

2025

Colts Drum & Bugle Corps Member Handbook



Colts Youth Organization
2300 Twin Valley Drive
Dubuque, IA 52003-7003
Colts.org

This handbook applies to all
members of the Colts Drum &
Bugle Corps.

5/15/2025

Hello Colts family! Welcome to tour!

Ready for a summer you'll remember for the rest of your life? We are excited to share a season of hard work, late-night laughs, brand-new cities, random surprises, and new experiences. Tour can bring challenges and incredible rewards. We cannot wait to dive in with you.

Before we roll out, grab a snack, sit down with your folks, and read this whole guide. Seriously. The tips inside aren't just "helpful hints"—they're the game plan. This information is provided as expectations and not just recommendations. With preparation, the rest of the ride gets a lot smoother.

Here's the vibe:

- **See a job? It's yours.** Pick up the trash, move a prop, hype up a teammate—whatever needs doing. We run on "we," not "me."
- **Flexibility = superpower.** Schedules shift, weather happens, buses break. Laugh it off, problem-solve, and stay the course.
- **Count on each other.** We will be respectful, relentless, positive, and ridiculously supportive. Bring that energy every day.
- **Aim higher.** Do the extra rep, polish the tricky lick, tighten the drill set. Little upgrades stack into greatness.

Our objective is to give you space to chase excellence without sweating the logistics—so do your part and trust those around you. Hug your family before you leave, thank them for backing your dream, and then let's make some magic together.

Welcome to the Colts. Welcome to tour. Let's go!



Vicki MacFarlane

Director, Colts Drum & Bugle Corps

P.S. Parents—want in on the adventure? We could use extra hands in the kitchen, especially during Spring Training. Details (and good vibes) at colts.org/about-volunteer

Our Mission

We use music & excellence to teach each other about success in life.

Our Vision

A world where the synergy of music and performance, education and commitment, teamwork and personal growth reveals each individual's full potential, to build community leaders who impact their world for good.

Our Values

Education: Our passion for growth at all levels propels us forward. We are the catalyst for a lifetime of learning, and our process builds a foundation for young adults to be self-sufficient and resilient through all kinds of adversity.

Respect: We embrace the uniqueness of everyone regardless of background, culture or perspective. It's an unshakable value we've held dear for six decades, and it's the driving force behind our commitment to treating everyone with dignity and kindness.

Accountability: We value integrity and hold ourselves and each other to be responsible for every word and action. We stand shoulder to shoulder, knowing that our strength comes from our unity in everything we do and say.

Innovation: We constantly strive to be better and stretch further at every opportunity. We embrace and encourage the creative transformation that comes through broad perspectives, imagination and boundary-free thinking.

Success: These values, when woven into the fabric of our culture, define our achievement as an organization, and help create a world that's left better than what we found.

Commitment to Diversity

The Colts is committed to creating an environment in which all employees, members, staff, and volunteers have an opportunity to participate and contribute to the success of the organization and are valued for their skills, experience, and unique perspectives. This commitment is embodied in our policies, the way we do business, and is an important principle of sound business management.

Welcome To Tour!

Two Rules:

Do not break the law.

Do not embarrass the organization.

And that's the playbook, although the next many pages will fill in details and prepare you for tour. Quick gut-check: if you have to ask yourself, "Is this a bad idea?" then it probably is.

What You're Signing Up For

Drum corps is intense – physically, mentally, and emotionally. Tour might be the toughest thing you've ever tackled, and that's exactly why you are here. Growth comes with friction, and any change comes with some layers of stress and anxiety. We are all in this together, and remember that preparation for tour increases your enjoyment on tour.

Guard The Brand

You are the Colts. The Colts have earned a great reputation and respect in the activity. The minute you put on the uniform you are that reputation. Remember that it takes years to build a great reputation, and only seconds to wreck it.

Mindset That Wins

Problem vs. Inconvenience – know there is a big difference. Most emergencies are just speed bumps. Stay solutions-focused, keep the humor alive, and we will crush whatever pops up.

Why YOU Made The Cut

You are driven, dependable, and aim high. Tour is operated to a large extent by members, guided by staff, and backed by rock-star volunteers. The tour experience is formed by all of us. Our culture only works when every one of us lives the Colts values and steps up as an internal leader. Bring the energy, own the mission, and let's make this season legendary.

TOUR SAFETY

Smoking, alcohol, drugs, self-inflicted injury, all forms of assault, and sexual acts are prohibited and grounds for immediate dismissal.

Drug-Free, Alcohol-Free, Smoke-Free Organization

It is the policy of The Colts to maintain a drug- and alcohol-free environment that is safe and productive for volunteers, students, staff, employees, and others having business with the organization.

The unlawful use, possession, purchase, sale, distribution, or being under the influence of any illegal drug and/or the misuse of legal drugs while on organizational property or on premises utilized by The Colts, or while performing for the organization is strictly prohibited. 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. In addition, The Colts prohibits off-premises use of alcohol and controlled substances, as well as the possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs, as these activities adversely affect performance, safety, and the organization's reputation.

It is understood that cannabis consumption in any form, whether recreational or medicinal may be legal in states where The Colts perform, practice, or be housed. However, The Colts prohibits the use or possession of cannabis in any form at any time while on organization property or on any other premises utilized by The Colts including, but not limited to, schools, stadiums, and practice fields.

Smoking is not allowed in organization buildings or work areas at any time. "Smoking" includes the use of any tobacco products (including chewing tobacco), electronic smoking devices, and e-cigarettes. Smoking is only permitted during break times in designated outdoor areas. The smoking policies of schools and all other venues will become the smoking policy of the Colts when using such spaces. If you do smoke or vape, you must be 21 or over, and you may not smoke or vape on school property, including parking lots and fields. There is no vaping allowed on buses, in dorm rooms, or in hotel rooms.

