

USF Winterguard



HOT
HERD OF THUNDER
ATHLETIC BANDS

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FACULTY & STAFF

**Associate Director of Bands:
Director of Athletic Bands:**
Dr. Matthew McCutchen

**Assistant Director of Bands:
Rumble Pep Band Director:**
Mr. Bryan T. Braue

**Color Guard Director:
Winterguard Director:**
Ms. Elizabeth Bannon

STAFF CONTACTS (Office Hours by Appointment)

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VISION

The University of South Florida Winterguard exists to foster positive experiences for all who participate, by promoting education, creativity, and freedom of expression through pageantry and the performing arts. We, the members of the University of South Florida Winterguard, perform as a visual unit that strives for excellence, education, and entertainment for our audience and members of the team. We promote growth, a sense of family, and responsibility within the organization.

MISSION STATEMENT

We want our athletes to learn to compete because we want them to compete for the best jobs. We want them to learn how to create and maintain a great team culture because we want them to build strong family cultures as professionals and parents. We want them to learn to both lead and follow because our country needs them to be the next generation of leaders, and listeners. We want them to learn to commit and sacrifice because we want them to become great professionals and parents. We want them to learn to be accountable, selfless, disciplined, mentally tough athletes so as professionals and parents they will know how to raise young people who are the same way. We want them to demonstrate integrity, because young people in their lives will learn about integrity by watching them.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the USF Winterguard is open to college degree-seeking students who are enrolled in courses at any of the University of South Florida's branch campuses, the University of Tampa, or any of the area community, two, or four year colleges. All members must register for MUN1100 (CRN# 11040) for one credit hour in the spring semester. Please note that members are not allowed to take Winterguard as one's only class in any given semester. Non-Degree Seeking students (those not full-time USF students) will register the same way they did for the HOT Marching Band. For questions regarding NDS registration, please read through the following link: <http://herdofthunder.usf.edu/nds/>

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FEES

All members of the USF Winterguard are required to pay season dues to the Band Fraternity *Tau Beta Sigma* which cover the costs of show design, staff, uniforms, travel accommodations, equipment, and numerous other details that allow us to operate sufficiently. Membership dues vary based upon the number of members making the team, therefore, the final amount for 2017/18 will be \$1,600 per member. In addition to these season dues, members will also be required to pay the course tuition to USF (either as a degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking student) which is approximately \$325. Course registration fees are processed in early January and season dues to *Tau Beta Sigma* will be collected through monthly payment plans.

** USF Students are not required to pay the season dues above in order to be enrolled in the University Winterguard class. However, they are required to pay these dues in order to perform and/or travel with the program. Students who elect not to pay the season dues are permitted to attend/view rehearsals, but will not be allowed to travel or perform with the team.*

Due Date:	Amount Due:	Payment Type:
October 8, 2017	\$150 - Payable to Tau Beta Sigma	Money Order
October 29, 2017	\$300 - Payable to Tau Beta Sigma	Money Order
November 26, 2017	\$300 - Payable to Tau Beta Sigma	Money Order
December 17, 2017	\$300 - Payable to Tau Beta Sigma	Money Order
January 12, 2018	USF Tuition - Payable through OASIS	Online Only
February 11, 2018	\$300 - Payable to Tau Beta Sigma	Money Order
March 11, 2018	\$250 - Payable to Tau Beta Sigma	Money Order

If dues are not turned in on dates outlined above, the member will be placed on probation. There will be a total of a thirty-day grace period. At fifteen days overdue, an alternate will be assigned your spot to learn your drill and choreography. If the entire amount owed is not paid within the total thirty-days from the original due date, the member will become ineligible to march, and will be removed from the team, and the alternate will be assigned the position.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the course of the Winterguard season, members will be provided opportunities to participate in fundraising activities. These activities are not required, however, in some cases, members are able to fundraise enough monies to offset a significant amount of their membership fees. Past examples of fundraisers include; Chick-Fil-A Calendars, Chocolate, T-shirt / Hoodie Sales, and Yankee Candles. Details regarding fundraising will be given out in our October rehearsals.

