



# MEMBER MANUAL

REVISION DATE 04/08/2026

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Expectations for Members                   | 2  |
| The Sabers Standard                        | 3  |
| Traditions of Excellence                   | 4  |
| Code of Conduct                            | 5  |
| Organizational Flowchart                   | 6  |
| Membership Pathways of Resolution          | 7  |
| A Bit of Trooper History                   | 8  |
| Mission Statement & Corps Song             | 9  |
| Structures and Resources & Your Voice Card | 10 |
| General Information                        | 11 |
| 2026 Tuition and Fee Schedule              | 12 |
| Tuition Policy                             | 15 |
| Injuries and Illnesses                     | 18 |
| Policies                                   | 19 |
| Whistleblower Policy & Platforms           | 20 |
| Investigations                             | 21 |
| Limitations                                | 22 |
| Packing List for Spring Training and Tour  | 23 |
| FAQ'S                                      | 27 |

## EXPECTATIONS FOR MEMBERS

Welcome to the Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps! You are now part of one of America's oldest and most respected drum & bugle corps and a founding member and creator of Drum Corps International!

We are honored that you chose the Troopers and will endeavor to offer you the best educational experience, the best drum corps experience, and the top health, safety, and well-being experience. You are important and valued. Why? Because what you offer is unique. You bring your strengths, your life experiences, and your talents. Now, you will be expected to bring these attributes to the corps, and become enveloped into something much bigger.

The Trooper organization and its members value a mutually reciprocal relationship. Knowing what is expected of you is helpful in life, as well as in drum corps. Knowing what the Troopers value is equally as important.

As a Member, you have a responsibility not only to the Troopers, but your fellow Members, and, most importantly, yourself. Some of these responsibilities are in this manual, and others are less tangible, but still within your control. These include a positive attitude, engaging with your fellow Members in a positive and supportive way, participating in self-care opportunities when they are offered, ensuring you are eating and hydrating appropriately, going to sleep at "lights out", and taking care of your mental and physical health.

***DRUM CORPS IS INHERENTLY HARD.*** It just is. You will have good days and bad days....easy days and trying days. There will be hot days, bus breakdowns, days you question your abilities, and days you discover strength you never knew you had. And through it all, you will be expected to bring your best, no matter what. That's tough, but we chose you because we know you have what it takes to be a part of the modern drum corps experience.

**As a Trooper, you will be expected to uphold, live by, abide, and demonstrate:**

- The Troopers "The Saber Standards"
- The Troopers "Traditions of Excellence"
- The Troopers motto, "Honor, Loyalty, and Dedication"
- The Troopers "Code of Conduct"
- The Troopers Policies
- The Troopers Pathways of Resolution

The ***Sabers Standard*** is a creed that you will be expected to live by and bring to the Troopers. The ***Traditions of Excellence*** are a list of values that all those who came before you built and you will maintain as well as receive. The corps ***Motto*** means something different to every member. The ***Code of Conduct*** is how you will be expected to act, the ***Policies*** you will observe, and the ***Pathways of Resolution*** will guide you.

### **THE SABERS STANDARD**

To uphold the Troopers' motto, "Honor, Loyalty, and Dedication".

To win and lose with grace and dignity.

To know my best qualities can lie in a purpose greater than my own.

To exemplify the high standards of the Troopers.

To represent the corps with integrity and decorum.

## TRADITIONS OF EXCELLENCE

### INNER STRENGTH

Troopers learn that self-discipline and self-motivation are areas of personal growth that are invaluable traits. Having these two qualities allows for a lifetime of personal achievements and provides a resoluteness of will needed as a member, and more importantly, in life.

### PERSEVERANCE

Troopers learn that hard work builds achievements that instill perseverance. Perseverance and persistence, as an individual as well as a group, build strengths that give members confidence in their capabilities. Striving to surpass yourself is a way of life in the Troopers.

### PRIDE

Troopers promote the innate personal standards necessary to live within the fold of the corps as well as on the field. The expectation of precision leads to personal standards unique to each member. Pride as a member of the Troopers results in meaningful and healthy self-pride.

### IDEALS

Troopers not only represent ideals, but they also strive to live their ideals. There are numerous principles the corps endeavors to encapsulate. The corps motto, "Honor, Loyalty, and Dedication" along with dignity and respect, are the foremost ideals.

