are growth industries; many people want you to go to jail.*  
*A drug conviction will likely cost you financial aid.*

Would we turn you into the police? Potentially. Would we send you home COD? Absolutely. Just don't do it. There's too much at stake for you and for us.

## PHONES & ELECTRONIC GEAR

We allow cell phones or personal media players. They will be with you on the bus, in the school when you're there, and in your field bag when you're in rehearsal. We do not allow computers. Do not bring anything you can't afford to have stolen. The Colts claim no responsibility for your belongings.

Only charge electronics on the bus or in the gym. Do not go where we are not supposed to be in a school. All phones, iPods, etc. are to be taken with you to rehearsal in your field bag. Any electronic devices left in the school during the rehearsal day will be gathered by the tour staff for safe-keeping, unless the football team gets to them first.

Good Idea: Bring a small power strip to share. Put your name on every piece of electronic gear including power strips and chargers. Tape your own spare charger to your power strip.

Stay off and turn off personal communication devices during rehearsal. Keep them in your field bag. Check messages at meal times. Keep your phone turned off as much as possible.

A note about social media: With modern communication you can write posts, display photos and recordings, and share things at the touch of a button. If you post things, be very careful as to what and how you say anything. Each time you post, you are now the spokesperson for the Colts to the world.

Ever play "telephone"? If a bus rubs a street sign, and you say "accident," we now have an issue, because the "accident" is now shared with panicked parents, freaked out friends, and all of DCI. The "accident" becomes a rumor-driven bus fire with a plunge off a cliff and possible fatalities. Please be sensitive to what you are saying and how it may be interpreted.

Ideally, stay off social media on tour, and send private emails or messages instead. Photos are dangerous too, if not in the right context. Tour comedy is generally not understood in the normal world. Inside jokes are meant to be inside, not outside.

Good idea: Write your name on everything you bring. Many things look the same for 150 people. A sharpie is your friend.

## MAIL DROPS

We arrange for incoming mail every few weeks. Bus snacks, a miss you letter, card, favorite teddy bear, or extra spending money, are all appreciated. Do NOT mail liquids.

Before you leave, round-up friends to write to you. Yes, it is fun to actually receive something on tour. Parents, don't be scared to send something every mail drop!

Do not send anything directly to a housing site.

**USE ONLY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE!**  
**DO NOT** use any other carrier.

Mail in plenty of time! Express mail (overnight delivery) is USUALLY reliable, and also traceable. If it doesn't arrive in time, have it forwarded to our next mail drop.

Mail Drop Location for May 22-June 23, Address as follows:

Member Name  
C/O Colts  
2300 Twin Valley Drive  
Dubuque, IA 52003



Further mail drops will be announced on the web site.

**All mail outside Dubuque MUST be addressed as:**

***HOLD FOR COLTS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS  
(MEMBER NAME)***

***GENERAL DELIVERY***

*Insert address of post office*

*Insert City, State, Zip of post office*

## YOUR FEET

*Your feet are your life in drum corps.* If you injure your feet, there is little chance to heal, even with time off. Consider going to a specialty store, and have them help you get the best shoe for our purposes. Cross trainers (trail runners) are often your best bet. (**DO NOT buy Nike Free** – that is the most common replaced tennis shoe the first week of tour.)

- Your rehearsal shoes are the most important things you select for the summer. You will be on your feet more than you ever dreamed; your shoes must support and protect.
- Plan on needing **at least 3 pairs of tennis shoes**, and some people will need 4. This is not a want – it's a need, and important to your health! If you need to cut corners on summer supplies, do it somewhere besides your shoes.
- You need excellent athletic shoes, with plenty of support, in the right size, designed for this kind of use. (You do not have to spend a crazy amount of money for good shoes).
- You **WILL** wear shoes any time outside the gym for any reason for any length of time. You will wear shoes when getting off the bus, no matter how sleepy you are.
- Athlete's foot can be a problem. Treat it immediately. Bring foot powder. Wear flip-flops in the shower.
- Keep your feet dry and bring plenty of socks. Always wear socks in rehearsal and change them frequently.
- Keep toenails trimmed in a straight line across your toe, especially the big toe. Ingrown toenails can take you out from several days to all season. They are painful, and difficult to treat on tour. The medical treatment is not pretty or pleasant, and worse, it's totally avoidable.



## FUEL FOR YOUR BODY

The physical duress your body will be under is unlike anything most have EVER experienced. Dehydration can be a problem, and you need much more fluid than normal. You must satisfy your thirst before you feel a thirst. Drink more water than you are thirsty for, especially prior to the next rehearsal block.

### Dehydration

We take frequent, quick water breaks during rehearsal so a personal **one gallon water jug** is required. Put your name on your water jug! There are at least 40 identical to yours. Each section has a unique jug color.