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Students must check Canvas regularly.
- Attendance and Grade updates will be managed through Canvas.
- Students are expected to check their Email and Facebook daily for announcements.
- "Remind" text messaging will be utilized.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

The University Athletics Band Program will supply Winterguard members with equipment free of charge. Members are responsible for the general maintenance and all repairs for equipment that is checked out to them. Equipment should never be lent out, left out, or unattended for any reason. It should be cleaned and handled with care and per given instructions. All tears in flags must be sewn before the next rehearsal day. **Members who lose (including theft), damage, or destroy any USF equipment will be held financially responsible for its repair or replacement. A hold will be placed on the student's records and account until restitution is made to USF.** Members will be issued a equipment contract to check out equipment, and check in at the end of the season.

Members will be sized for performance uniforms during the month of October. Members are responsible for keeping his/her uniform in top performance condition. Uniform cleaning is the sole responsibility of each member. Uniforms CANNOT be replaced quickly, and if a uniform is lost, damaged, or stolen, the member will be solely responsible for the replacement costs and additional express shipping fees.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Absences: Students are permitted one (1) rehearsal absence to be used at their discretion during the season. Each absence thereafter will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter. After each rehearsal, students who are marked absent or tardy will receive an email stating so. If this information is not accurate, the student is required to respond to the email within 24 hours (with a valid explanation) in order to have it corrected.

In general, absences are not “excused” or “unexcused”. An absence is an absence. Students may appeal to Mr. Braue for possible excusal or grade adjustment. He will review only absences due to EXTREME and UNAVOIDABLE circumstances. Any attempt to excuse an absence must be within ONE WEEK of returning to rehearsal.

Tardies: Members who arrive at rehearsal after the assigned call-time by the Director will be marked tardy. If a member arrives to rehearsal more than fifteen minutes after the assigned call-time, the tardy becomes an absence unless there are extreme mitigating circumstances. The tardy policy is: One tardy to rehearsal = No penalty. Every subsequent tardy = ½ an absence.

Any member who reaches their sixth tardy may be dismissed from the program.

Performances are **MANDATORY**. A missed performance of any kind will lower the student's grade by one letter. Exceptions are made for unavoidable situations that have been brought to the Winterguard Director's attention by October 15, 2017.

Emergencies must be documented by the hospital, doctor, or police to receive consideration for excusal. An email must be sent to the Director within five business days explaining the situation accompanied by this note. It is important to note that while this grading policy affects the members grade for the class, this is also a team sport and attendance/tardies will also affect the team. If a member is absent from rehearsal, he/she will not perform any material that is cleaned or taught during the absence period at the next performance. All members are expected to be present for every rehearsal.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

If and when you ever need to work around an academic calendar with a professor, they will be far more likely to help you if you have good grades, attend all of your classes, and demonstrate that you are a serious student. Beyond an investment into your own future, this is an investment towards your commitment to being on the team. Members may be asked to submit their academic progress throughout the semester. Further direction will come from the director or captains. Make smart decisions that benefit you and do not put your membership at risk.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- The use of alcohol or any illegal substances that impair an individual's ability to represent the USF Winterguard, USF Athletics Band Program, or the University of South Florida in a positive manner will not be tolerated. Violators may be dismissed from the program, and/or reported to USF for additional consequences.
- Smoking and Profanity are not tolerated during any rehearsal or performance.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