Sideline Learning & Background Checks

All 18+ participants shall be subject to a background check prior to summer tour with the Colts. The Colts use an independent third party to process all background checks. Any member whose background check reveals a misdemeanor conviction for a nonviolent crime may have their membership terminated at the discretion of the Executive Director. Any member whose background check reveals a felony or misdemeanor conviction for any violent crime, or any conviction for a sex-based crime shall not be allowed to engage in or continue with any membership activities.

Drum Corps International uses the platform Sideline Learning to streamline the Background Check, DCI safety training, and consent to DCI participation agreement. Members under the age of 18 on the contract acceptance date will only need to complete the DCI participation agreement and Colts member handbook acknowledgment (minor members do not need a background check or the participant safety training).

Violence Prevention

The Colts is committed to providing a safe, violence-free workplace for our employees, volunteers, students, and staff. Due to this commitment, we discourage participants from engaging in any physical confrontation with a violent or potentially violent individual or from behaving in a threatening or violent manner. Threats, threatening language, or any other acts of aggression or violence made toward or by any participant will not be tolerated. A threat may include any verbal or physical harassment or abuse, attempts to intimidate others, menacing gestures, stalking, or any other hostile, aggressive, and/or destructive actions taken for the purposes of intimidation. This policy covers any violent or potentially violent behavior that occurs at organizational-sponsored functions.

All participants with The Colts bear the responsibility of keeping our environment free from violence or potential violence. Any participant who witnesses or is the recipient of violent behavior should promptly inform the Corps Director, Executive Director, and/or President of the Board of Directors or any other member of management. All threats will be promptly investigated. No participant will be subject to retaliation, intimidation, or discipline as a result of reporting a threat in good faith under this guideline.

Any individual engaging in violence against the organization, its employees, students, volunteers or its property will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. All acts will be investigated, and the appropriate action will be taken. Any such act or threatening behavior may result in termination of membership with The Colts.

The Colts prohibits the possession of weapons on its property at all times, including our parking lots or organization vehicles. Additionally, while on tour, participants may not carry a weapon of any type. Weapons include, but are not limited to, handguns, rifles, automatic weapons, and knives that can be used as weapons (excluding pocketknives, utility knives, and other instruments that are used to open packages, cut string, and for other miscellaneous tasks), martial arts paraphernalia, stun guns, and tear gas. Any participant violating this policy is subject to loss of membership with The Colts.

The organization reserves the right to inspect all belongings of participants on its premises, including packages, briefcases, purses and handbags, gym bags, and personal vehicles on organizational property.

Harassment and Complaint Procedure

It is the Colts' policy to provide an environment free of all forms of harassment. To that end, harassment of Colts' employees, volunteers, students, staff members, or other nonemployees who are traveling with or involved with the Colts is absolutely prohibited. Further, any retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual or other harassment or retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a harassment complaint will not be tolerated. The Colts will take all steps necessary to prevent and eliminate unlawful harassment.

Definition of Unlawful Harassment. "Unlawful harassment" is conduct that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; has the purpose or effect of substantially and unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance; or otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunities to participate in the Colts activities.

Unlawful harassment includes, but is not limited to, epithets; slurs; jokes; pranks; innuendo; comments; written or graphic material; stereotyping; or other threatening, hostile, or intimidating acts based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, disability, veteran status, or other characteristic protected by state or federal law.

Definition of Sexual Harassment. While all forms of harassment are prohibited, special attention should be paid to sexual harassment. “Sexual harassment” is generally defined under both state and federal law as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of any individual’s participation in Colts activities; *or*

Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Other sexually oriented conduct, whether intended or not, that is unwelcome and has the effect of creating a work environment that is hostile, offensive, intimidating, or humiliating to participants may also constitute sexual harassment.

While it is not possible to list all those additional circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct that, if unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment depending on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct and its pervasiveness:

- Unwanted sexual advances, whether they involve physical touching or not;
- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one’s sex life, comments about an individual’s body, comments about an individual’s sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess;
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons;
- Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing up against the body, sexual gestures, or suggestive or insulting comments;
- Inquiries into one’s sexual experiences; *and*
- Discussion of one’s sexual activities.

All participants should take special note that, as stated above, retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment and retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of sexual harassment complaint is unlawful and will not be tolerated at the Colts.

Complaint Procedure. Any participant who believes he or she has been subject to or witnessed illegal discrimination, including sexual or other forms of unlawful harassment, is requested and encouraged to make a complaint. You may complain directly to the Corps Director, Executive Director, and/or President of the Board of Directors or any other member of management with whom you feel comfortable bringing such a complaint. Reports may also be sent to whistleblower@colts.org or submitted anonymously using the Colts online whistleblower form. Similarly, if you observe acts of discrimination toward or harassment of another participant, you are requested and encouraged to report this to one of the individuals listed above.

No reprisal, retaliation, or other adverse action will be taken against a participant for making a complaint or report of discrimination or harassment or for assisting in the investigation of any such complaint or report. Any suspected retaliation or intimidation should be reported immediately to one of the persons identified above.

All complaints will be investigated promptly and, to the extent possible, with regard for confidentiality.

If the investigation confirms conduct contrary to this policy has occurred, the Colts will take immediate, appropriate, corrective action, including discipline, up to and including immediate removal from the corps.

“If you see something, say something.”