You must drink fluids before exercise and throughout the day. Your body will use 8-16 ounces of water every 30 minutes at our level of exertion. If you begin to get a headache, you may be getting dehydrated, and must immediately replace fluids.

Watch to see if your urine is becoming darker than normal. If so, you are heading toward dehydration. If you experience discomfort in the rest room, tell us RIGHT AWAY. Bladder infections can happen on tour!

Carbonation and caffeine worsen dehydration, so only drink water and juice on tour. A carbonated or caffeinated drink must be coupled with double the amount of water to remain properly hydrated (12oz soda needs 24oz water to replenish).

### Medical Form And First Aid

We ask each member bring your own basic medical supplies, but if you need something basic, we generally have it available. *A suggested personal medical kit* includes Ibuprofen or anti-inflammatory, band-aids, pepto, cold medicine, cough drops, antibiotic cream, aloe, and Gold Bond.

Please be absolutely accurate and honest with all the information requested on the medical history form. We need all the information to take care of you in an emergency.

### Medical Treatment And Insurance

Be sure you have medical insurance, and make sure the information on your medical form is current. Carry an insurance card in your field bag. There may be situations in which insurance will not cover clinic visits or prescriptions. In this case, we ask the member to pay for it. We are not able to file insurance claims for you.

If your insurance requires pre-authorization, we will make every effort to contact parents and/or insurance, but we will not unreasonably delay treatment trying to do so. If your insurance is limited as to location, please get a supplemental policy for summer, at least for emergencies. Parents – we use our best judgment in this regard and we do what we think is in the best interest of your member.

## OUR MEAL PROGRAM



***We have one of the finest food programs in the activity and you can help us do a great job for you. The kitchen volunteers have the toughest schedule of all, so please be supportive and thankful.***

Our meals are planned for summer exertion. Even if you aren't hungry, eat every meal and some of everything. Your normal caloric intake must be increased substantially to keep up with what we do, and our menus provide what your body needs.

Your volunteer kitchen crew will prepare and serve over 60,000 meals this summer to support you. It is hard, demanding, and exhausting work. These amazing parents and volunteers will do almost anything for you and all they ask for is a thank you and a smile, even if you're having a crappy day. ALWAYS THANK THE COOKS!

### Guidelines for the food program

- We offer a regular or vegetarian entrée (we do not offer a vegan option due to the nutritional demands of tour).
- We respect and accommodate food allergies, as long as you are not in danger in touring with us. We do not support special "diets."
- Unlimited peanut butter and jelly is served every meal.
- Use only one cup per meal. You may refill endlessly.
- Save your plate for seconds. Seconds are almost always available, but wait until everyone has been through once.
- Never stack garbage. If you see a full container, take it upon yourself to switch out the bag. It truly is "all about the trash!" Don't make it "someone else's" problem.
- Juice is for meals only. Between meals, use water.
- You have 45 minutes to get through the line for meals. You may choose to shower and pack first, and have other duties, but you must eat within 45 minutes. The kitchen crews are on tight schedules and clean up at that time.
- There may be times you don't care for something served, but try to eat some of everything, especially the entrée.
- If you really can't stand what is served, grab a PB&J or two and what you will eat and relax. Please don't complain and eat what you can.
- Use the hand sanitizer before eating any meal.
- Members periodically bleach wash personal water jugs. Brass has periodic "mouthpiece boils." Jug bleaching and mouthpiece boils are mandatory, and essential.

***Great leaders pick up trash!  
And - great leaders take out the trash!***

# UNIFORM

Anytime in uniform, you are performing. On, or off the field, you are representing all of us, including over 2,500 alumni before you. Only the highest level of professionalism is acceptable in a Colts uniform. Guide your decisions accordingly. These guidelines will help you and are very important. You are a professional performer. Impress, don't disappoint.