- Once rehearsal begins, do not talk while in designated rehearsal areas, unless you are answering a question from or asking a question of instructional staff.
- Captains will be called upon to fulfill numerous responsibilities including: cleaning choreography, suggesting clean counts, leading sectionals, and ensuring that rehearsals run smoothly. These leaders were chosen for a purpose and must be given the same respect as instructional staff to ensure a productive rehearsal.
- Rehearsal is NOT a time to practice. **Please come prepared.** Please leave any other outside issues or personal concerns behind. Be prepared to learn and clean drill/choreography as quickly as possible.
- Setting up for rehearsal will begin 15 minutes before each scheduled rehearsal. All members are expected to be present at that time. Likewise, tearing down, and cleaning up for rehearsal will extend 15 minutes past rehearsal time. All members are expected to stay until dismissed by the Director or Leadership.
- Mobile and other electronic devices should be on silent, in a bag along the wall, and only accessed during breaks.
- Hair must always be completely pulled back.
- Rehearsals facilities are usually rented or donated for our program's use. You are responsible for treating the facility with the utmost care and respect. Keep it clean!
- Members must be dressed in appropriate workout attire, all-black clothing. Clothing should be comfortable and not too baggy. **NO JEANS!!**
- NOTE: If you fall ill or get sick, we encourage you to attend rehearsal and do what you can to learn your spot. At the least, sit in the gym and watch what is going on so you have an idea of what will be expected of you at next rehearsal. If you do not rehearse with the group, you will not perform with the group at the next show without further evaluation by staff.

INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Facebook or any other picture hosting websites:

Members will not post, or allow others to post, images or descriptions of themselves engaging in any of the following on any picture hosting website:

- a) ANY illegal activity
- b) Alcohol consumption or possession
- c) Illegal drug use or possession, or abuse of legal drugs
- d) Inappropriate stages of undress or sexually explicit photos/comments
- e) You must not defame, “trash talk”, stalk, bully, abuse, harass, threaten, impersonate or intimidate people or entities
- f) Any behavior that could reflect a negative image on the USF Athletic Band program.

Announcements & Emails:

Any communication from the Director or Staff to members should be considered private information for the program. These communications should not be forwarded to message boards or the media. If a communication is for public release, it will be sent to the media from the Director.

Media Interviews:

Members will NOT grant interviews with news media (print, television, or internet) without specific permission from the Director. This includes “The Oracle”. When reporting the interview request to the Director, include: Publication, Reporter & Topic.

Show Design:

Members may only share information about our show (in any form) after our premier performance in January. Members must refrain from posting pictures, or sharing information of the show concept or design in any form to anyone outside of contracted members and staff. This includes phone calls, pictures, text messages, emails, or social media sites including but not limited to Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter.

IMPORTANT: All social media will be monitored by Winterguard staff and leadership. These guidelines aim to provide best practice for members who participate in personal technology and social media sites and applications. Integrity is a core value. Our ethical principles do not change even though we express ourselves through several platforms.

PERFORMANCE DAY CONDUCT

- All members must report on time at the location designated by the Director.
- Conduct yourself professionally at all times.
- Always travel with a partner or group.
- All members must attend retreat (even if captain-only retreat) unless excused by the Director.
- In the stands, members will sit together as decided by the Director and Captains.
- Before and after competition days, members will be in uniform as set by the Director and Captains. This will include a combination of: show shirt, USF jacket, blue jeans, or USF sweat pants.
- Simple stud earrings are allowed on competition days. Anything else must be removed.
- Explicit expectations on competition days will be discussed in much more depth in January.
- Treat members of all other guards with respect.
- All members will help load and unload all props, equipment, floor, etc. at every show unless excused by the Director.
- All members must report to loading vehicles after retreat is over unless excused by the Director.
- Uniforms must be worn COMPLETELY and correctly at all times in a performance venue from arrival to departure. Only the Director is authorized to make the decision that the guard will be in half uniform due to the heat.
- If we take a bus/van to a performance or rehearsal site, ALL PERFORMERS MUST RIDE IN THE VEHICLES! No exceptions. We leave together, we return together. Parents, friends, etc., may drop you off and pick you up at the designated area, but you must travel with the team to and from performances and rehearsals EVEN outside the Tampa Bay area.
- When traveling, avoid distracting the vehicle drivers.
- Vehicles must be cleaned at the end of all trips.
- University of South Florida Winterguard and its staff are not responsible for lost or stolen property. It is the member's responsibility to remove all personal belongings when exiting vehicles.