The Colts Youth Organization is committed to an environment in which all relationships are characterized by dignity, honesty, courtesy, respect, and equitable treatment. This includes a commitment to create and maintain a positive organizational culture and climate which:

- is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity
- encourages members, staff, and volunteers to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying or harassment in a non-threatening environment
- promotes respectful relationships across the entire organization
- is free from any form or threat of harassment or retaliation for reporting such incidents

Please note our “chain of command” or hierarchy is the same as our reporting mechanism: Member to Section Leader, to Drum Major, to staff members, to Caption Head, to Tour Director or Operations Director, to Corps Director, to Executive Director, to Board President. However, anyone at the Colts is able to go to whomever they are most comfortable, and anyone is welcome to jump straight to the top of this list.

If you observe or question a situation and aren’t sure of its appropriateness, personally check with your Section Leader, Drum Major, Staff Member, Caption Head, Tour Director, Operations Director, or Corps Director.

If you feel you are a victim of harassment, here are the steps to take:

1. Advise the offender to stop their conduct—that you do not appreciate their actions/words and notify the appropriate party as noted above
2. If the conduct persists, advise your section leader and/or drum major, tour director, operations director, and/or corps director as soon as possible

Members have an affirmative duty to be proactive in order to prevent incidents of harassment and/or bullying. If a member witnesses acts of bullying or harassment, they are encouraged to intervene safely and appropriately. If direct intervention is not feasible or safe, students should seek immediate assistance from a staff member, volunteer, corps director or any other employee of the Colts. In all such cases, regardless of whether the student intervenes

or not, they are obligated to report the incident following our established complaint procedure as noted above.

Member Relationships

Fraternization is defined as a consensual romantic or consensual sexual relationship between individuals who occupy different levels of authority in the organization. This occurs when one partner of higher status and/or power with explicit or implicit authority over, or the power to reward, misuse that power to entice that partner of lower status and/or power into an illicit relationship. All participants have an obligation to report known fraternization.

The Colts holds all participants to the highest ethical and professional standards. Reports of fraternization shall follow the same process outlined in the Harassment and Complaint Procedure section of this handbook.

Member and staff sexual relationships within any program are strictly prohibited. Member and volunteer relationships may be allowed, pending approval from the Executive Director. If a student (18+) is already in a romantic or sexual relationship with someone who wants to volunteer for the Colts, they must inform the volunteer coordinator or director before volunteering. When volunteering, the person cannot have any authority or power over the student and must receive approval from the Executive Director.

PDA (public displays of affection) is not allowed. We are guests in spaces we visit, so it's important to leave a good impression. Underage relationships aren't just discouraged, they are illegal. Rare exceptions may be made for relationships that were already in place before moving in. In these circumstances, you will need approval from your parents and the executive director. If you have any questions, talk to the director.

Sexual activity is not allowed anywhere the corps is – this includes housing sites, buses, show venues, laundry areas, or anywhere else you might be representing the corps. Physical contact that crosses boundaries in any setting (rehearsals, while in uniform, on school property, after a show, etc.) is not okay. If personal relationships start to affect the group's focus or performance, it could lead to disciplinary action. Off-duty behavior is usually private, but if it starts interfering with performance, that is a problem.

Social Media Acceptable Use

The Colts encourage participants to share information with friends and family! Social media provides inexpensive, informal, and timely ways to participate in an exchange of ideas and information. However, information posted on a website is available to the public and, therefore, the organization has established the following guidelines for participation in social media.

Note: As used in this policy, “social media” refers to blogs, forums, and social networking sites, such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, and SnapChat, among others.

Respect. Demonstrate respect for the dignity of the activity, the organization, staff members, students, employees, and volunteers. A social media site is a public place, and participants should avoid inappropriate comments. For example, participants should not divulge the Colts confidential information. Similarly, participants should not engage in harassing or discriminatory behavior that targets others. Even if a message is posted anonymously, it may be possible to trace it back to the sender.

Competition. Participants should not use social media to criticize the organization’s competition and should not use it to compete with the organization.

Confidentiality. When in doubt, ask before publishing.

Trademarks and copyrights. Do not use the organization’s or other trademarks on a social media site, or reproduce the organization’s or others’ material without first obtaining permission.

Legal. Participants are expected to comply with all applicable laws, including but not limited to, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines, copyright, trademark, and harassment laws.

Discipline. Violations of this policy may result in discipline up to and including immediate removal as a member.

PHONES & ELECTRONIC GEAR

We allow cell phones and 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. While we don’t ban tablets such as iPads, we would discourage you from bringing one on tour. Do not bring anything you can’t afford to have stolen, lost, or broken. The Colts claim no responsibility for your belongings. If you need use of a computer, see a tour admin or corps director at any time.

Only charge electronics on the bus or in the gym. All phones, media players, etc. are to be taken with you to rehearsal in your field bag. Assume that any electronic devices left in a hallway may be stolen by a rogue local.

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.

Personal Social Media. Avoid texting or social media during rehearsals. Check messages at mealtimes. Keep your phone off as much as possible.

Public Media/Reporters. If you encounter local media on tour, steer them directly to a staff member or the director.

A Note About Social Media: We all know how easy it is to post something – just a tap and it’s out there. When you hit share, please remember you’re representing the Colts to the world. Be mindful of what you post and how you say it. Words and photos can easily be taken the wrong way, and once it’s out there it’s hard to take back. Ever played “telephone?” One small thing – like saying a bus “bumped a street sign” – can turn into a full-blown rumor about a bus fire, a cliff plunge, and maybe even fatalities. Trust that these things spread fast! For anything sensitive or personal, keep it private. Use emails or direct messages instead of sharing all over social media. Be smart, be responsible, and always think before you post. If a staff member asks you to address something, please make the correction as soon as possible.

Discipline And Consequences

While we will deal with small daily dynamics (such as someone late to a block or interpersonal disagreements), it is critical we understand how to address and how we handle any form of harassment. Our environment and our culture are critical to our success.

