

BAND CAMP SURVIVAL TIPS

Marching terms (and abbreviations):

Dot book/sheet – A printed set of drill positions for one person. With practice, can be used to learn drill independently.

Set - A.k.a. a drill page. A picture of which you are a point. Everyone makes up a part of the drill set. The drill is written to the music. Changes in the drill are designed with changes in the music in mind. “Opening set” is the first drill page.

Form - The part of the picture you are currently in. Could be geometric, curvilinear, or freeform (line, block, curve, blob).

Hash mark – A small horizontal line on a yardline exactly 28 steps from the front sideline, it is referred to for orientation from front to back.

Inside a yardline – (**IN**) The side of the yardline closer to the center line, known as “the 50”.

Outside a yardline – (**OUT**) The side closer to the end zone.

Splitting – (**SPLIT**) Standing exactly between two yardlines.

Backfield – (**BACK**) Facing away from the front sideline.

Roll step - Also known as “drum corps style” marching. This professional-looking step reduces bouncing, which affects your playing. The roll step is begun when the heel of your foot gently hits the ground first, then, with control, you roll on the outside of your foot leading up to the toes. Heel, arch, ball, toe.

8 to 5 – Step size: 22.5 inches, or exactly 8 steps per 5 yards.

Interval: The number of 8 to 5 steps between people in a form.

Adjusted step: (ADJ) A standard step in drill is 22.5 inches. However, your step may be different based on how far you have to go. Less distance to cover between sets? Take a smaller, “adjusted” step. More? Take a larger step.

Backwards March – (**BKM**) It takes practice to march backwards correctly. Get on your toes, lean forward slightly and move backward keeping your equipment front and facing toward the front sideline. Maintain 8 to 5 step size!

Slide – (**SL**) Keeping your shoulders and equipment toward the front sideline, but twisting your lower half of your body in the direction you’re going (either right or left).

Crab step – Usually for percussion, this is a type of slide where one marches sideways without turning the body as in a slide. Simply open your legs and cross one foot over the other. The direction you’re going dictates which foot is in front and which is behind.

Follow the Leader – (**FTL**) Just as it sounds; follow the person in front of you but keep the interval the same.

Counts - How many beats you have between your first set and the next. 1 beat of music = one count of drill.

Learning drill at band camp:

Many drum corps performers carry a spiral notebook on a shoestring for making notes or diagrams related to their drill responsibilities. Whether rookie or veteran, you would be wise to do the same! Here are some sample drill notes for a guard member.

(yl=yardline, FH=front hash, BH=back hash. Kate and Jen are other guard members.)

Start: *Left 45yl FH, 2 steps outside, follow Kate.*

Set 1 – 20 -- FTL to Rt 45yl, 12 front of FH, 2 steps out.

Set 2 – 32 – HOLD Flag feature.

Set 3 –16 -- BKM straight back to 4 beh hash, even w/Jen

Here are some commands you will hear:

TEN HUT- All movement and talking stops. You are at attention, standing up straight, shoulders back, feet together, stomach in, chest out, arms properly holding your equipment. Don’t forget the most important part: EYES WITH PRIDE.

PARADE REST- Still not talking or moving, your legs should be at shoulder width and your head goes down. Each section has its own position for Parade Rest while holding instrument or equipment. Make sure you know it with or without!

MARK TIME - The preparation for movement usually given after attention. This gets you feeling the tempo with your feet. The command is MARK TIME MARK. At this point, you’ll begin moving your feet in place left foot first to the tempo raising your heel about three inches off the ground.

FORWARD MARCH. Marching forward, left foot first.

BAND HALT Stop moving on beat 2 after this command.

What Should I Bring?

- Your positive attitude and excellent work ethic.
- A small notebook and a mechanical pencil or a pen.
- Your instrument, equipment or sticks or mallets.
- Your music (guard – bring your audiotape or CD)
- Comfortable sneakers with socks - Band camp is not the best time for breaking in the new shoes.
- Comfortable clothes that allow for movement - remember it’s cooler during the morning and gets warmer as the day progresses.
- A rain parka. (If it rains, we get wet.)
- Sunglasses.
- Sunblock, whether your skin burns or not
- A hat.
- A good lunch: Sandwich, Fruit, Snack, Drink.
- Metronome, if you are a musician.
- White and/or black electrical tape, if you are a guardie.
- Water bottle - Here’s a trick. Freeze a bottle of water the night before. It will melt & still be cold when you need it.
- Off or some other type of bug spray containing DEET.
- Don’t wear perfume or body sprays; they attract bugs.