### DECORUM AND GRACE

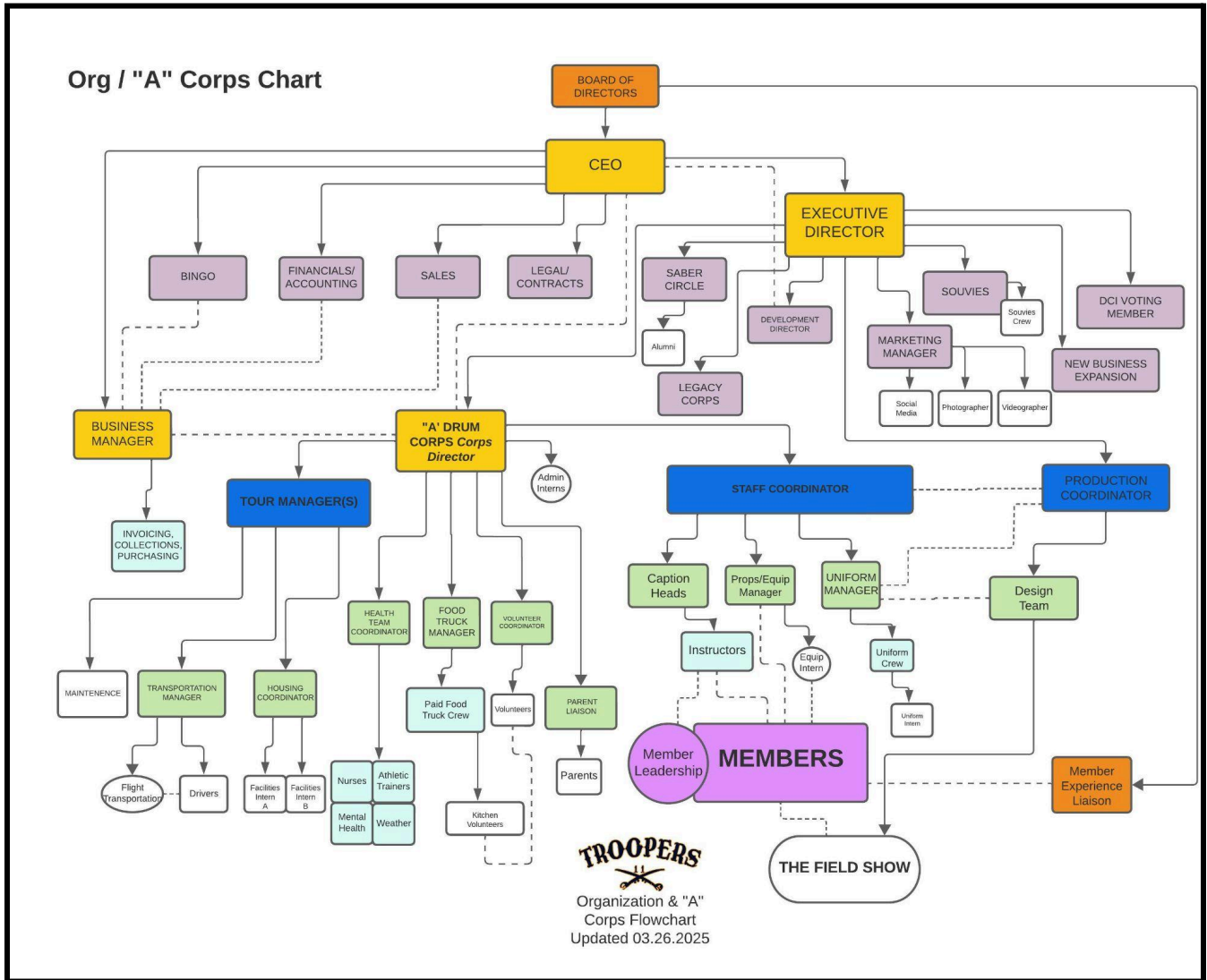
Understanding authority when learning how to take criticism, as well as give meaningful criticism, is a gift in life. By truly understanding the role of leadership, whether as a teacher or as a student, members can understand decorum. The grasp of this insight is beyond measure.

### ACCEPTANCE

Inclusion promotes understanding which leads to acceptance. The Troopers have practiced this premise from the beginning. Learning and depending on one another for a common purpose gives the life-breath necessary to accomplish goals.

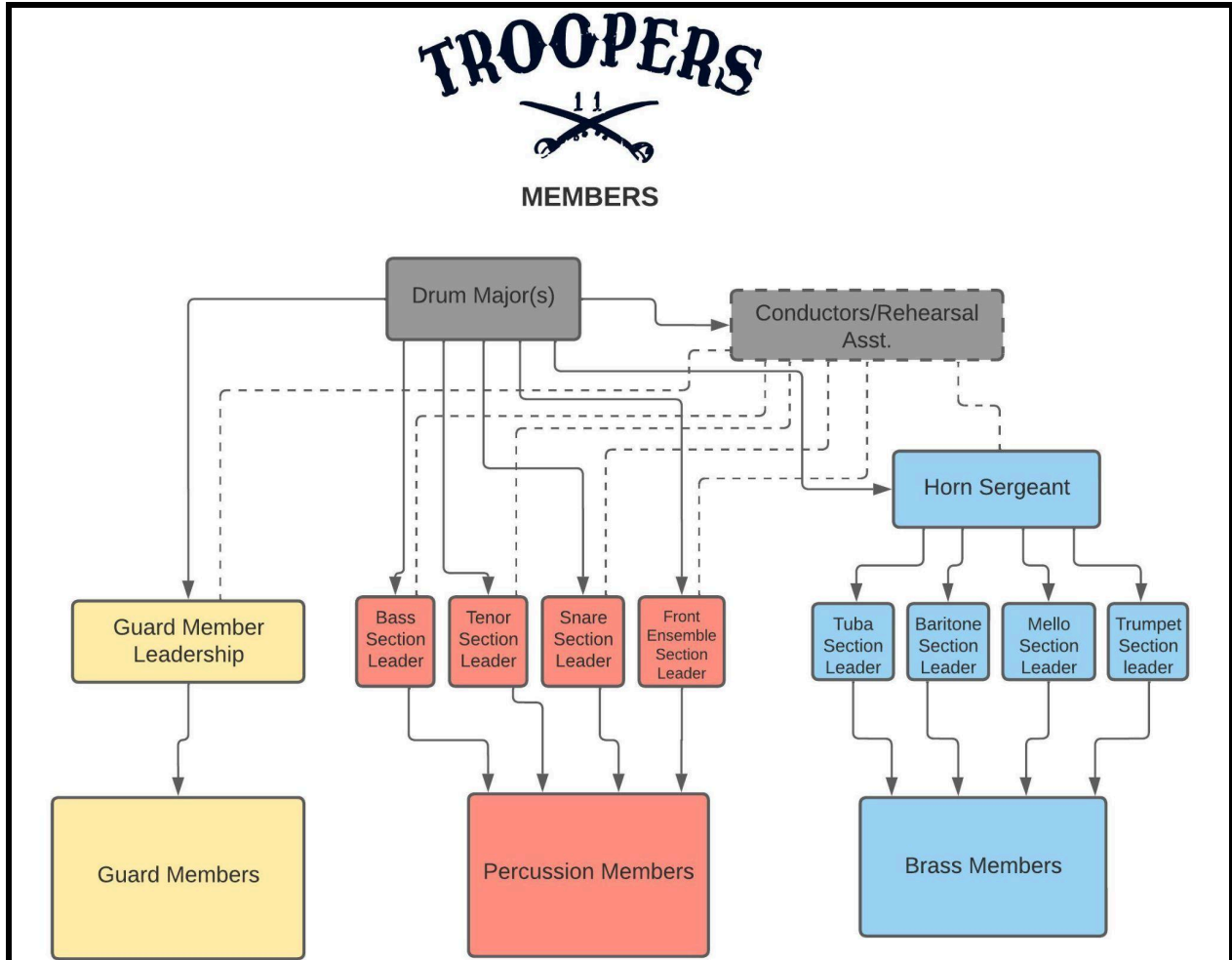
## **TROOPERS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Members are to conduct themselves in a professional and respectable manner at all times. Appropriate and mature language, demeanor and interactions are expected.
2. Treating others with dignity and respect is the responsibility of each individual.
3. Punctuality is expected.
4. If you are in need of assistance, help, or advice, it is your responsibility to seek the confidential council of your Member Experience Liaison, Staff, Administrator or Volunteer.
5. If you have concerns about any action, behavior, or situation that you witness, have experienced or have knowledge about, it is your responsibility to speak to the Member Experience Liaison, Staff, Administrator, or Volunteer.
6. Members shall conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times, in uniform or not, at rehearsals, outside of rehearsals, and contests, guided by the Sabers Standard, Traditions of Excellence and Code of Conduct.
7. Members are to treat all locker rooms, rest rooms, housing sites, buses, and all other property with respect. Members must leave all facilities and grounds cleaner than when the corps arrived.
8. Any misuse of Corps' equipment or any public or private property is not allowed. Any Member or prospective Member stealing, defacing, or destroying property will face consequences, up to and including immediate termination from the Corps. Such action may also subject the individuals involved to legal action by law enforcement authorities.
9. Corps' Members are to sleep in designated areas at all housing sites, and shall be in their sleeping bags at "lights out."
10. Insubordination or disrespect toward management, staff, member leaders, or any volunteer is not allowed.