Major behavior issues don’t happen often, but conflicts between people can pop up. When that happens, we encourage you to work it out directly, respectfully, and openly. If you can’t resolve it on your own, we encourage you to bring the issue or question to a higher level.

Students who engage in illegal activities, activities deemed to be a danger to someone’s well-being, or actions damaging to the organization and its reputation will be handled in a manner commensurate with the nature of the infraction/activity up to and including involvement of legal authorities and/or immediate dismissal. In the event of removal, travel costs home are the responsibility of the member or their family. Although we would not abandon anyone, tour logistics are not always convenient.

GENERAL TOUR INFO

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.

SLACK The corps will use Slack for announcements, updates, schedules, and all important communication. This will be your primary source for information and updates throughout the summer. Please have your notifications turned on.

Lost And Found We do not operate a lost and found. Certain items of value left behind (phones, shoes, glasses, wallets, or electronic items) will be given to 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, typically using three laundromats simultaneously, dropping a busload at each one. The process takes about four 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: Get laundry detergent dry sheets; Use trash bags or a laundry bag in your suitcase to hold dirty laundry. This helps keep clean clothes clean. Use a dryer sheet to keep “tour fragrance” in check.

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

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

Souvenirs Of Your Summer Keep a journal! Get autographs on a show shirt, drumhead, or a program. (If you wish to use a drumhead, save an old head. *Never use a new drumhead.*) Please remember that carriers, brass parts, instruments, uniforms, flags, and rifles or sabres are NOT souvenirs. They belong to the corps and are for sale. See the director to purchase any items.

Grocery Stops Every few weeks we have WalMart stops for toiletries, snacks, and other items. On any day, a corps runner may assist with needed purchases. During spring training, an address will be provided so that items can be shipped to you.

Tour Itineraries We will prepare several itineraries during the summer. The itineraries will be posted on the web site and distributed via email. 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 for 90 days and others spend that much in a week. A rule of thumb is \$3-\$5 a day. Please keep in mind that much of your shopping will be done online. There are a few things for which you may need cash: laundry (\$15 a time), free days, and 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.

Church On very rare occasions, members may have the opportunity to attend a Sunday AM church service prior to rehearsal. Keep in mind that even though a service may be offered in the area we are housed, there are logistical things, such as rehearsal or crews that may not permit attendance.

Crews All members are assigned to a crew for the summer. Crew assignments include: school cleaning, prop set up or tear down, field-lining, meal clean up, etc.

Questions, Complaints, or Concerns If you have a problem or a suggestion, discuss it with the right people. If it's bothering you, it's important, and be sure you discuss it with someone who

can do something about it. Complaining to your friend who can't do anything to solve a concern is not helpful to the corps. Use the reporting hierarchy to consider who to speak with.

Theft 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.

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 permission from a tour director or corps director. No matter how good it smells, you may not go around the corner to McDonalds or Dairy Queen – eat with the corps during the day. This note is to promote your health and safety. You will be given some freedom after shows. Treat yourself after a performance.

What To Wear, What Not To Wear You may wear what you like on tour, but if representing musical companies, please note that we only wear shirts from the companies endorsing the Colts (Remo, Zildjian, Yamaha, Innovative, or Creative Costuming). You never know when a sponsor will be at rehearsal, or if we have media coverage. While we encourage you to support other corps, we also do not wear anything with another corps name while with Colts.

Proper Clothing Please wear appropriate clothing in appropriate places. Every member **MUST** have a t-shirt with them at all times. While indoors at any facility and in the food line, wear a t-shirt. Appropriate t-shirts (and any other apparel) mean they do not contain references to alcohol, guns, profanity, or contain sexual or offensive language or graphics. Schools are staffed year round, and they don't always understand our 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. Use common sense and follow the guidance of staff.

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

Sharpie Write your name on everything you bring. We have 200 people with similar items.

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. Before you leave, round-up friends to write to you. Do NOT mail liquids. Absolutely *do not send anything directly to a random housing site. 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. Through July 15, the Colts warehouse may be used for mail:

Member Name
C/O Colts Drum & Bugle Corps
2300 Twin Valley Drive
Dubuque, IA 52003

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

The sleeping space of any person is considered a private area regardless of the location and consent must be given for interactions to occur in that area. Sleep space constitutes any area where an individual performer or staff member has placed their bedding and/or travel gear. The sleep space is considered a private area and should be treated as such. No one is allowed to enter the sleep space of another person without consent. Entering the sleep space of another person can include: Sitting on a person's bedding without permission; Standing next to a person's bedding for an extended length of time without permission; Stalking another person by placing their bedding next to another person after being asked not to.

Gym

While we have a great deal of trust in our membership, and we have expectations of respect and responsibility, many of the fundamentals we outline are to make sure we deliver great impressions to our host communities. Our procedures are built not just to safeguard our membership and organizational culture, but to strengthen the immediate impression we leave on those who observe us when we visit, rehearse, and rest.

Sleeping areas are separate and distinct for male and female students (transgender students are handled on a case-by-case basis after consultation; nonbinary students will sleep according to sex assigned at birth). You are expected to be on the appropriate side of the gym and in your bed before lights out. We must maintain a 6-foot neutral zone between males and females in sleeping areas.

In all types of bedding (air mattress, camping pad, sleeping bag), members are to sleep only one person per bed on a single bed (double mattresses are not allowed). There is no lying in bed with another student. There are to be no lying down back rubs.