COMPETITIVE PHILOSOPHY

Simply put, we do not invest energy into that which we cannot control. As members you control your preparation for and execution of each performance. What happens once you leave the floor is beyond your control. Winterguard is a competitive activity with objective measures for subjective evaluation. Our goal is excellence, and we cannot achieve it by dismissing or disrespecting the scores or those charged with determining them. However, scores alone cannot be taken as an accurate measure of our team's progress throughout the season. Scores will go up and down, and are not always synonymous with the level of performance. To achieve excellence we must absorb and apply feedback from four levels of evaluation.

- **Self Evaluation:** You know exactly how you perform better than anyone else. You know what is expected of you, what you are capable of, and how well you execute on every level. Be honest with yourself.
- **Peer Evaluation:** Being able to openly give and receive feedback is a rare skill. You know how well your brothers achieve and they know how well you achieve. We will grow faster and progress further by being honest with each other.
- **Staff Evaluation:** Your staff is with you every minute of rehearsal; they know what you and your team look like at your best and worst. They are both your biggest fans and your most honest critics.
- **Adjudicator Evaluation:** Our judges are professionals trained to watch and evaluate our activity. Their job is to compare you with the other guards, but not to compare you with yourself.

2017/18 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

We generally rehearse Friday nights for 4 hours, Saturday for 8 hours, and Sunday for 8 hours. The actual times of rehearsal will vary based on gym availability. Generally we will start rehearsal at 6pm on Fridays, and end rehearsals on Sundays at 6pm.

We generally rehearse in the Tampa Bay area. This includes, but is not limited to: Hillsborough County, Pinellas, County, and Pasco County. Orlando may be a weekend rehearsal site once or twice throughout the season.

Rehearsal Dates:

- October: 8, 15, 22, 29
- November: 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
- December: 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23
- January: 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
- February: 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25
- March: 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
- April: 6, 7, 8

2017/18 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Date:	Event:	Location:
January 20, 2018	FFCC - Premier	TBD - Tampa Area
February 3, 2018	FFCC - Show	Oviedo High School
February 17, 18, 2018	WGI Regional	TBD - Tampa Area
February 23, 24, 2018	FFCC - Show	Riverview High School
March 2, 3, 4, 2018	WGI Regional	Atlanta, GA
March 24, 25, 2018	WGI Power Regional	Orlando, FL
April 8, 2018	FFCC - Championships	Tampa, FL
April 10-16, 2018	WGI World Championships	Dayton, OH

Calendar Conflict Policy

Any and all foreseen calendar conflicts for the entire season must be submitted in writing prior to to the Director on or before October 8th for consideration.

1. Speak directly with the person in charge of your conflict. Explain the importance of attendance and find out what options exist.
2. Do everything you can to work around or minimize your conflict even if it means taking a test early, switching shifts with a co-worker, or missing the dress rehearsal.
3. If your conflict is with a professor/class and you have not been able to find a resolution, send a single email explaining the nature of your conflict as well as what action you took to work around it to the director. A letter will be written for you by the Director of Athletic Bands to excuse you. It will be your responsibility to deliver the letter to your professor.
4. If your conflict is NOT related to a professor/class, and you have pursued every possible option and still have a conflict; send a single email explaining the nature of your conflict as well as what action you took to work around it to the director.
5. An email will be sent to Professors, if needed, to excuse members from class on our Basketball halftime performance, Friday and Monday of the Atlanta Regional, and the week of WGI World Championships.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Hazing

(1) The University of South Florida system (USF system) prohibits any form of hazing of its students, including hazing by students or other persons associated with any student organization, at any time, and at any location.

(2) Definition: As used in this regulation, "hazing" as defined by Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution, regardless of a person's willingness to participate. "Hazing" includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student, and also includes any activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective. In addition to Florida Statutes Section 1006.63, hazing as defined by the University of South Florida system also includes, but is not limited to: the forced use of alcohol, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, physical and psychological shocks, deception, verbal abuse, personal servitude, kidnapping, deprivation of privileges granted to others in the organization, by use of force or duress, and any other activities which are contrary to academic achievement, the stated purpose of the local and/or (inter)national organization and/or the mission, policies or regulations of the University of South Florida system or applicable state law.