**ORGANIZATIONAL FLOWCHART**

Members should refer to this Flowchart to understand the entire picture of the Troopers organization.



### MEMBERSHIP PATHWAYS OF RESOLUTION

Members should pursue these Methods of Resolution for:

- Help with any kind of basic information such as scheduling, and clarifications.
- Help with understanding the ins and outs of drum corps.
- Help with understanding the Pathways of Resolution.

## **A BIT OF TROOPER HISTORY**

The Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps is an activity composed of youth ages 16-21. Members audition from all over the world to take part in the Troopers known as “America’s Corps”. Founded in 1957 by Casper contractor Jim Jones, they are the only drum and bugle corps in the state of Wyoming. The Corps has been serving the youth of America for over 65 years and during that time have held eleven national championship titles and is currently ranked as one of DCI’s Top 10 world class competing units. Aside from competition, the Troopers have been a popular attraction at events, including the Denver Broncos, Philadelphia Phillies, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and are the first drum corps to participate in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. In 2021, the Troopers became the first world class drum corps to perform at Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley. They represented the state of Wyoming at the 1993 and 2001 Presidential Inaugural Parades, and have performed in concert before World’s Fair attendees, NATO Defense College delegates and Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Reagan, Clinton, and George W. Bush.

Members that are accepted into the Troopers get the opportunity of a lifetime to compete all over the United States during a summer tour that lasts nearly two and a half months. Competitions take place in venues of all sizes, from high school stadiums to NFL stadiums with an estimated 400,000 plus fans in attendance throughout the annual tour.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide a youth activity with a positive educational experience that promotes the growth and development of specific life skills consistent with the Trooper Tradition of Excellence



## Troopers Original Corps Song

Sung to the tune "How the West Was Won" by Alfred Newman

Lyrics by Fred Sanford & Dave Shaw written in the mid 1960's

[CLICK TO SEE VIDEO OF THE SONG](#)

Promised land, where dreams are big and hearts are bold,  
Land of the Troopers, we're second best to none.  
Bound for fame, across the land our legend rolls,  
Hell bent for victory, that's How The West Was Won.

And we dreamed of the day when we would hear our name,  
As they called out the FINEST in the land.  
Where the dreams of the Troopers would lead us to fame,  
Spreading seeds for the future that would grow,  
And grow, and grow, and grow!

Stride by stride, we march across this noble land,  
Ever determined, our name will never die.  
Side by side, we stand together hand in hand,  
We're the Troopers, we're How The West Was Won.

We're the NATIONAL CHAMPION! It's our proudest boast,  
It's an honor we worked for and we won.  
Just to be a Trooper, is what means the most,  
Should we rise or fall we'll still be proud,  
We're proud, we're proud, we're proud!

Troopers rise, and stand up for the corps you love,  
Casper Troopers, we're from the Promised Land.  
Set your sights on something that is far above.  
We give meaning to HOW THE WEST WAS WON!

DigeeDigeeDum! DigeeDum!

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### History of the Corps Song

One night in the summer of 1967, aboard Troopers "Yellow" bus, as the corps traveled through the heart of Nebraska's cornfields, Fred Sanford and Dave Shaw collaborated to craft the Troopers Corps Song. Fred's musical genius and Dave's linguistic gift converged in the lyrics, resonating with the melody of "How the West Was Won" by Alfred Newman. Later, Gene Monterastelli transcribed the lyrics to a computer, and Melanie True distributed copies to rookies. This historic song has been passed down through the generations ever since. Both through our glory days, and our hardest moments, the lyrics "should we rise or fall we'll still be proud" has touched every Trooper since.