## Uniform Guidelines

- Sit in uniform only when a clean and dry place is available. If you must sit outdoors, sit on your gauntlets with the inside portion facing down.
- Never sit on asphalt, even on gauntlets. The hot asphalt will get on your gauntlets, which will transfer to your uniform, which will rub on your pants, which will spread to your instrument, which will make for a bad day.
- Never run in uniform. You can fall and hurt your uniform and yourself, but more importantly, you can make the Colts look incompetent and unprofessional.
- Crew length plain black socks for uniform wear.
- Only a Colts logo black dryfit shirt will be worn under the uniform. Members are issued one Colts logoed dryfit shirt, and you can buy more at the souvie stand.
- Color guard will wear their member shirt on special performance occasions. Member shirts are yours to keep.
- Our bibs fit closely, and underwear lines are not attractive. Bring black lycra spandex shorts with no stripes or markings. These are available at general merchandise stores such as Target for around \$15. Men would refer to them as "compression shorts."
- Boxers or loose shorts or t-shirts do not work under the uniform because they get bunched up and show through.
- You should bring **black** shoe polish and a polish rag (in a re-sealable plastic bag), and do not polish shoes indoors.
- Brass and percussion players wear member shirts under the uniform top at all times. Many times you will be wearing only your uniform bibs and the shirt.
- Hair should be worn off the collar and under the shako or in the designated style when in uniform. We do not do man buns at the Colts. Everyone looks well groomed and the same in uniform.
- Gentlemen should be neatly shaven in uniform. A thin beard or goatee is allowed, but must be well trimmed with the neck and cheek line clean shaven. Sideburns should be no lower than the bottom of the ears and also clean cut.
- Your hair should be its natural color for summer. Any coloring should be approved by a caption head.
- Any staff member may address a member relative to facial grooming, hair-style, or jewelry. If addressed, please correct what's asked without argument. Our goal is to look as professional and uniform as possible.
- Pit members do not wear shakos, making hairstyle and color decisions even more important here. Draw attention to yourself by talents, not by looks.
- No make-up or foundation can be worn lower than the lower lip for brass and percussionist due to uniform collar.
- Smoking is not permitted in uniform.
- We drink only water while in uniform.
- There is no eating in uniform except rare instances. (You will be told if it is a rare instance.)
- While in uniform (and in public with or without a uniform), only use proper language (no profanity).
- Things will happen to make you legitimately upset, but do not demonstrate your feelings in uniform or while representing the corps. No matter what happened to create an emotional firestorm in your soul, restrain from emotional outbursts in public. The Colts are not having a crisis, YOU are. Keep it personal and not public.
- Never engage in negative conversation about another corps, your corps, or any facet of the drum corps activity while in public, and especially while in uniform.
- Do not carry anything in your uniform bag except your uniform and cloth uni parts. Everything else, including plume and shoes, should be in your carry-on bag.
- Don't leave the uniform on a bus overnight unless told to.
- Be aware of your environment at all times.
- Outward displays of physical affection (PDA) while in uniform or in public are unacceptable.
- Brass players wear clean gloves with the uniform. You should have new gloves about every 4<sup>th</sup> show. Wear your performance gloves for performances, not for practice. (Old show gloves make great practice gloves.)
- Clean shoes and uniform parts are your responsibility, but only the corps cleans the uniforms. You may not take your uniform home without permission.
- Brass and percussion players should put their name on the plume tube. Keep it in good shape, it is yours.
- Uniforms are a big part of the equipment truck loading and unloading puzzle. Be sure to have your uniform where it is supposed to be when it is supposed to be there.
- Uniforms are usually taken off the truck during lunch of a show day, and placed in the truck immediately following the show before snack.
- No facial piercings will be worn in uniform.
- Small clear earrings are allowed. Gauges must be clear or skin tone. If noticeable, you will be asked to change or remove earrings or gauges immediately. We want nothing to distract from the uniform or our uniformity.
- No necklaces, chains, or pendants other than the Colts corps triangles are worn in uniform.



# PACKING FOR TOUR

The choices you make here have a direct correlation to your quality of life on tour. Limited space requires careful planning, and in the long run you will appreciate efficiency. **All of your stuff must fit into one carry-on bag, one bus box, one suitcase, one field bag, and one sleeping roll and pillow.**

**1) Sleeping bag/air mattress; pillow & blanket.** Your sleeping bag, cot, air mattress, when rolled up, **must be 18" in diameter or less.** Fold it lengthwise, roll it and measure it. Pillows do not go in the bays under the bus - they ride with you in your seat.

Foam pads, cots, or air mattresses are allowed instead of a sleeping bag, but cannot take up more space than a sleeping bag. **Air mattresses must have a battery operated inflator** if you intend to inflate your bedding. Cots cannot be the fold in half style, and they must have plastic feet to be safe on gym floors. **Cots also should be 18 inches in diameter or less.**

**Good idea:** Bring a sleeping bag with a waterproof cover. Your bag will get wet, and damp bags are very unpleasant and take DAYS to dry!

**2) A carry-on bag is more important than you may realize!** Use a gym bag or backpack to be with you at all times. It must fit in the overhead rack, which is smaller than on an airplane.

- You will take this bag with you every time you get off the bus at a housing site. You will carry in this bag your marching shoes, socks, plume, gloves, change of clothes, and shower supplies.
- You will take your carry-on bag, full of ALL of your uniform parts and one day's worth of clothes and shower supplies with you EVERY time we enter a housing site. This includes marching shoes.
- We cannot unload the bays just for you, and we do not open the bays at show sites. This allows you to get your suitcase to the bus for loading, while still having some clothes at your access (along with all of your uniform supplies!).
- Your bus can and will leave for any number of reasons (like fueling), and it might not return until after a show. Good thing you had your marching shoes, all your uniform parts, a change of clothes and shower supplies with you!

