

All You Ever Wanted To Know About Uniforms (but were afraid to ask)

The uniform team - The 2016 uniform team consists of Tori Guess, Megan Bennett, Trish Uchida, and Sara Wendland. We'll have other volunteers helping us during different events, but when the uniform room is open, at least one of us will be there. We are excited to be working with you this year and are looking forward to helping you look and feel your best. Please come to us with any questions or concerns you may have. Our contact information is at the bottom of this document.

The uniform room - This is where the magic happens. To get there from outside, walk in through the band room double doors, but immediately turn right instead of left. This will put you on the old stage. The uniform room is located at the top of the stairs.

- **White board** - This is located on the window on the landing just outside the entrance to the uniform room. Check this on the way in to find specific instructions about the uniforms that day, requests for specific students to talk to the uniform team, etc. Feel free to write your own messages on here, but please keep it positive.
- **Lost and found** - There is a blue bin for lost and found items inside the uniform room. This is a great place to recover your lost sunglasses, or whatever else you're missing. Please check the bin often.
- **No food is allowed in uniform room at any time** - We need to keep our uniforms in mint condition, so we can't have food in the uniform room.

Uniform fittings – Uniform fittings take place each year at the beginning of marching season, and will take between 5 - 15 minutes.

Band shirt - The current show shirt (with the marching show logo on the front, and the kids' names on the back) will be ordered for you during your fitting session. Your shirt is paid for with your commitment fee. Parents will be given the opportunity to order band booster shirts for themselves, and extra shirts for you, if they want.

Dressing in uniform – Because dressing in uniforms happens on the bus, in parking lots, or in the band room, you must wear pants or shorts and your band shirt under your uniform. You also need to supply and wear your own long black socks.

- **Uniform bags** - You will receive a uniform bag with your name on it. This is used to store and transport your uniform. **Never put food in your bag.** There have been mice sightings in the band room and we don't want them chewing through our uniforms in order to get a midnight snack.
- **Pants** - These are put on first, with the zipper in front. Your pants have strips of snaps inside the legs and these are used to make the legs longer or shorter. Be careful when putting them on, so that you don't accidentally unsnap

them. If that happens, pull the pants back off, turn them inside out, re-snap them (you'll be able to tell where they should be snapped, because there will be a crease at the bottom) and try again. If you need help, simply ask the uniform team. Finally, make sure your shoulder straps are lying flat against your shoulders.

- **Jackets** - These zip in the back, and need to have their wings (shoulder flaps) folded down.
- **Gloves** – Everyone except those who are in the battery (marching drums) or the front ensemble (non-marching percussion) will be issued gloves. These are worn at all performances.
- **Gauntlets** - These are worn over your gloves and sleeves. Everyone except those who play in the front ensemble will wear these.
- **Socks** – Wear your own plain long black socks that come up over the calf for all performances. No footies are allowed. You may want to keep an extra pair of clean socks in your uniform bag, just in case. If you forget your socks on a performance day, you may check out a pair in the uniform room.
- **Shoes** – Shoes are assigned during uniform fittings. We will do our best to accommodate your size, but if we can't, you will be asked to buy new shoes. If this happens and buying new shoes will be a hardship to your family, just let us know. The cost is approximately \$35.
- **Hair** – Hair cannot touch the collar of the uniform. You can wear your hair in a ponytail and tuck it under your helmet. Bobby pins can also be used to tuck hair under your helmet as well. The uniform room will have extra hair elastics and bobby pins available, if you need them.
- **Jewelry** – Visible jewelry cannot be worn. This includes earrings, necklaces, watches, and facial jewelry. Nail polish must also be removed before performances.
- **Helmets** - You will be assigned a helmet with a corresponding helmet box. All helmets and boxes have a number. Your name will also be on the helmet box. Your helmet should be transported in its box, and stay there until it's time for the performance. The brim should sit at the eyebrow, not tilted back, and should be snug enough to stay in place. It can be adjusted by carefully tightening or loosening the string inside, and by adjusting the chinstrap. Your chinstrap must be worn under the chin and *all* snaps should be used. Make sure that the chinstrap is flush against your cheek, not worn loosely. Never store gloves, socks, gauntlets, food, or cell phones in the helmet box. Never put your helmet in your uniform bag unless your helmet is in the helmet box. Our helmets are very fragile and can crack if dropped. If this happens, let us know and we can hopefully glue it back together.
- **Plumes** (feathers) - These are very fragile. They live in our plume bin and are lovingly babysat by the uniform team. You will receive plume immediately before you line up to go onto the field and it must be handled carefully. To attach it to your helmet, insert the long metal loop of the plume into the plastic base on the top of your helmet, while holding the plastic base with your hand. Then, hook

the bottom of the plume to the back of your helmet. To remove the plume, hold onto the plastic base piece, clasp the base of the plume and gently pull the plume out. Never bend or force the plumes into position --- ask for help. By doing so, you are adding years to the lives of the plumes, and to the uniform team!

