



Color Guard

Policies and Procedures

The Color Guard is a section of the “Pride of Choctaw” marching band. There are many policies and issues that concern only the color guard, therefore, this document has been provided. It is also suggested that guard members be familiar with the general policies of the Choctaw High School Marching Band.

For the safety and benefit of all members, The Choctaw High School Color Guard has established the following policies and code of conduct to be in effect during class time, rehearsals, competitions and/or other scheduled or nonscheduled events or gatherings. Unless otherwise stated, appropriate disciplinary action for violating any of these rules will be determined by director, the instructor/s or any other individual designated by a program administrator. Repeated violations, and in certain cases a single violation of these rules will result in a suspension for participation and subsequent termination of program membership.

Any member whose behavior is distracting, offensive, or creates disruption during class time, rehearsals, competitions, or other scheduled events as determined by the staff shall be given a verbal warning or receive an appropriate consequence as determined by the director, staff, or district official. Any member who continues to act in a distracting, offensive or disruptive manner or whose behavior threatens the safety of themselves or others, will immediately be removed from participation. The member shall be suspended from further team participation until the matter has been reviewed by the appropriate parties for final disciplinary action.

Goals and Purpose

The goal of the Choctaw High School Color Guard is to provide an opportunity for students to participate in representing their school. The Color Guard is a group that teaches teamwork and performance skills, builds confidence and self-esteem.

Teamwork and group activities require that an individual put aside their personal feelings for the good of the group. What is required of one is required for all. When each individual is willing to give up a small part, the whole group will benefit. Personal sacrifice and understanding the dynamics of a team will be crucial to becoming the best color guard member possible.

Most importantly, membership in Color Guard is a *privilege* not a right.

Rehearsal Policies

Attendance

Guard members should be familiar with the general marching band policies. **All rehearsals and performances are mandatory.** It is expected that members attend ALL scheduled rehearsals, arriving at least 15 minutes before the rehearsal time. Specific days will be chosen for rehearsals. Because of the important role every member plays in the program **all other activities and appointments must be scheduled around rehearsal dates and times. Social plans, dental/doctor/optometry appointments, job schedules, and other appointments of this nature, cannot interfere with rehearsals and performances.** If a Guard member must be absent from class or practice, the staff must be notified prior to that class or rehearsal. Absence from a rehearsal during the week prior to a performance may result in the loss of performance privileges for that upcoming performance. Upon returning to rehearsals in the event of an emergency absence a signed note must be accompany that student stating the reason of the emergency absences for the excuse to be approved.

Dress Code

All Members must be dressed in appropriate clothing and shoes. This includes comfortable workout attire, **running shoes** (cross-trainers), and no bottoms longer than mid calf. **No baggy clothes.** Hats and sunglasses are acceptable during band camp. No jewelry can be worn at performances. Stud earrings are acceptable. Hair must be pulled back and out of the face. Necklaces, bracelets, anklets, and hoop or dangling earrings should not be worn during rehearsal. The staff will outline all other details prior to performances. Guard students must not make any alterations to their appearance such as tattoos, hair color or style, and piercing that are visible on the body unless prior consultation & approval by director and guard staff.

Equipment and Maintenance

Each Guard member will be assigned individual equipment at the beginning of the year. Each member is responsible for their equipment and should treat it with respect and care. If any damage occurs to the equipment that cannot be repaired, said student is financially responsible for replacing it.

The maintenance and care of the Color Guard equipment is incredibly important. Equipment must be stored and cared for correctly. Equipment should never be lent out, left out, or unattended for any reason. It should be cleaned and handled with care per given instructions. Only Color Guard members are permitted to practice with the equipment. No member should ever allow another person to spin/or try to spin their flag. In the same way, no Color Guard member is permitted to play another band members instrument.

Rehearsal Etiquette

No gum at practice or performance! Students will be expected to maintain a neat and professional work space, **this includes the Guard room**. All students will be responsible for the set-up and break-down of rehearsal, including the proper storage of equipment and the stereo. Students should leave the rehearsal space clean and organized and deposit all trash into a proper receptacle.

Personal Belongings

Cell phones must be on the silent or vibrate position. Students should leave cell phones, mp3 players and all other valuables in a safe place during rehearsals. The program is not responsible for the loss or theft of these items but will make every effort to ensure the items are secure during rehearsals/trips.