**Good idea:** Read this last section again. Marching shoes? *This will allow you to avoid one of the biggest and most embarrassing screw-ups you can have on tour.* Imagine missing a show because your bus is getting a tire fixed because... (ready?) ... YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR UNIFORM PARTS AND MARCHING SHOES WITH YOU.

**TO BE CLEAR (last time)** Your carry-on bag is **ALWAYS** with you when you get off the bus at a housing site and it **ALWAYS**

contains all you need to shower, change clothes and do a show. **Good idea:** Have a shoulder strap on your carry-on bag so you can carry it while you carry your sleeping bag and suitcase.

**3) One suitcase.** Only one suitcase, and you must limit the size. It can be a duffle bag, too, if you prefer.

Size Limit – There are many different varieties and shapes possible, so use GIRTH to determine the size limit. The girth is the length of your suitcase along one side, the width across one end and the circumference at the widest point, added together. Total girth should not exceed 100 inches.

Your suitcase rides under the bus with your sleeping bag. Once loaded, it will not be seen again until our next housing site hundreds of miles away.

Your suitcase can have wheels but you must be able to carry it in one hand. Everything is heavier at 3am. **FYI:** Suitcase wheels **never** touch a gym floor, and sometimes cannot touch hallway floors. Folks get picky about fresh waxed hallways and gym floors. Roll it to the door, then pick it up and carry it.

**Good idea:** Your quality of life is directly proportional to how full and heavy your suitcase is. A suitcase about 75% full **is full.** You'll want room for souvenirs, and dirty clothes take up WAY more room than clean ones. Really. Trust us.

**Good idea:** Practice pack once, then remove about 25% of what you packed and try again. That's about right. The weight changes depending on how tired you are, what time it is, how far away the buses are parked, and if it's raining.

**Good idea:** You can carry more clothes, find them more easily and keep them nicer if you roll them instead of fold them. Many members put clothes inside plastic ziplock bags.

**4) A small personal backpack** to go with you to rehearsal, containing your electronics, charger, lip gloss, sun screen, music and drill binders, a t-shirt, etc. Things will walk away during the day if left inside a school. TAKE ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO YOU WITH YOU TO REHEARSAL.

## **Other Packing Advice**

**Good idea:** Keep all your bus stuff in your carry-on and bus box, never loose in the overhead or on the floor. There is a nasty thing called "tour spread" that's contagious on the bus.

Drivers' sleep time is important and they can't be constantly unlocking the bus, so we don't lock the buses. Anything you leave on the bus is fair game for neighborhood street urchins.

**RAIN UNLOADS:** When raining, grab **ANY** suitcase and **ANY** sleeping bag and take it into the school quickly where it's dry. We will sort it out inside, where it's dry. When everyone does this, no one's stuff gets wet.

Don't leave your suitcase in the bus. **You brought it, carry it!**

Good idea: Bring your sleeping bag, carry-on and suitcase with you on one and only trip into the school. If you don't, several unpleasant things can happen:

- Your stuff can get re-loaded onto another bus
- Your stuff is left in the lot and the neighborhood kids find it and keep it.
- The buses unload in one parking lot and move to another, taking your stuff with them
- You get 10 minutes less sleep
- You step on people in the dark carrying your luggage
- Your bus driver has to wait on you before sleeping/fueling/getting the bus fixed or parking

#### **A SPECIAL QUIZ:**

To check whether you are planning to bring enough, pack your suitcase, carry on, and sleeping bag as you intend to, and ask mom or dad to hide them in the basement in different places. Remember, your stuff will NEVER be found together in the parking lot. For added realism, jam the suitcase behind the furnace where it can't be seen, and where it's hard to access.

Go to bed. Have mom or dad wake you from a deep and peaceful slumber around 3 am. Proceed, tired and grumpy, to the dark, cold basement. You can't turn on any lights! Parking lots don't always have lights. Find your stuff.

Carry everything at once - up the stairs, out the front door, across the yard and around the house. (Remember, you can't go to the bathroom until this walk is completed!)

For an even more realistic test, have dad spray a light mist on your head and your belongings while you walk outside.

Upon completion of this test, you will know for sure if you have the space and weight available to pack more.