DORM OR HOTEL ROOMS

In the event of hotel rooms, beds are to be used by one student per bed in double rooms, with two students using sleeping bags or air mattresses. Dorms and hotel rooms are assigned 2-4 people per room. Only same sex individuals will be roomed together. **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY ROOM THAT IS NOT YOUR OWN.** All socializing must happen in lobbies or other common areas. At lights out, all members should be in their assigned rooms with lights turned out. Distributed keys are the responsibility of each member, and any lost key charges will be charged to the individual with the missing key.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

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 just after breakfast, or at any time in the event of an emergency. We will error on the side of caution when deciding what care to seek for you.

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

Medical Form And First Aid

We ask each member to bring your own essential medical supplies, but if you need something basic, we likely 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 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 Insurance

Be sure you have medical insurance, and make sure the information on your medical form is current (students without traditional medical insurance should get a travel medical policy for emergency coverage). 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, you should be prepared 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.

YOUR FEET

Your feet are your life in drum corps. If you injure your feet, there is little time to heal, even with time off. Consider going to a specialty store and consult the DCI shoe list for input. Cross trainers (or trail runners) are often the best bet. (do NOT buy free running shoes.)

- Your rehearsal shoes are the most important things you select for the summer. You will be on your feet constantly; your shoes must support and protect.
- Plan on needing **at least 3 pairs of tennis shoes**. This is essential to your health! If you need to cut corners, do it somewhere else.
- You need excellent athletic shoes, with plenty of support, in the right size, designed for this type of use. You do not have to spend crazy 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 daily.
- Keep toenails trimmed in a straight line across your toe, especially the big toe. Ingrown toenails are painful, and difficult to treat on tour. The medical treatment is not pretty or pleasant, and it's totally avoidable.

FUEL FOR YOUR BODY

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

Dehydration

A personal ***one-gallon water jug*** is required for the frequent water breaks during rehearsal. Put your name on your water jug! There are at least 75 identical to yours. 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 as a warning sign of dehydration. If you experience discomfort in the restroom, please tell us RIGHT AWAY. Bladder infections can happen on tour. Carbonation and caffeine worsen dehydration, so only drink water and juice on tour. Post show, a carbonated or caffeinated drink is permitted, but must be coupled with double the amount of water to remain properly hydrated (12oz caffeinated tea needs 24oz water to replenish).

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 folks will do almost anything for you. ALWAYS THANK THE COOKS!

- We offer a regular or vegetarian entrée (we do not offer a vegan option due to the nutritional demands of the tour).
- We accommodate common food allergies, so long as you are not in danger touring.
- We do not support special, non-medically necessary diets (ex: paleo, Keto, etc.)
- Anyone with a peanut or tree nut allergy should not eat donated cookies or treats unless specifically told it is safe.
- 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.
- Never stack garbage. If you see a full can, take it upon yourself to switch out the bag.
- Juice is for meals, not for your water jug unless directed.
- Water jugs are to be filled at the jug fill at the back of the truck.
- You have 45 minutes to get through the line for meals.
- Please try to eat some of everything, especially the main entrée.
- If you really can't stand what is served, grab a PB&J or two, what you will eat, and relax. Please don't complain, let us know, and eat what you can.
- Use the hand sanitizer before eating any meal.
- There is always a sink at the back of the cook truck for your own use. Members will have mandatory days to bleach wash personal water jugs.



THE BUS - HOME ON WHEELS

We have 3 member buses. Each has its own name and legacy. Work with veterans to know which one will fit your style. They are distinct communities and cultures. Bus events, such as prom and staff look-alike night, are sometimes held.

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, and 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.

We do not spend time doing roll call before we pull out. Sit in your seat and be sure your seat partner is there. **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 Restrooms Each bus has a restroom that is only to be used in an emergency. If there's 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.") Restrooms are not for storage or garbage. Empty seats are to be used for people, not "stuff."

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, a book or journal, and some other small personal items here. You might want a small plastic shower caddy with suction cups on your window to hold small stuff you use often.

Bus Captains Each bus has two captains who will assist with or handle any issues, monitor cleanliness, and provide information. Bus captains will be one male and one female who are 18+ years of age. Bus captains are appointed, part of the leadership team, and are largely responsible for what happens on the bus. They must keep the seating manifest and maintain a bus-cleaning routine. Bus captains are the first off the bus at a housing site to get information and then relay it to their bus prior to full unload.

Unload Passengers are never to get off the bus until guided to do so by the tour director. For your safety, the tour director ensures that every vehicle is parked in the convoy prior to passengers unloading. The tour director will cue the bus captains to unload once it is safe.

All members are responsible for appropriate behavior on the bus. It is important to address or report anything you may not be comfortable with to someone you feel safe with who can address the situation appropriately, even if that rises above the level of the bus captains.

Bus Seat Assignments Bus seats are selected during Spring Training. Line up a seat partner in advance. The most veteran member selects 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 or corps director with questions. Students 16 years of age or younger may have more specific rules that are addressed by the director on an individual basis.

Good ideas: Bring a pillow and blanket for the bus. Members may sleep on the floor, but never in the racks. Sleep across the aisle (not down it). If you sleep on the floor, you assume the risk of being stepped on, and you should get off the floor each time we stop.

Don't ever walk or stand on armrests (the edge of the seat is ok). **Never spray colognes, perfumes, hair sprays, or deodorants on the bus.**

Lights Out Bus lights usually are turned off after the first rest stop (or 45 minutes after departure). *Bus sleep is critical to summer survival!* Most nights, you'll be asleep before the

lights are off, but if you do stay up for a bit, please be quiet and get to sleep as soon as possible. Formal “lights out” is one hour after departure or the first rest stop.

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

The Colts are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings. We do not control public access to our areas, especially in housing sites. 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.

Cleaning The Colts clean the bus every trip. Buses rotate cleaning responsibilities every night. If you leave items on the bus, set it on your bus seat. The floor and the overhead racks should be empty for cleaning so the bus can be swept regularly.