## **TROOPERS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS MEMBER MANUAL**

You are the latest in a long line of individuals who have over decades built an unmatched reputation for discipline and honor. While these rules establish minimum standards of conduct, as a Member of the Troopers, you are expected to conduct yourself with the highest standards of personal dignity and respect towards others at all times.

The policies and rules outlined in this manual will provide helpful guidance for staff and members in order that fair and equitable treatment is assured in the event of disciplinary issues or conflicts. While it is not possible to outline every specific scenario that could arise, there are many resources available that can provide appropriate guidance toward resolution.

## **STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES**

The Troopers organization is committed to providing the best possible conditions for its Members. Part of this commitment is encouraging an open and comfortable environment in which any problem, complaint, suggestion, or question receives a timely response from Staff and/or Management. We encourage all Members to initially attempt to resolve interpersonal conflicts with each other or with Staff on their own with dignity and respect. However, we understand that this may not always be possible. If a situation occurs when you believe that a condition you are experiencing or a decision affecting you is unjust or inequitable, we encourage you to discuss it with your Member Experience Liaison. Your interaction with the Member Experience Liaison is confidential, and they will guide you through every avenue and resource available. However, it is important to know that from time to time, information gathered and statements taken may be shared with others on a need-to-know basis only. Appropriate action will be taken where warranted. You will not be penalized, formally or informally, for voicing a concern.

### **Your Voice Card**

As a Member of the Troopers, it is important that you have a voice and that your voice is heard. To that end, you will receive a card that will fit in your wallet that details how to make suggestions, voice concerns, or file formal complaints. It also lists important contact information. Please keep this with you and use it as appropriate.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*The General Information and Policies stated in this Handbook are subject to applicable COVID-19 restrictions that may be in place. Due to the ever-changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions are likely to be dynamic and change quickly. We will endeavor to provide you with as much advance notice of changes to the rules, expectations, and policies as possible, and will do so in writing as soon as possible. We ask that you remain flexible and patient.*

### **Membership Criteria**

Each year there are 165 marching positions available. Members join the Troopers organization with a wide range of talents and abilities. Some Members, who attend the camps regularly and practice diligently throughout the winter, join without any prior experience.

Auditions for the Corps take place over several off-season, winter camps, or through virtual events and video auditions. At each event or camp, you will be auditioned by an instructor and given feedback. Attendance allows for the fairest evaluation of your progress and therefore can directly affect a contract offer. Member contracts are offered continuously until all positions are filled.

### **Personal Data**

The Troopers are required to keep current information regarding names and contact information for all Members. You are responsible for notifying the Troopers of any changes in your personal data. Personal mailing addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contacts, and other such status reports should be accurate and current at all times.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is an extremely important part of becoming a Member of the Corps. We expect everyone to attend all camps and virtual functions. However, bad weather or school conflicts sometimes prevent perfect attendance. It is vital that you communicate these conflicts with your caption head with as much advance notice as possible to ensure your absence is excused.

### **Contracts**

In order to be considered for a contract, you must:

1. Be recommended by Troopers' instructors for a position in the Corps;
2. Attend camps and online activities;
3. Pay all necessary fees;
4. Complete and turn in all necessary forms;
5. Verify your birth date;

6. Submit a signed commitment to pay all tuition and fees (tuition and fees do not have to be paid in full at the time a contract is offered);
7. You may not have any outstanding debt owed from a previous season or with another corps.

Termination of a contract also results in complete forfeiture of all money paid to the Corps. Members are responsible for their own transportation arrangements home, unless otherwise noted.

### **Camps**

Please consult the website for all information on camps.

### **Membership Fees/Tuition**

#### **2026 TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE**

Once a member has been offered a contract to participate in the season, the member must submit these forms within 15 calendar days along with a \$500 non-refundable Participation Deposit.

Any member that has completed a full season with the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps, prior to the 2026 season, will be rewarded with a \$150 discount, per completed season.

Marched 2025, Contracted for 2026 - \$150 Discount

Marched 2024, 2025 and Contracted for 2026 - \$300 Discount

Marched 2023, 2024, 2025 and Contracted for 2026 - \$450 Discount

Marched 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and Contracted for 2026 - \$600 Discount

These discounts will be applied to the CampDoc profile once the contracted member has completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 of their contract.

#### **MEMBERSHIP CONTRACTED BEFORE JANUARY 1ST**

Within 15 days of receiving the contract offer - \$500 Non-refundable participation deposit due when registering for CampDoc (Phase 2 of the Contract).

Monday, January 5th - \$910 Tuition Installment

Monday, February 2nd - \$908 Tuition Installment

Monday, March 2nd - \$908 Tuition Installment

Monday, April 6th - \$908 Tuition Installment

Monday, May 4th - \$908 Tuition Installment

Friday, May 22nd - \$908 Tuition Installment

TOTAL: \$5,950

#### ALL MEMBERSHIP CONTRACTED IN JANUARY

Within 15 days of receiving the contract offer - \$500 Non-refundable participation deposit due when registering for CampDoc (Phase 2 of the Contract).

Monday, February 2nd - \$1090 Tuition Installment

Monday, March 2nd - \$1090 Tuition Installment

Monday, April 6th - \$1090 Tuition Installment

Monday, May 4th - \$1090 Tuition Installment

Friday, May 22nd - \$1090 Tuition Installment

TOTAL: \$5,950

#### ALL MEMBERSHIP CONTRACTED IN FEBRUARY

Within 15 days of receiving the contract offer - \$500 Non-refundable participation deposit due when registering for CampDoc (Phase 2 of the Contract).