## **SECTION NOTES FOR PACKING**

FOR ALL: Big Check list for move in –

- Have people send care packages (they rock!) but tell them mail drops before you leave if possible
- Wallet/ID/Insurance Card. Check bank balance and know what you have so you don't go negative (it's not fun)
- Sleeping bag or air mattress with battery powered pump; Pillow/blanket (it's here again cause it's important)
- Uniform stuff, such as Spandex!!!! & Black Socks
- Sunglasses, HAT, Sunscreen!!!
- Section shorts

HORNLINE: You will want Weiman Silver Cream (horn polish), an old rag for wiping, valve oil, slide grease, Windex wipes and black shoe polish. You may want baseball gloves to use for rehearsals. Keep these items in your carry-on or field-bag. Make sure your water jug is RED and you have section shorts. Pack a black t-shirt, a white t-shirt and black shorts for ensemble options.

GUARD: Make sure your water jug is BLUE. Bring any make-up and hair supplies specified by the staff. Also, you will need a red bandanna, black shorts, and a black and white t-shirt for ensemble options. Remember pink and green are hype day colors.

PERCUSSION: Make sure your water jug is RED. Don't forget your sticks and pad! Bring some black shoe polish for your show shoes. Pack a black t-shirt, a white t-shirt and black shorts for ensemble options.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

When deciding what to bring, remember we often have media coverage, and you must consider how that cute, but offensive, t-shirt would look when your photo runs in the newspaper, or on television news. Bring only what you can tolerate losing. More detailed packing notes are at the end of this handbook.

- Comfortable athletic clothes to last 16 days. Clothes must be comfortable in hot, humid rehearsals - light colored, loose shirts and pants/shorts/sweats, **low cut** athletic shoes (no high tops).
- A hat or bandana for all rehearsals
- A blanket and warm clothes for the bus.
- Nice outfits for free days
- Two towels or shammies
- Uniform clothing (spandex, socks, undies)
- Plastic bags (trash bags and ziplock bags)
- Shower supplies - soap, shampoo, toothbrush, razors, etc. in a small, separate toiletry bag
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher).
- A water jug for rehearsal; a smaller bottle for the bus
- Sunglasses
- Swim attire (we may get a chance)
- Sweatshirt and sweatpants; Rain jacket
- Prescription or over-the-counter medications may be carried with you, but you must indicate use on your medical form. If you begin taking new medications, update the medical form.

#### **BUS BOX**

The maximum dimensions under your bus seat are approximately 14 inches wide by 14 inches deep by 9 inches tall. Plan to have a plastic tub with lid smaller than this (and know this season's bus may have less space). You will keep bus snacks, maybe a book or journal, and some other small personal items here.

***But Really...*** “What the heck do I need to bring? How do I fit three months into one suitcase and a backpack??” The following “girls/guys packing lists” have been written by veteran members to help you conquer packing and be prepared for summer! Please remember the lists are not set in stone; you may need more or less. These lists replicate prior info, but are here for your benefit.

## **TOUR SURVIVAL FOR GIRLS - What you'll need and why (from a veteran)**

*Guys – you can skip the girls and read the packing list for guys...*

Let's start with the **BASICS**:

- Your suitcase. When picking a suitcase, remember the size guidelines. Think of durability and ask yourself if you can roll and carry it (no rolling on gym floors). Leave some extra room since you often find your stuff expanding on tour.
- Carry-on. You can bring a small duffel or a second backpack. This will need to fit in the overhead compartment on the bus. Your carry on will always have ALL ITEMS needed for shows and rehearsal.
- Sleeping materials are up to you. Some people do a sleeping bag and a small camping pad and others do an air mattress. It is preferred to have a bag/carrier for your air mattress or sleeping bag or just put it in your suitcase (for loading purposes and space). SLEEP IS IMPORTANT! A battery powered pump is a must.
- Pillow. They will not be allowed in the bus bays. You will want it on the bus and in the gym.
- Blanket. The bus and gym can get cold and you will want to be comfortable.
- BUS BOX. This will need to fit under your bus seat basically all tour. You can store snacks, magazines, a book, headphones, journal, etc. You might like a suction cup caddy (normally in the bath area, plastic works best) for the window to hold things like your phone, valve oil, extra gloves, etc.
- Toiletry bag. Most girls use one that unzips with a hook to hang it up. This makes it easy to grab your shower stuff and go.
- Laundry bag. Use a few trash bags or get a cloth bag and toss in dryer sheets (bring a small box of them) for the smell. If you don't want to deal with the hassle of buying laundry detergent, you can use the sheet kind like Purex (for washer and dryer!).
- Towels. Some use two shammies (type swimmers use). They take up little space and dry quickly.
- Gallon sized water jug. You do not want to be dehydrated! Get the correct color - Blue for guard; Red for brass/percussion.
- Field bag. A backpack or drawstring bag to hold rehearsal stuff. Use it for dot book, repellent, sunscreen, DCT, Kleenex, pencils, music binder, drill, Advil, extra hat and shirt, valuable items (turned off), etc... Make sure it is durable enough to stand the heat and varying weather. Bring a trash bag in your bag because it might rain (for you or your belongings).