(3) Investigation and Response: The USF system will respond and investigate reports of alleged hazing received from any source and will determine whether to proceed with campus disciplinary action, to forward a report to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution as a criminal matter, or both. All reports of hazing will be directed for investigation to the appropriate department depending on the nature of the report.

(a) Persons who know, or suspect that hazing has taken place are required to report hazing to the Office of the Dean for Students and/or Fraternity and Sorority Life.

(b) Individual: In most cases, an individual will be referred to the campus conduct officer and will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Student Code of Conduct. The USF system Student Code of Conduct is available on-line at WWW.SA.USF.EDU/SRR.

Legal Process: If criminal charges are filed against an individual, group, or organization, the USF system reserves the right to proceed with its investigation and adjudication process according to the Student Code of Code as the USF system handles the educational aspect of the alleged violations separately from any criminal legal procedures.

University Policy 10-045 on Observance of Religious Holy Days

Students who seek to be absent under the university policy on religious observances must give notice no later than the **second rehearsal (October 15th)** by providing the Director with an email stating the date and name of the observance.

Learning Disabilities

Any student with a disability is encouraged to meet with the Director privately during the first week of class to discuss accommodations. Each student must bring a current Memorandum of Accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services, which is prerequisite for receiving accommodations. Accommodated examinations through the Office of Student Disability Services require two week's notice. All course documents are available in alternate format if requested in the student's Memorandum of Accommodations.

PHYSICAL HEALTH WHILE PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS DURING PREGNANCY

We follow NCAA policies. During pregnancy, the health of the student-athlete and the pregnancy is of utmost concern. The NCAA supports the position that high level athletic activity – with professional healthcare monitoring and plentiful hydration to prevent overheating – is generally safe before 14 weeks of gestation. Ten to 15% of all pregnancies spontaneously miscarry for no explainable reason in the first trimester, and a high level of fitness has been found to have no effect on this rate.

Most pregnant athletes with normal pregnancies can safely continue to participate in team activities, with progressive modifications, as the pregnancy develops past the 14th week. As these materials demonstrate, student-athletes can and do compete successfully while pregnant, with no adverse health effects. A pregnant student-athlete and her healthcare provider should monitor her for danger signs. She should use the same schedule as a non-athlete for seeing her healthcare provider: every 4 weeks until 28 weeks, every 2 weeks until 36 weeks, then weekly until delivery. If a student-athlete's competitive season will be completed before her 14th week of pregnancy, or her season begins 6-8 weeks after she delivers her child, she might well be able to meet training and competitive performance goals for the entire season. Ideally, the team physician and the student-athlete's health care provider should work together to assist the student-athlete to safely continue her athletic participation if she wishes to do so. If the team physician and the student-athlete's physician disagree, the team physician—who is probably not an obstetrician—should defer to the health care provider with greater relevant medical expertise. Maternal health care providers, including obstetricians and nurse-midwives, are less likely to rely on stereotypes as to what pregnant student-athletes can and cannot do safely, and less likely to see pregnancy as requiring the disruption of one's routine. Maternal health care providers perform a careful assessment of the student-athlete's overall lifestyle and health,

including diet, stress levels and pre-existing medical conditions, and are best able to identify potentially threatening situations to the woman. When working collaboratively, the student-athlete's health care provider can equip the team physician to advocate for the student-athlete when there is an unnecessary barrier to the pregnant student-athlete's continued athletic participation.

Warning Signs to Terminate Exercise While Pregnant:

- Vaginal bleeding
- Difficulty breathing (dyspnea) prior to exertion
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Chest pain
- Muscle weakness
- Calf pain or swelling (need to rule out a deep leg vein blood clot or thrombophlebitis)
- Abdominal pain, cramps, or contractions before due date (preterm labor)
- Decreased movement of the baby (decreased fetal movement)
- Vaginal leakage of clear fluid (amniotic fluid leakage)