Monday, March 2nd - \$1362.50 Tuition Installment

Monday, April 6th - \$1362.50 Tuition Installment

Monday, May 4th - \$1362.50 Tuition Installment

Friday, May 22nd - \$1362.50 Tuition Installment

TOTAL: \$5,950

#### ALL MEMBERSHIP CONTRACTED IN MARCH

Within 15 days of receiving the contract offer - \$500 Non-refundable participation deposit due when registering for CampDoc (Phase 2 of the Contract).

Monday, April 6th - \$1818 Tuition Installment

Monday, May 4th - \$1816 Tuition Installment

Friday, May 22nd - \$1816 Tuition Installment

TOTAL: \$5,950

#### ALL MEMBERSHIP CONTRACTED IN APRIL

Within 15 days of receiving the contract offer - \$500 Non-refundable participation deposit due when registering for CampDoc (Phase 2 of the Contract).

Friday, May 22nd - \$2975 Tuition Installment

Friday, June 26th - \$2975 Tuition Installment

TOTAL: \$5,950

#### ALL MEMBERSHIP CONTRACTED IN MAY

Within 15 days of receiving the contract offer - \$500 Non-refundable participation deposit due when registering for CampDoc (Phase 2 of the Contract).

Friday, May 22nd - \$2975 Tuition Installment

Friday, June 26th - \$2975 Tuition Installment

TOTAL: \$5,950

**What does tuition cover?** Tuition covers uniforms/costumes, busing, housing, equipment, spring training expenses, instruction, and a portion of the Troopers annual food budget. Tuition only covers about half of the corps annual budget and does not include the winter camps.

**Why is tuition so expensive?** Tuition is more expensive this year due to it being a full season, plus the state of inflation, fuel prices, and external expenses outside of our control. However, we are doing a coast-to-coast tour, traveling over 8,000 miles, performing in over 20 events with some pretty incredible free days being planned in major cities along our tour. All busing, food, housing, and fuel is included in this price. When you break it down, this is actually a pretty good opportunity to see the whole country at half the cost it would take to do on your own. In fact, the total actual expense per person is over \$10,000. We're starting you off with a pretty hefty scholarship. Plus you have some of the greatest instructors in the world, and you'll be performing in some of the most spectacular venues in America. To see where we are traveling, [CLICK HERE](#).

### TUITION POLICY

#### Cancellations of the Member Contract

Your \$500 deposit, due along with your completed Contract, is non-refundable.

Cancellation of your Contract prior to April 1, 2026 will result in the return of all tuition payments made.

Cancellation of your Contract after April 1 but before May 1 will be refunded 50% of the paid tuition. If 50% of the paid tuition is less than the amount due on the tuition schedule, the contracted member and parent or guardian will not be issued any refunds and the remaining balance of the 50% will be due immediately.

Cancellation of your Contract made on or after May 1 and before June 1 will be refunded 25% of the paid tuition. If 25% of the paid tuition is less than the amount due on the tuition schedule, the contracted member and parent or guardian will not be issued any refunds and the remaining balance of the 75% will be due immediately.

Cancellation of your Contract after June 1 will not be eligible for any refund. If the

contracted member and parent or guardian has a balance owed to the Troopers, the remaining balance will be due immediately.

The governing body of our activity, Drum Corps International ("DCI") has established policies to address situations where an individual has committed to one corps, then moves to another. In the event you cancel this Member Contract in order to march with another drum corps, you must be current on your tuition payments based on the tuition schedule in this Contract. Further, you must not have any money owed to any other drum corps. No refunds are available to any members if they leave to march another drum corps. Once all these conditions are met, the member will be released to march with another drum corps.

**What does tuition cover?** Tuition covers uniforms/costumes, busing, housing, equipment, spring training expenses, instruction, and a portion of the Troopers annual food budget. Tuition only covers about half of the corps annual budget and does not include the winter camps.

**Why is tuition so expensive?** Tuition is more expensive this year due to it being a full season, plus the state of inflation, fuel prices, and external expenses outside of our control. However, we are doing a coast-to-coast tour, traveling over 8,000 miles, performing in over 20 events with some pretty incredible free days being planned in major cities along our tour. All busing, food, housing, and fuel is included in this price. When you break it down, this is actually a pretty good opportunity to see the whole country at half the cost it would take to do on your own. In fact, the total actual expense per person is over \$10,000. We're starting you off with a pretty hefty scholarship. Plus you have some of the greatest instructors in the world, and you'll be performing in some of the most spectacular venues in America. To see where we are traveling, [CLICK HERE](#).

#### **What do the fees include?**

- Summer instruction
- Housing
- Uniforms
- Equipment
- Transportation while on tour
- Food
- Various Corps insurance policies

#### **Tuition for the this season does not include:**

- Laundry money
- Snacks and drinks outside of the Food Truck

- Spending money on souvenirs, etc...
- Spending money during laundry days meals
- Spending money on your days off.
- Transportation to move-in.
- Transportation home after the season is over.

**Your payment schedule may look different if you sign at a later date.**

### **Tuition Refund Policy:**

Please review your contract for details.

### **Sponsorships**

The Troopers support a sponsorship program to help Members raise money for tuition. The Corps will provide sponsorship forms to Members who can use them to solicit donations from friends, family, local businesses, and civic groups. These donations are not tax-deductible. Sponsorships can be made at [TroopersDrumCorps.org/membersponsor](http://TroopersDrumCorps.org/membersponsor)

### **Spring Training and Summer Attendance**

Attendance during Spring Training and beyond is expected every day unless you are under the care of the Health Team, in which case you will be following the treatment necessary to get you back to health and back to rehearsals. Punctuality and readiness is expected.

Please see our Absence & Tardiness Policy for details.