**Toiletries:**

- Toothbrush/paste, face wash, shampoo/conditioner, razor, and anything else along those lines. You can do either the smaller stuff and restock or one larger one and have it all summer. Don't forget nail clippers and floss!
- Shower shoes. Flip flops for the shower are a must. Most places do not have the cleanest showers and you do not want athlete's foot or any other such thing on your feet. PROTECT your FEET!
- Loofa or washcloth...it helps if you're peeling or want to get all the dirt off from the field.
- Baby wipes or face wipes. Keep some in bus box for after shows (Especially guard with makeup).
- Pads/tampons etc. Be prepared! The cook truck keeps some back up supplies in case you run out.
- Deodorant! I suggest the gel stick (doesn't melt).
- Gold Bond. Some people like different kinds...whatever works for you. (Gold Bond makes a glide stick, too.)
- Aloe Vera gel for sunburns. (Hopefully you won't need this, but be prepared!) DO NOT USE before going to rehearsal!
- Hairbrush or comb, bobby pins, and hair ties to match hair color. Hairspray and/or gel for show hair, and a sock for sock-bun.

**Medical supplies and such:**

The cook truck is stocked has most stuff (Advil, cold medicine, allergy stuff, first-aid, etc), but I would still bring my own basics...

- Neosporin and band aids
- Anti-itch ointment. I prefer the pen-sized applicator bottles of anti-itch ointment called After Bite.
- Painkillers (Aspirin, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.). I suggest having a bottle of this in your field-bag.
- Athlete's foot medicine (just in case). Lotrimin is great!
- Vitamins. A multi-vitamin every day is a good idea, but careful if you have a sensitive stomach to the iron in the vitamins.
- If you once had an injury and wore a brace, definitely bring the brace with you. Better safe than sorry!
- **Side note:** If you are taking any prescribed medications, list these on your med form! If you have a controlled substance, it should be kept locked with the training team. You will need to sign a log when you use meds from the cooktruck.

**Clothing:**

- Gallon sized Ziplocs to organize clothes; roll clothes to save space.
- Athletic shoes – 3 pairs. Cross trainers work best! You are on your feet all day and you do not want ankle/leg problems. Inserts can help with support. Do NOT purchase Nike Free, or any shoes that “roll up” (cute until wearing them 12+ hours).
- Flip-flops. As previously stated have a pair for showers and another pair for free days or on the bus.
- Underwear - about two weeks’ worth, at least 16. Sometimes you may want to change during the day, so it doesn’t hurt to have extras. Also, for shows we don’t want underwear lines so be sure to have spandex/compression shorts.
- Socks. You’ll want 16 or so pairs of rehearsal socks and a dozen show socks. Show socks are black calf length socks for brass and percussion. Keep a pair of show socks on the bus. No colored markings above the edge of your marching shoe!
- Bras. I would bring about 10 sports bras with whatever kind of support you need. I like racerback or spaghetti strap ones. Don’t worry about getting cute ones...they will be gross. Bring at least one regular bra for free days. I suggest a neutral color.
- Shorts. I suggest a week’s worth of athletic shorts. You can always wash them in the shower and re-wear these. Guard, bring at least two pairs of black shorts for ensemble and make sure you have at least one black pair non spandex for show warm-up.
- T-shirts. A half-dozen or so of light-colored t-shirts; nothing fancy (more if you want to wear shirts during rehearsals, although most girls wear sports bras). You will always need a shirt with you at rehearsal just in case, and you must wear a shirt to enter any school or in the food line. Guard will need a white t-shirt with sleeves at rehearsal at all times for full-runs. T-shirts can be substituted with tank tops (just anything which covers the upper half of your body).
- Pants. I bring 2-3 pairs of sweats for the bus, rain days, cold days, or after shows. I pack one pair jeans for free days.
- Long-sleeve shirts and sweatshirts. Bring them for on the bus/rain/cold. We do rehearse in the rain, so bring something water resistant as well (a rain jacket works great, but a garbage bag will work too).
- Baseball caps (1-2). Hornline and percussion will wear these at all times outside. Guard will need red bandannas for full ensemble and community performances (any color is fine for normal rehearsal days).
- Swimsuit, they work great for rainy rehearsal days and the possibility of swimming.
- A couple outfits for free days. I would store these in a ziploc bag with some dryer sheets. Remember you may want regular shoes to wear with them.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Sunscreen! Lotion is recommended, as it lasts longer and some people have allergies to spray. I recommend at least 45.
- Bug spray...you will thank yourself when we go to Minnesota and the South.
- Sunglasses...make sure you can see out the sides (often in ensemble we don’t wear sunglasses, but definitely have them).
- Journal... I think everyone should bring a journal to write in. The memories from the summer are irreplaceable.
- DCT or another lip balm with SPF protection. Hornline ladies – I suggest Vitamin E capsules you can break in half and put on before bed or they make it in stick form too.
- Odor-Eaters for shoes...they also make shoe deodorizers in a plastic ball.
- Black shoe polish/rags to wipe it off...Q-tips are great for getting dirt out of little crevices.
- Money. Debit/credit cards work well.
- Pocket Packs of Kleenex. Great for on the bus or the field.
- Mini Hand sanitizer is great on the bus.
- Possibly a small flashlight if you can’t or don’t want to use your phone. It gets dark on the bus/gym/truck.
- Dot book!!! This is very important. You need a spiral book of note cards. They also make little binders for notecards, and this works better than a baggy for rain. Bring two as drill changes and they get wet. Bring a shoestring to tie it around your waist.
- Pencils. You need one EVERY REHEARSAL! Mechanical works best. (FYI bring extras)
- You already have this, but a binder for music and/or drill as well as sheet protectors (field bag)
- Duct-tape is very useful on tour. It can fix just about everything.
- Carabineers/bungee cords are great for hanging things on the bus/backpack.
- Febreze comes in handy between laundry days (be careful where you spray it).
- Make sure you have headphones for when you are listening to music on the bus and/or in the gym. Also, bring any electronic chargers for your devices! A power strip for lack of outlets is also something your friends will thank you for.