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 200 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.

THE EQUIPMENT TRUCK

Equipment 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 steps on the front door MUST be set up correctly so they don’t collapse. If you have not been shown how to set up the stairs, please don’t set them out.
- 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 uniforms on the truck. No uniforms are to be stored in bus bays or on the bus.
- The handles on the outside of the truck doors must be tucked back and latched when the doors are open. If not latched open, the doors catch wind and become weapons.
- Padlocks are hung unlocked in its handle, not anywhere else. If there is no handle, hang or place the lock to the right side of the opening, visible from where the lock goes.
- No garbage is to be left on the truck. If you see garbage, throw it away.
- No food or beverage should be brought onto or stored on the trailer.
- All members, especially the front ensemble, MUST wear close-toed shoes while loading or unloading. Open-toed shoes are dangerous. Protect your feet.
- Please do not bother the sleeping driver. Drum majors and section leaders have keys.

- When the truck is closed for departure, there is to be no reentry to the trailer prior to departure. The truck driver cannot tell that someone opened the back door again from their cab. In an emergency, see the tour director, corps director, or pit section leader. Under no circumstance should a door be reopened.
- Please do not shout, drum, clank, or warm up near the semi-tractor (the part with the motor). The driver is sleeping during the day and often at the show, too.

Uniform Guidelines

- Don't sit in uniform. If we must sit in uniform, we will do so only when a clean and dry place is available. If you must sit outdoors, sit on a towel or blanket.
- Never sit on asphalt, even with a blanket or towel. The hot asphalt will get on your garments and 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 yourself and your uniform.
- Brass/Percussion - Crew length plain BLACK socks.
- Underwear/Dance belt and a unitard will be worn under the uniform. Members are issued one unitard and have the option to purchase additional.
- Color guard will wear their member/warm up shirt on special performance occasions.
- Our bibs fit tightly and underwear lines are not attractive. Boxers or loose shorts do not work because they get bunched up and show through.
- Brass/Percussion will be provided one pair black marching shoes.
- For warm up, brass and percussion players will be wearing only your uniform bibs and sleeves (this is referred to as "halves").
- All males will want to have two dance belts (most use full seated dance belts). The uniforms are now a soft knit stretch, and males will be more comfortable and supported with a dance belt. Females will want sports bras for under the uniform and unitard. Please keep the bibs shoulder straps and unitard color in mind when selecting show sports bras.
- Hair should be specifically styled for the production when in uniform. Everyone must look well-groomed in their personal chosen look. We want our look to be intentional, polished, and "crafted."
- Gentlemen should be neatly shaven in uniform. A beard or goatee is allowed but must be well groomed, with the neckline and cheek lines clean shaven. Sideburns should also be shaped/trimmed for each show.
- Your hair should be its natural color for summer. Any hair coloring is to be approved by a staff member.
- Any staff member may address a member relative to facial grooming, hairstyle, or jewelry. If addressed, please correct what's asked without argument. Our goal is to look as professional and uniform as possible while still allowing for individual choices.
- We will not wear shakos, making hairstyle and color decisions even more important. Draw attention to yourself through talents, not by looks.
- No makeup or foundation can be worn lower than the lower lip for brass and percussion due to the uniform bibs.
- Smoking/Vaping is never permitted in uniform.

- Drink only water while in uniform.
- Do not eat in uniform.
- Use only proper language (no profanity) while in uniform.
- Things will happen to make you legitimately upset or ecstatic, but monitor expression of 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 garment bag except your uniform and cloth uniform parts. Everything else, such as shoes, should be in your carry-on bag.
- Don't leave the uniform on a bus overnight unless told to.
- 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 4th show. Wear your performance gloves for performances, not for practice. (Old show gloves do make fine 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 or purchase.
- 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.
- It is critical to hang your uniform correctly to keep it looking crisp and nice.
- Uniforms are usually taken off the truck during meals 1 or 2 on a show day and placed in the truck immediately following the show before meal 4.
- Please seek approval for facial piercings worn in uniform.
- Small earrings are allowed. Gauges should be approved. If noticeable, you will be asked to change or remove earrings or gauges. We want nothing to distract from the group uniform or performance character, but we offer some liberties in personal choice.
- **No necklaces, chains, or pendants other than the Colts or Colt Cadets 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 uniform supplies 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 or 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 or air mattresses are allowed in addition to 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. DCI has asked all corps to ban the use of cots on tour due to gym and school floor damages. Cots are

not allowed on tour. Good idea: Bring a sleeping bag with a waterproof cover. Damp bags are unpleasant and take DAYS to dry!

2) A uniform supplies bag is more important than you may realize! Use a large size ziplock bag, cinch bag, or duffel to keep 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, gloves, change of clothes, and shower supplies.
- You will take your uniform supplies 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 in addition to your suitcase. 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 clothes and toiletries 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 mess-ups on tour.* Imagine missing a show because your bus is getting a tire fixed because... (ready?) ...you didn't have your uniform parts or marching shoes with you. **TO BE CLEAR (last time)** this bag contains items to shower, change, and perform.

3) One suitcase. Only one suitcase, and you must limit the size. It can be a rolling duffel bag, 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. Work to get the girth as close to 110 inches or less as possible. If you put your bedding in your suitcase, then a slightly larger girth is reasonable. 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 feels heavier at 3 am. FYI: Suitcase wheels never touch a gym floor and sometimes cannot touch hallway floors. Schools 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.*

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 is used as your field bag, and will go with you to rehearsal with your electronics, charger, lip gloss, sunscreen, music binder, a t-shirt, etc. Things will walk away during the day if left inside a school. TAKE ANYTHING IMPORTANT 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 can be contagious. 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. Don’t leave your suitcase in the bus bay. Bring it inside!