Food and Drink/Medication

Students who require medication or other health aids should have it with them during rehearsal.

Students may not consume soda, coffee and/or energy drinks during rehearsal. Students may bring bottled water or Gatorade.

Attitude

At no time should a member show any insubordination or dislike of an instruction given to them by the staff. This includes facial expressions, comments, or overall body language.

Consequences:

Color Guard is a performing sport, which requires self-discipline. However, the Color Guard instructor reserves the right to request that a member run laps for being tardy, wearing inappropriate clothing, showing disrespect etc. The team cannot perform in the manner in which it needs to if there are no consequences for unacceptable behavior.

All rehearsals are closed to non members. This includes friends, and boy/girlfriends. On special occasions if the band staff is notified, younger siblings may watch if under the direct care of a member for the afternoon or evening.

Performance Policies

Attendance

Members are required to attend ALL scheduled performances, arriving and departing at the times and location stated in the calendar or as instructed. Absence from a performance may result in the loss of performance privileges for the following performance and will also affect the student's grade.

Transportation

All members must ride to performances with the Choctaw High School Band. Members may only be taken home from performances by their own parents or legal guardians. Members may never ride to or from a performance with their boyfriends, friends, or parents of friends.

Dress Code

Students' attire will vary for each show depending on the day's schedule, performance venue, etc.

Students are responsible for bringing their uniform, undergarments, and their own hair and make-up supplies to every show. Individuals who come without one or more of these items may lose performance privileges at that show unless they can provide these items prior to performance time.

Uniform Care and Maintenance

Students are responsible for the regular care and maintenance of their uniform. Further instruction on how to care for uniforms and costumes will be given. Uniforms should be cleaned regularly and any visible wear and tear should be mended or fixed prior to performance dates.

Performance Proficiency

Each member is expected to perform at the highest possible level. Therefore, the band staff may decide at any time that a member is not able to perform. This may be due to violations of attendance or other policies or even what may be an excused absence. In other words, should a member be ill and unable to learn new guard work, they may not be allowed to perform until the missed guard work is learned at a satisfactory level.

Financial Obligations and Uniforms

Items such as show costumes, wind suits, bags, t-shirts, guard work, adjunct staff, flags, poles, etc. must be purchased. Many of these items are unique to each individual show. Members will be given a total price and a breakdown with a payment schedule. Members may use car washes, fund raisers, and the "Friends of the Choctaw Band" Sponsorship program to pay for these items, or may pay the entire amount themselves. If members wish to use fundraising opportunities they should stay with the payment schedule.

All checks are made payable to **CHOCTAW HIGH SCHOOL BAND** unless announced different.

Camp Fee Checks will be made payable to the instructor of camp (TBA)



Color Guard Participation Contract

I/We have read the Information packet and understand the information, as well as the constitution, and I/We agree to follow the guidelines set forth.

I/We have discussed my decision to audition for the Color Guard team with my parent/guardian and they fully support my decision, and agree to help me meet my obligations. My parent/guardian is aware of the cost/payment deadlines involved, and feel they are financially able to meet all payment obligations.

I/We do not possess any chronic health problems, which could put me at risk when rehearsing or performing, such as asthma, allergies, knee, back or joint injuries. If in fact I do possess a chronic health problem, my parent/guardian agrees to take full responsibility to see that I have the proper medication and am participating only up to my known limits. My parent/guardian agrees to disclose my limitations with my Advisors for my safety, and will get a doctor's clearance for participation, if necessary. My parent/guardian and I understand that any medical emergencies which result from either chronic health problems or unforeseen situations will be the responsibility of the guard member and parent/guardian, as we are aware of the degree of physical exertion the candidate will be working under.

I/We understand the consequences in the event my attendance, conduct, grades are not as they should be, and agree to cooperate with school faculty, my advisors, team leaders, chaperones and teammates at all times. I realize I am a representative of Choctaw High School, and will conduct myself in a respectful manner at all times. By signing this contract we (my parent/guardian and I) are ready to make the commitment necessary to be a member of the Choctaw High School Color Guard 2009 school year.

I have read all pages of the paperwork that was discussed on May 4, 2010 and agree to comply with everything it entails.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Print Candidate Name	Date	Print Parent/Guardian Name	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
Candidate Signature	Date	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date