# TOUR SURVIVAL FOR GUYS - What you'll need and why (from a veteran)

## Clothes:

- 16 pairs of rehearsal socks (some for fishy feet, extras of these come in handy) and 16 pairs of underwear.
- Rehearsal t-shirts – if wearing one everyday, bring 10. Lighter in color and material is better.
- Section shorts, 3-4 of rehearsal shorts, 1-2 pair for the bus/lounging. Swim trunks just in case.
- 3 pairs of shoes. Having a spare for rain can help wet feet, but make sure they are still good, solid shoes. Cross trainers are highly recommended. Please do not go cheap on this purchase because it is your lifeline this summer, but 3 \$60 pairs are better than 1 \$150 pair. Inserts are a good option – check out a store to help fit you to the right shoe. (Do NOT purchase or bring Nike Free running shoes, or any show that you can “roll up.” You will have to replace them early on tour).
- YOU MUST HAVE A HAT ON THE FIELD AT ALL TIMES! Bring one or two (guard use bandanas).
- The Colts tour shirt is nice to have or any other Colts clothes you have.
- A HOODIE!!! Great for the bus and after shows and cold comfield. I would also bring 1-2 long sleeve t-shirts.
- At least 2 jogging pants or sweat pants for the bus and for cold rehearsals.
- SPANDEX SHORTS!!! Or compression shorts – 3 pairs at least (smell them after 3 shows). Wash in the shower and hang them to dry on bleachers or on the bus. These are worn under your uniform so we show no underwear lines.
- At least 6-10 Black crew socks for uniforms, especially if your feet smell because the socks get ripe quickly.
- One free day outfit (shorts, shirt, gel, or whatever would make you look like a normal human being).
- Keep normal clothes separate from other clothes to keep the tour smell from spreading (gallon ziploc bag or trash bag).
- SUNGLASSES!!! The sun is bright!
- A jacket for rain or cold (your champion jacket would rock for tour, basically anything water resistant).
- Towel or shammy, maybe 2 if they fit, (like swimmers use or one for drying a car).
- Cloth clothes bag or trash bag for dirty laundry in your suitcase - keeps stank off the good clothes! Makes laundry days easy too. Put a dryer sheet in there to delegate the funkiness.

## Toiletries (you can put all of this in a nice toiletry bag that unzips):

- Soap (bar or body wash) and shampoo (huge bottle or multiple travel size - same goes for body wash).
- Tooth brush, Tooth paste, Floss.
- SUNSCREEN!!! (I would recommend starting with a high SPF and working down, 45, 30, 15, etc). Bring something to protect your lips as well (DCT/Chap stick), Aloe Vera is good too but DO NOT USE before going to rehearsal!
- Bug Spray/anti-itch ointment, Neosporin, Band-Aids, Gold Bond (In case you chaff)
- 2 bottles Deodorant just in case (also anything to make tour less stinky – Febreze, odor eaters, etc.).
- Nail clippers.
- Tylenol (or other pain killer, keep in field bag).
- Vitamins (your immune system will need help since you'll be working so hard).
- Flip flops for shower (Showers in the South especially can be NASTY!).