RAIN UNLOADS: When raining, we grab ANY suitcase and ANY sleeping bag and take it into the school quickly where it’s dry. We sort it out inside, where it’s dry. When everyone does this, everyone’s stuff stays dry.

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

- 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 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, uniform supplies bag, backpack, 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. Then go to bed. Have mom or dad wake you from a deep and peaceful slumber around 3:30 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.

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. This is a summary (see the next section for a more detailed packing list):

- 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).
- Hat for all rehearsals that covers your skull (protecting your brain from the sun)
- A blanket and warm clothes for the bus.
- Nice outfit for free time
- Two towels or shammies
- Uniform clothing (unitard, socks, undies)
- Plastic bags (trash bags and ziplock bags)
- Shower supplies - soap, shampoo, toothbrush, razors, etc. in a separate toiletry bag
- Sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher). *A sunscreen with Helioplex is medically recommended
- 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, don't forget to update your medical form.
- Prescriptions are not to be shared with other members.
- Students prescribed inhalers and epipens are required to bring two - one for you and one for the health team.

SECTION NOTES FOR PACKING

FOR ALL: Big Checklist for move in –

- Wallet/ID/Insurance Card. Check bank balance and know what you have so you don't go negative (not fun)
- Phone and charger
- Sleeping bag or air mattress with battery powered pump; Pillow/blanket
- Uniform stuff, such as Unitards & Black Socks; dance belts and sports bras
- Sunglasses, HAT, Section Shorts, and Sunscreen (with Helioplex)!!!

HORNLINE: You will want Silver Cream (horn polish), polishing cloth, valve oil, slide grease, Windex wipes, and connoisseur wipes. You will want baseball gloves to use for rehearsal gloves. Keep these items in your carry-on or field-bag. Make sure your water jug is RED and you have a black towel. You will need section shorts and a white t-shirt for ensemble.

GUARD: Make sure your water jug is BLUE. Bring any make-up and hair supplies specified by the staff. Also, you will need a hat, red bandanna, black shorts, and a black t-shirt for ensemble options. Black shorts (midthigh to knee length) are needed for warm ups. Remember pink and green are hype day colors. A red towel is desired for warmups.

PERCUSSION: Make sure your water jug is RED. Don't forget your sticks and pad! Pack a plain white t-shirt, your section shorts, and black shorts for ensemble options.

But Really... "How do I fit three months into one suitcase and a backpack??" The following packing list is written by veteran members to help you conquer packing and be prepared for summer! You don't need everything on this list, but it will help you think through your own preferences.

PACKING LIST - TOUR SURVIVAL KIT - What you'll need & why - by veteran members

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

- Suitcase. Remember the size guidelines (girth as close to 110 or less as possible). Think of durability and ask yourself if you can roll and carry it (no rolling on gym floors). Leave some extra room since you stuff expands on tour.
- Uniform Supplies Bag. A large ziplock or draw string bag seems simplest, as it can often be added to your backpack or live on its own. This needs to fit in **minimal** overhead compartment space on the bus. This bag holds show & shower items.
- Sleeping pad, air mattress, and/or sleeping bag. Sheet for your air mattress if desired. Need to have a bag/carrier for your air mattress or sleeping bag or just put it in your suitcase (for loading purposes and space). Battery powered pump is a must. (please note, no cots!) Pro tour tip – find a very compact sleeping bag.
- Blanket and pillow. They will not be allowed in the bus bays. You will want it on the bus and in the gym.
- BUS BOX. Plastic box with lid. This will need to fit under your bus seat basically all tour. You can store snacks, magazines, a book, headphones, journal, etc.
- Toiletry bag. Some folks use one that unzips with a hook to hang it up.
- Laundry bag. Use a cloth bag and toss in dryer sheets (bring a small box of them) for the smell. A dozen detergent pods in a small plastic storage container or Purex sheets. Bring quarters.
- Towels (1-2). Lightweight, compact, fast drying swimmers or campers towels 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.
- Backpack for rehearsal stuff and valuables. This will go everywhere with you. Use it for dot book, repellent, sunscreen, DCT, Kleenex, pencils, music binder, drill, Advil, valuable items, etc. Make sure it is durable enough to stand the heat and varying weather. Bring a trash bag or back pack cover for rain days (for you or your belongings).
- A power strip will help you meet friends.
- Eye mask for sleeping if desired - sometimes the lights don't turn off.

- Ear plugs (for rehearsal and/or sleeping).
- Money. Debit/credit cards work well. Wallet or small purse.

Toiletries:

- Toothbrush/paste, face wash, soap, shampoo/conditioner, razor, and anything else along those lines. You will want compact size toiletries, but not travel size. 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 as needed. Be prepared! The cook truck keeps some back up supplies in case you run out.
- Deodorant!
- Gold Bond. (Gold Bond makes a glide stick and a spray, as well.)
- Comb or brush. Most girls for show hair will want a hairbrush AND fine-tooth comb. Bobby pins and hair ties to match hair color. Hairspray and gel for show hair.
- Guard make-up as directed by each season's production.

Medical supplies and such:

The cook truck is stocked with basic items (Advil, cold medicine, allergy stuff, first-aid, etc).

Bring meds you use on a regular basis. If you don't need it often, don't pack it. You can always order it, buy it at a WalMart run, or use small amounts from the cook truck.

- 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.
- If you once had an injury and wore a brace, definitely bring the brace with you. Better safe than sorry!
- Prescribed medications, including inhalers. list these on your med form! If you have a controlled substance, it should be kept locked with the training team. You will sign a log when you use meds from the cook truck.