### **Volunteers:**

The Corps depends on volunteers to help with many of our programs, and they are vital to our success and your well-being. Volunteers can be neighbors, friends over the age of 21, and parents who are committing their time to you. They help at camps as well as on tour. The commitment they are making toward the daily operations of the corps is vital. Get to know them! Ask how their day is going. Take a moment to lend a helping hand if you have the time. We're all in this together!

### **Injuries and Illnesses:**

Should you have any health issues, your place to go to is your Health Team at the Troopers.

Here, you will be diagnosed, treated appropriately, and given a path to healing and recovery.

### **Medications**

Beginning with Spring Training, all Members will discuss their medications with the Health Team to determine who and how administration of your medications will occur.

### **Medical Treatment Release**

Anytime a Member's participation is restricted by a medical professional, it is necessary for them to also have a full written release before resuming activity. A medical note shall be given directly to the Health Team who will retain a copy for documentation. The Medical Team will interpret the document and communicate with relevant Staff the participation status of the student.

## POLICIES

These policies are in place from your arrival at each camp through your departure from each camp. These policies then apply continuously beginning the first day of Spring Training through the completion of your season with the Troopers at Championships in Indianapolis. The completion of your season is defined as “once you have left the property of the final housing location, and/or once you have stepped foot off of the shuttle bus to the airport. These policies are also in effect when wearing a member corps jacket at any time.”

All corps policies can be found at [www.troopersdrumcorps.org/membersafety](http://www.troopersdrumcorps.org/membersafety) and must be read prior to signing your contract.

Corps Policies include:

- Cross Sabers
- Tobacco, Vaping, Alcohol and Drugs
- Absence & Tardiness
- Use of Communication Devices
- Concussion Protocol
- Sexual Harassment
- Personnel and Member Relations
- Member Relationships
- Hazing
- Bullying
- Contraband
- Harassment
- Violence
- Duty to Report Violations
- Cooperation with Investigation
- Retaliation
- Costs and Indemnity of Civil Actions
- Disciplinary Decisions
- Reporting Crimes Against a Minor to Law Enforcement
- Non Discrimination Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Whistleblower Policy

The Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps reserves the right to add and amend policies.

## **Whistleblower Policy & Platforms**

Any Member may raise a concern about compliance with Troopers' policies or applicable law, as well as member health, safety, and welfare at any time. Concerns may be voiced to the Member Experience Liaison, Staff, Corps Director, Executive Director, or CEO through whichever avenue the Member feels the most comfortable with. Members may also make a complaint via whistleblower platforms with:

**DCI Whistleblower Platform:** <https://www.dci.org/static/complaints-and-concerns>

Or

### **Troopers Whistleblower Platform**

1. Call the Direct Access hotline, 866-494-3161 or log onto eniweb.com and
2. Click on "DirectAccess Login"
3. Enter PIN number 4762
4. Provide a detailed report of witnessed activity including date and location in a secure and confidential voicemail.

These whistleblower platforms will be used:

- To provide information, cause information to be provided, or otherwise assist in an investigation regarding any conduct which the reporter reasonably believes constitutes a violation of state or federal law applicable to the Troopers or the Troopers' policies and procedures, when the information or assistance is provided to, or the investigation is conducted by:
  - any state or federal regulatory or law enforcement agency;
  - any lawfully constituted investigative body; or a person with supervisory authority over the individual, or such other person working for the Troopers who has the authority to investigate, discover, or discipline misconduct.
- To file, cause to be filed, testify, participate in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding filed or about to be filed relating to an alleged violation of state or federal law applicable to the Troopers.

Reports of real or potential violations of law or violations of the policies and procedures of the Troopers shall be reported to the CEO, Executive Director, Corps Director, or Member Experience Liaison.

Retaliation against any individual for the good-faith reporting of real or potential compliance and policy violations is cause for immediate and appropriate actions, up to and including summary dismissal from the Troopers. No staff, volunteer, member, contractor, subcontractor, or agent of the Troopers shall discharge, demote, suspend, threaten, harass, or in any other manner

knowingly and intentionally discriminate against any individual in the terms and conditions of their relationship with the Troopers because of any act done by the individual:

### **Investigations**

Corps members, staff, and volunteers are required to report any violations of Troopers policies and procedures, as well as potential violations of the law. If a formal complaint is made either through DCI's whistleblower system, or through DirectAccess, the following process will occur:

#### **If complaint was made through the DCI Whistleblower Platform:**

- The Troopers will receive notice of the complaint. The Troopers will be required to provide a written response and final report to DCI.
- The Troopers have no control over how or when DCI chooses to contact complainants or what information they share.

#### **If complaint was made through the Direct Access Platform:**

- The Member message is transcribed into a text document by the DirectAccess Team.
- The Member's anonymous report is provided to the Corps Director, Executive Director, CEO, Corps Attorney, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- The Troopers will not share the results of any investigation with any other entity than DCI or law enforcement, if necessary.

#### **Next steps:**

- The Troopers will refer the complaint to an outside attorney having no affiliation with the Troopers, who will conduct as thorough an investigation as possible based on the information in the complaint. This attorney will review the allegations, interview the complainant (if they choose to identify themselves), interview those individuals mentioned in the complaint and any witnesses who may come to light as a result of the investigation, and review Troopers policies and procedures and applicable laws.
- The attorney will then generate a report with a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, unsubstantiated, or impossible to determine.
- This report will be provided to the Troopers Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, and the Corps Attorney.
- The Corps Director, in consultation with the Corps Attorney, Executive Director, CEO, and Executive Committee of the Board of Directors will determine what, if any, actions need to be taken, including but not limited to appropriate discipline of Members, Staff or Volunteers, as well as reporting any potential crimes to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Troopers will cooperate with any law enforcement agency that conducts an official law enforcement investigation based on such a report. If the complaint concerns the Corps Director, Executive Director, or the CEO, the Board Chairperson, in

consultation with the Corps Attorney and the Executive Committee, will follow this same process.