## General Tour Stuff

- Suitcase (bigger the better; make sure everything fits and still have room for souvenirs and tour spread).
- Sleeping bag, can have a mat or air mattress if it also fits the size requirements (please pack this in a bag).
- Blanket and Pillow.
- Bus box (Rubbermaid container you put bus stuff and food in). Must fit under bus seat.
- Backpack (a sturdy one to hold field stuff, emergency shower stuff, wallet, **music, dot book**, sunscreen, ipod and headphones, metronome, sunglasses, PENCILS, etc). This will go everywhere with you – on the bus & field.
- Phone charger. A power strip due to lack of outlets will help you make new friends!
- Red water bottle gallon size for brass and percussion; Blue water bottle gallon size for guard.
- Smaller water bottle for bus seat.
- Suction cups and shower caddy to hold up things on window; carabineers and bungee cords help too.
- Wallet.
- JOURNAL (a big regret of lots of people is not having one, you will be making memories).
- Ipod/headphones/chargers.
- Small Flashlight (I'm on the far side of the gym, 149 people are in between me and the bathroom in the dark).
- Book to read.
- Black shoe polish for show shoes.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND CRITICAL REMINDERS

**Professionalism:** You are here because you are a professional - an individual with above average abilities and standards, so we assume there will be no issues. Regardless, there are zero tolerance items which would cut your tour short: theft, illegal drug use, use of alcohol, weapons (not the spinning kind), assault, harassment, and failure to disclose medical information. We strive to ensure an educational and enjoyable experience for everyone. Violation of these policies or repeated disciplinary issues may result in the involvement of authorities and termination of membership. We care about you and your future!

**Housing Site Etiquette:** When we hit the road we stay in a wide variety of locations. The Colts are known for excellence in housing care. We pride ourselves in being welcomed back. With that, here are a few of our key housing site do's and don'ts:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>DO:</b>                                       | <b>DON'T:</b>                                      |
| -Wear a shirt at all times indoors               | -Leave the housing site without letting staff know |
| -Take cleaning seriously so we are invited back! | -Use tobacco products on school grounds            |
| -Wear shoes until you go to bed                  | -Go somewhere random in a building                 |
| -Secure belongings when you go to rehearsal      | -Touch a computer.                                 |

**Bus:** The bus captain will handle bus issues or disputes. NEVER USE THE TOILET ON THE BUS. Please make sure you let your seat partner know if you get off the bus. Follow directions so we can be efficient in getting down the road. Each day the buses need to be cleaned (we need you healthy), so please place your items on the seat so floors may be swept.

**Cell Phones:** Each night, phone calls stop at lights out. You need sleep; you'll have plenty of time to call the next day. Cell phones will also be turned off during rehearsal. Your instructors have Facebook and we see when you're posting status updates. Do NOT post after lights out. Please do not post anything pertaining to the show. We respect copyright laws and trust you will as well. Don't post anything derogatory about anyone on tour or another corps. Not only is this unprofessional, but it can make for an awkward remainder of tour. Rumors hurt everyone. Keep track of your phone. Charge it only within the sleeping area. Mark your phone and charger.

**Hydration:** Drum corps is an immensely physical activity. You need to drink more water than you think. Remember, as soon as you feel thirsty, you're already behind on water intake! Avoid carbonated drinks and drink plenty of juice at meals.

***WELCOME TO THE RED TEAM!!!***



# MEMBER HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT 2017

## Social Media Responsibility

The Colts maintain a positive reputation which enhances belief in the mission of our organization. As a contracted member of the Colts Drum & Bugle Corps, I hereby acknowledge when posting information and images through social media, I understand I am representing myself, the corps, other members within the organization, Drum Corps International (DCI), and the drum corps activity as a whole. Any posts will promote the positive reputation and mission of the Colts, and will not contain information or images that discredit, disgrace or embarrass the Colts Youth Organization, its members, Drum Corps International (DCI), or the drum corps activity as a whole.

## Model Release and Authorization

As a contracted member of the Colts Drum & Bugle Corps, I hereby assign and grant to the Colts the right and permission to take, use and publish images, photographs, film, videotape and/or sound recordings of me, with or without my name, for any editorial, promotion, illustration, art, advertising, publicity or any other lawful purpose. I hereby waive any right I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or products, or the advertising copy or printed matter that may be used in connection with, or the use to which it may be applied.

## Member Handbook Agreement

I acknowledge I have read and understand the responsibilities of membership described in the Colts Member Handbook, including the Social Media Responsibility and Model Release and Authorization outlined above. My membership within the Colts may be jeopardized by actions not in compliance with the terms of my Contract of Membership and the Colts Member Handbook.

Member Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_