Missing gloves, falling hems, and other problems. If something on your uniform is wrong or missing, tell the uniform team as soon as you can. We are always equipped to make emergency repairs as we are quite amazing. If your uniform gets dirty before a performance, let us know and we'll do our best to get it all cleaned up. If it happens after, let us know at check-in, so we can get it washed.

If you lose a gauntlet or some other accessory, please tell us right away so we can start looking for it — these items usually show up in someone else's uniform bag. Each item is identified by a specific number. If you have someone else's, we will know immediately.

The uniform team will take care of cleaning uniforms periodically. Normal wear and tear is expected, but if uniform parts are damaged through abuse or neglect, or if any of the items are lost and do not turn up, your account will be charged the replacement cost, which are as follows:

Jacket - \$180

Pants - \$60

Gauntlets- \$38

Helmet - \$53

Black Plume - \$24.50

Red Plume - \$39

Uniform Bag - \$16

Shoes- \$35 (if you simply outgrow your shoes and are willing to wear a used pair, there will be no charge if we have the size you need to borrow)

Colorguard uniform costs are approximately \$200 per guard member.

If any piece of your uniform, or your shoes start to feel snug, please let us know. We will be happy to fit you into a larger size right then, or make arrangements to get a larger size the next time you're in the uniform room. We want you to be comfortable, so please let us know if something doesn't feel right. We're here to help!

Uniforms on the road. You are responsible for carrying your uniform bag and helmet box onto the bus. Special care must be given to where and how your uniform is stored. You can gently lay the uniform in an overhead compartment or work together to hang uniforms in available locations. Make sure that uniforms are not crammed under seats, in overhead compartments or even worse, sat on or (gasp!) spilled on! You need to take care of your uniform for the entire trip, until it's successfully checked in back at school.

Which leads us to.....

How to Hang Up Your Uniform Properly (or How to Avoid Being Delayed in the Uniform Room)

One marching band uniform costs approximately **\$450**. It's really important to keep them looking great. Because of this, you will need to have your uniform inspected and approved each time it's returned to the uniform room.

When you are fitted for this year's uniform, you will be taught/reminded how to hang it up.

The basic steps to hang up a uniform are:

1. Pants first. Turn the pants upside down, aligning the seams and the pleats. All four seams should match (seams are the line that is sewn down the inside and outside of the pants leg). The 4 pleats should hang completely straight and flat (the pleat is the crease in the front and back of the leg). You should be able to hold the pants from the bottom of the legs and see the uniform hanging flat and straight. When you get this right, you'll know it. If the seams and pleats do not match, the uniform will never hang straight.
2. Place the pants over the hanger and lock them in with the wooden rod.
3. Next, hang the jacket on the hanger so that your name on the hanger can be seen from the front of the jacket.
4. Zip the jacket ALL the way up.
5. Fold up the wings on the shoulders.
6. Place your gauntlets and gloves in the provided Ziploc bag, and put this in the bottom of the uniform bag (not in the shoe pocket).
7. Place your shoes in the zippered pocket on the back of the uniform bag.
8. Make sure no personal items are left in your uniform bag. No food is ever allowed in the uniform bag.
9. You will need to have your uniform checked by a uniform team member every time you bring it back to the uniform room (see below).
9. After it's approved, hang up your uniform numerically on the rack, with the nametag showing on the left.

10. Remember, socks go home to be washed - uniforms and shoes stay at school.
11. Stack your helmet box, numerically, on the shelf above the uniforms.

Uniform check-in

Yes, we know you've got things to do and places to go and people to see. Believe it or not, so does the uniform team. Getting 100+ uniforms stored away properly after a performance is a big job but an easy one if everyone does their part.

By tradition, Seniors are allowed to proceed to the front of the line to get their uniforms turned in first. Parents and family members should allow for extra time for students to check in their uniform after games, events and competitions.

When you arrive in the uniform room, there will be several volunteers ready to help you. Find the nearest one, unzip your uniform bag, and hold it up so they can see what a great job you did hanging your pants and jacket. We will also be checking that your shoes and accessories are accounted for and are in the right spots. This ensures that everything will look great the next time you wear it.

How can YOU pass inspection? There are a couple options:

- a. Learn to hang your uniform up correctly. It isn't hard. **YOU CAN DO IT!** The procedures and photos will be posted in the uniform room, so check those, if you need to be reminded.
- b. Ask your section leader to assist you. They like to help.
- c. Ask a friend to help you.
- d. Pay a friend to help you (jk).

The option missing is asking a uniform team member to do it for you. If there's something wrong, you will be asked quite nicely and with a smile on our faces, to step to the side, and try again (see options a through d).

Once you've passed inspection, hang up your bag alphabetically by last name, stack your helmet numerically, and you're free to go.

That's about it. Have fun and a great marching season! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Check out the uniform video on the band website: centaurusband.org/marching.

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