- A copy of any report will be forwarded to DCI.
- Once the report has been reviewed by the Troopers Board and/or DCI, the complainant will be contacted (if the complainant has chosen to identify themselves) and given the report's conclusion. To the extent allowed by applicable law, other parts of the report may be revealed to the complainant as appropriate.

All complaints are treated as confidential, and all those interviewed are instructed not to discuss the allegations with anyone who does not "need to know" (i.e. their own legal counsel, a spouse, a parent) or a law enforcement agency when appropriate or required.

### **Limitations**

It is important to understand the limits of what the Troopers can and cannot do in an investigation.

- Troopers can only require current members, employees, staff, and volunteers to participate in an investigation.
- While the Troopers can make their own internal decisions regarding discipline, it cannot control or make any decisions for DCI, any other corps, or any outside agency.
- Thorough investigations take time, and often solutions cannot be implemented immediately.
- If an emergency situation exists, or if someone's health, safety, and welfare is at risk, the Corps Director is empowered to make on the spot decisions. However, other solutions may take additional time to implement.
- The Troopers respect your right to make a complaint in whatever manner you are most comfortable with, anonymously, through Direct Access, through the DCI Whistleblower platform, or with your Member Experience Liaison. However, if you want to learn the outcome of an investigation or want someone to speak with you directly, the Troopers will not be able to provide that closure without knowing who made the complaint.

## PACKING LIST FOR SPRING TRAINING AND TOUR

### **Bold Indicates Required Items**

*Italics Indicate Recommended Items*

\*\*\* Indicates Color Guard NOT Applicable

(Max 15 day Laundry Schedule)

### **BAGS ALLOWED:**

- 1 Large Checked Bag (No Hard Cases)
  - 1 Rehearsal Bag / Backpack
  - 1 Small Duffel / Carry On (If not needed do not bring)
- (Must Fit In Airplane Overhead Compartment)

### SLEEPING MATERIALS:

- Sleeping Bag / Pad / Air Mattress ( **Twin Size \*ONLY\*** ) - NO COTS PERMITTED • Pillow
- *Blanket*
- *Power Strip and/or Extension Cord*
- *Cell Phone/Portable Charger (Plus Any Other Necessary Charger)*
- *Any Sleeping Accessories (Eye Masks, Earplugs, ETC.)*

### CLOTHING:

- White T-Shirts (7-15)
- Other Shirts (1-3)
- Black Shorts (7-15)
- Section Shorts (2-4) (*Brass Details Below*)\*\*\*
- Underwear (15+)
- 2 Pairs of Athletic Shoes
- Shower Shoes (*Flip Flops, Crocs, Sandals, ETC.*)
- Socks (15+)
- Hats (1-2) (*Required If Outside*)
- 4-6 Long Black Socks (*Show Socks*)\*\*\*
- 2-6 [Nude Dance Belt Thong](#) (*for men, this is again stated specifically for color guard, but is needed for all male performers*)
- 1-2 Casual Free Day Outfits
- *Jacket / Sweatshirt*
- *Sweatpants / Joggers (1-2) (Might Get Another Cold Front)*

**\*\*There are 7 shows between laundry days once tour starts. Laundry days will be, at most, 14 days apart.\*\***

**SECTION SHORTS COLORS:** *(Previously purchased section shorts are okay to wear, but new pairs should be purchased through the corps store)*

Trumpets - **RED**

Mellophones - **GREEN**

Baritones - **BLUE**

Tubas - **PURPLE**

Color guard - Black shorts for ensemble

Percussion - (See Section Leaders, Black Otherwise)

**To Order, Click the link to the [Troopers Member Store](#), Deadline is April 15th 2026** *(For members contracted after may camp or members who need to order additional items, the Troopers Member Store will re-open and items will be delivered before Troop-Con)*

#### **TOILETRIES:**

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Body Wash / Shampoo / Conditioner *(3-in-1)*
- BATH TOWEL!! *(Microfiber!)*
- **DEODORANT!!!**
- Loofah / Washcloth
- Laundry Bag, Detergent, Sheets, & Quarters/cash (\$25-\$30)
- *Shaving Supplies*
- *90 Days Of Contacts (including solution) / Glasses*
- *Prescription Medications (Make reflected in CampDOC)*
- *Comb / Brush*
- *MISC Items (Skin Care/Hair Products, Anti-Chafe Products, ETC.)*
- *Nail Clippers*

#### **REHEARSAL BAG MATERIALS / CHECKLIST:**

*Rehearsal Bag = Backpack, DO NOT BRING 2 BACKPACKS!!*

- REHEARSAL BAG *(Durable / Water Resistant Recommended)*
- Water Jug (1 [Ocean Blue](#) Gallon Required)
- Pencils
- Black Binder WITH ALL Music (Write your name on the front)\*\*\*
- Sunscreen (Option Of Purchasing Ultralight SPF 50 Clothing To Cover Extremities)/ Bug spray
- SPF Chapstick
- Sunglasses *(Polarized, a nice pair goes a long way)*
- Rain Jacket / Poncho
- Knee Pads
- *Fanny Pack*