Clothing:

Most usually rewear everything at least once (wear shorts twice, wear shirts twice, wear sports bras twice, etc.). Have enough to last two weeks plus. Brass and Percussion wear white tshirts or tanks for full runs; Guard wears black tshirts or tanks for full runs.

- Gallon sized Ziploc bags to organize clothes; roll clothes to save space.
- 3 pairs of shoes. It is recommended to have one pair you wear and one back up on hand. Before your first pair wears out, order a new one to be mail dropped for you

third pair. Just make sure to know the sizes and styles that work for you in advance. Having a spare for rain can help wet feet, but make sure they are still good, solid shoes. Cross trainers preferred. Do not go cheap, but three \$60 pairs are better than one \$150 pair. Inserts are a good option. Definitely consult the DCI shoe list.

- Underwear - 18 or more. Make sure they are comfortable for exercising. Sometimes you may want to change during the day, so it doesn't hurt to have extras. Bras for females - bring 10 sports bras or more with whatever kind of support you need. Don't worry about getting cute ones...they will be gross. Bring at least one regular bra in neutral color for free days. Males will definitely want two dance belts for uniform attire.
- Socks - 18 or more pairs of rehearsal socks and a 6-12 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!
- Rehearsal t-shirts or tank tops – if wearing one every day, bring 10. Lighter in color and material is better, nothing fancy. You will always want a shirt with you at rehearsal, and you must wear a shirt to enter any school or the food line. Remember that guard will need a black t-shirt or tank top for full-runs; Brass and percussion need white t-shirts or tanks for full runs.
- Long-sleeve shirt(s) and sweatshirt(s) and jacket. A hoodie, and a long sleeve t-shirt should be enough for the bus and after shows and cold nights. A jacket works great too. We do rehearse in the rain, so bring something at least water resistant (a rain jacket works great, but a garbage bag can work too, but many people opt to just get wet.)
- Shorts. Section shorts, 4-7 pairs athletic rehearsal shorts, maybe a few comfortable shorts just for the bus or lounging. You can always wash shorts 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.
- Unitards (at least 1). Wash in the shower and hang to dry on bleachers. These are worn under your uniform for brass and percussion so we show no underwear lines.
- Pants. I bring 1-2 pairs of sweats/joggers for the bus, rain days, cold rehearsals, or after shows. Also, might want long athletic capris/pants if chafing is really bad.
- A couple outfits for free days/wrap up. Makeup/remover if desired. Store these in a ziploc bag with some dryer sheets.

Rehearsal Type Misc:

- Baseball caps (1-2, most have one for the summer). All sections will always wear these when outside. Guard should bring a bandanna for an added hype option. Hats can vary per your preference as long as the top of your head is covered (no visors), there is a bill or brim to shade your face, and any graphics are appropriate.
- Sunscreen! SPF 45+ Lotion is recommended (especially with Helioplex. Aerosol is not recommended, as it doesn't last long and the spray can damage silver horn finish.
- DCT or another lip balm with SPF protection (DCT or Chopsaver are great). Hornline – Vitamin E stick for night time.
- Sunglasses...make sure you can see out the sides. The sun is bright! Sunglasses are required at rehearsals when the sun is up.
- Dot book - will be provided. Fanny pack or a shoestring to tie it around your waist.

- Pencils. You need one EVERY REHEARSAL! Mechanical works best. (FYI bring extras)
- Binder for music and/or drill as well as sheet protectors (keep in field bag)
- Headphones, chargers, media player if desired.
- Duct-tape is very useful on tour. It can fix just about everything. (just a small amount it fine!)
- Electrical tape and a few carabiners.
- Q-tips are great for getting dirt out of little crevices in shoes.
- BRASS: Silver polish, valve oil, microfiber cloths, slide grease, BERP, batting gloves.

Optional Items:

- XL Twin size sheets – these can work well for your air mattress or for the dorm room.
- Suction cup caddy for bus window (normally in the bath area, plastic works best). This can hold your phone, valve oil, etc.
- Pocket Packs of Kleenex. Great for on the bus or the field.
- Mini Hand sanitizer.
- A small bottle of febreze comes in handy between laundry days (be careful where you spray it).
- Aloe Vera gel for sunburns. (Hopefully you won't need this, but be prepared!) DO NOT USE before going to rehearsal!
- Athlete's foot medicine (just in case). Lotrimin is great! Or tough-actin Tenactin.
- Swimsuit/Swim Trunks. You never know. These often go unused, but generally bring something just in case.
- Free day/after show shoes. Comfortable, supportive shoes that will not hurt your feet for when out of rehearsal/show shoes.
- The Colts tour shirt is nice to have or any other Colts clothes you have.
- A smaller personal water bottle for bus rides.
- Bug spray...you will thank yourself when we go to Wisconsin (or Minnesota and the South in typical seasons).

MEMBER HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT 2025

Media And Image Use Policy

The Colts maintain a positive reputation that enhances belief in the mission of the 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. 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.

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. Additionally, I agree to comply with the Colts outlined procedures. My membership within the Colts may be jeopardized by actions not in compliance with the terms of my Contract of Membership, the Colts Member Handbook, and any other outlined Colts procedure.

Indemnity Agreement

I voluntarily agree to assume all risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury and/or illness to myself. I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Colts Youth Organization, their officers, officials, agents, volunteers, employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, and Drum Corps International (“Releasees”), with respect to any and all injury, illness, disability, loss or damage to person or property, expenses, and/or death arising out of or relating to my participation. I understand this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Releasees. I understand and agree that this release and assumption of risk extends to my heirs, estate, executor, administrators, assignees, and all members of my family.

Member Name (please print): _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Students under the age of 18 must have parent or guardian signature:

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____