- *Joint Braces*

#### HORNLINE SPECIFIC ITEMS (Brass Manual Requirements):

- [Black Mechanix Gloves](#) (Recommended 1-2 Pairs Minimum) (*High Brass: Any Black Glove that fits the horn and doesn't have Sticky Stuff*)
- Black Towel (Bath Size = Tuba & Euph. Hand Size = Trumpets & Mellos) • Blue Competitor Troopers Tee (Corps Provides 1 pair, Additional Can Be Ordered Through The Corps) • TE TUNER on your phone
- Valve Oil / Horn Maintenance Items (MOUTHPIECES!!)
- Breathing Tube (1/2 Inch PVC Coupler)
- [Silver Polish](#)
- Microfiber Cloth (Horn Polishing)
- *SPF Chapstick & Vitamin E (For Chop Maintenance)*
- *Bandana / Gator* (Keeps chops covered / Discern your horn from other members)
- *Ear Protection*

#### PERCUSSION SPECIFIC ITEMS:

- Stick Tape
- Drum Pad
- Multiple Pairs of Ear Protection
- Trash Bags for Drums (Rain)
- \*\*See Leadership For More Details

#### GUARD SPECIFIC ITEMS:

- Guard Gloves
- *Fanny Pack*
- Electric Tape (black and white)(Scotch Brand)
- Knee Pads
- Black short/Black rehearsal bottoms (To be worn during ensemble)
- Troopers Green Warm Up Tank Top (Corps Provides 1 pair, Additional Can Be Ordered Through The Corps)
- Troopers Warm Up Compression Short (Corps Provides 1 pair, Additional Can Be Ordered Through The Corps)
- Yellow Sports Pinnie/Jersey (Corps Provides 1 pair, Additional Can Be Ordered Through The Corps) • [Nude Colored Body Tight with Clear Straps](#) (Link as example)
- Well Supportive Clear Strap Bra (*for women*)
- [Nude Dance Belt Thong](#) (*for men*)

- \*\*See Guard Captains For More Details

#### FEMININE SPECIFIC ITEMS:

- Sports Bras (7-14)
- *Hair Ties / Clips / Bobby pins*
- *Toiletries accessories (Hair Dryer, Makeup, Mirror, ETC.)*
- *Menstrual Products (Tampons, Pads, Diva Cup, ETC.)*

#### MEDICATIONS

- 90 Day Supply Of Prescription Medication (Or A Way To Receive A Re-supply During Spring Training/Tour For Quantity Controlled Substances)
- 14 Day Supply Of Cold Medication (i.e. 14 Doses Each of NyQuil® and/or DayQuil®) •
- 30 Day Supply Of Anti-Allergy Medications (i.e. Claritin® or Zyrtec®)
- Any Other Over The Counter Medication That You Might Need
- *For Those With Frequent Ankle Soreness/Sprains, Consider: [Ankle Compression](#) or [Ankle Brace](#)*

\*\* This is for all members, for under-age members (17 -) the medical staff will hold and distribute the medications \*\*

#### SHOW HAIR SPECIFICS:

Hair style and cut does not matter, the only restriction to how the hair lies on your head is any color that is not a natural color.

Extra tips and items!

- [Military Roll Shirts](#)
- Put items INSIDE your water jug when flying
- Portable Charger (Large Capacity)
- Rollers/Tennis Balls/Drum Sticks
- Smaller Blanket / Smaller Pillow (Bus Sleep)
- Sheet for bus seats (added Comfort / Cleanability)
- Bungee Cords (Drying towel / Bus Organization)
- Fabric Freshener (Laundry Smell)
- Gold Bond Spray (Anti Chafe)
- Compression Shirts (*Can Be Ordered Though The Corps, No complimentary pairs this year*)\*\*\*

\*\* If you want, you can bring your Bus Box (Box to store snacks under your bus seat) to spring training. However, we recommend you purchase one during a Walmart stop as to save space when traveling \*\*

## FAQ'S

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are the core values of the Troopers? Members are expected to live by the corps motto, "Honor, Loyalty, and Dedication." Additionally, members must uphold the "Saber Standards"—which include winning and losing with dignity—and the "Traditions of Excellence," which emphasize self-discipline and perseverance.
2. How many marching positions are available? Each year, there are 165 marching positions available. Contracts are offered continuously until all positions are filled.
3. What is the total tuition for the 2026 season? The total tuition for the 2026 season is \$5,950. This includes a \$500 non-refundable participation deposit due within 15 days of receiving a contract offer.
4. What does my tuition cover? Tuition covers uniforms/costumes, busing, housing, equipment, spring training expenses, instruction, and a portion of the annual food budget. It does not cover laundry money, snacks outside the food truck, or transportation to move-in and back home after the season.
5. Are there discounts for returning members? Yes. Members who completed a full season prior to 2026 receive a \$150 discount per completed season. For example, a member who marched the 2023, 2024, and 2025 seasons would receive a \$450 discount.
6. What is the refund policy if I cancel my contract? The \$500 deposit is non-refundable. Beyond that, the schedule is as follows:
  - Before April 1: 100% of tuition payments are returned.
  - April 1 – May 1: 50% of paid tuition is refunded.
  - May 1 – June 1: 25% of paid tuition is refunded.
  - After June 1: No refunds are available.
7. Who should I contact if I have a personal concern or conflict? You are encouraged to seek the confidential counsel of your Member Experience Liaison. You may also use your "Voice Card," which provides details on how to make suggestions or file formal complaints.
8. How can I report a policy violation anonymously? You can use the Direct Access hotline at 866-494-3161 (using PIN 4762) or the DCI Whistleblower Platform. The Troopers

have a strict policy against retaliation for good-faith reporting.

9. What is the protocol for illness or injury? All health issues should be reported to the Health Team, where you will be diagnosed and treated. If your participation is restricted by a medical professional, you must provide a full written medical release before resuming activity.
  
10. What are the most essential items to pack for the summer? Key items include a 1-gallon blue Coleman water jug, an air mattress (cots are not permitted), sunscreen (SPF 30 minimum, no spray), and 14-16 pairs of short, thick white socks. Members should also bring detergent pods for five laundry days.