



MINNESOTA BRASS
DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

Member Packet

v17.1

Welcome!

Thank you for taking the first step in becoming part of Minnesota Brass. In this packet you'll find everything you need to prepare before your first rehearsal. Please read it carefully and feel free to contact us if you have any questions: membership@mnbrass.org

Our goals are two-fold. First, we wish to provide an educational experience. We hope you can take back with you valuable lessons in music and visual performance. Secondly, it is an evaluation. You will get feedback on the way you move and play. We will also observe your participation and performance level within group rehearsal. You will be evaluated both musically and visually. We may use video and audio recordings to help the staff complete their evaluations and give you feedback.

At the end we will:

1. Give you a membership contract.
2. Provide feedback on what to work on, and call you back to the next rehearsal.

Do not let your nerves stop you from showing up. Our staff is eager to help you develop as a performer. If you have any questions, please contact us at: membership@mnbrass.org

Preparation

The success of your performance at the first rehearsal (and throughout the season) will be directly related to the level of preparation of the materials.

If possible, meet with a private lesson teacher or dance instructor on a regular basis prior to coming and throughout the season if you feel you're falling behind.

Video record yourself. Watch and listen critically to the recording and work to perfect your performance.

We want to see your work ethic in rehearsal as well as how you move, play, and spin individually. Be sure to ask questions if you are confused about anything you are being asked to perform.

Get lots of rest. Things will be very busy. Take a slow deep breath before you begin, and good luck!

Checklist

Please bring the following items:

- Registration fee
- Athletic fitness clothes and cross-training athletic shoes
- This member packet and any supplemental material
- Pencil
- Any additional items you may need to ensure a successful day
- A positive attitude!

Use of recording equipment

As noted above, we expect you to record and evaluate yourself. This expectation continues throughout the season with individual progress check-ins. The staff will also use audio/video equipment to record and evaluate members. As the season progresses, we will make recordings of our run throughs and performances available to members as a learning tool so we can continue the process of self-evaluation and improvement even while not rehearsing.

Visual Guidelines

The key elements we look for are timing, attitude and fitness. We can teach technique, but we cannot teach timing (inner pulse and foot timing).

Drum corps is a demanding sport and assumes you should be able to run a minimum of 400 meters (1 lap) with relative ease to be successful.

It is important you wear athletic fitness clothes and cross-training athletic shoes for all rehearsals!

Color Guard

All skill levels are welcome! Our members come from a variety of skill backgrounds. We expect you to have some color guard experience. However, we will train everyone on our technique, which may be new to you.

You can expect to do a half-hour full body stretch and a half-hour of across-the-floors and other dance combinations.

Everyone will learn a basic flag routine. If you have experience spinning weapon, we'd like to watch you spin to gauge your skill level. You may be asked to learn a basic weapon routine.

You need to be willing to try and make mistakes. Don't be hard on yourself. Be prepared to receive critique and feedback.

What to bring

If you have equipment, please bring your own. If you do not, the corps will provide equipment.

Come dressed in rehearsal blacks: form-fitted, comfortable, easy to move in, athletic clothing.

Dues

Minnesota Brass prides itself on providing a world-class experience with a part-time commitment and a financial obligation much lower than a traditional full-time junior corps. We have some of the lowest dues in our activity, and it is a high priority to keep it that way. We also provide several opportunities to lower out-of-pocket dues expenses through early payment, fundraising, and scholarships.

\$50 discount if winter ensemble member of the same season MBI Winter Guard or MBI Indoor Percussion.

Registration Fee	\$25 (waived for winter ensemble members of the current season)
Dues	\$900 (\$100 discount available for early payment)

What is included with Dues?

- Professional instruction
- Rehearsal facilities
- Meals provided at most camps and several trips
- Your uniform (shako, jacket, pants, plume, gloves)
- New flags and guard uniforms each year
- Equipment, show sticks, mallets
- Transportation to out of town weekends
- Hotel accommodations at DCA Championships

Other out-of-pocket costs

In addition to dues, here are some other expenses you may want to plan for as the summer approaches:

- Shoes (black marching shoes for horns and drums, and dance shoes for guard)
- Performance undershirt and parade hat (horns and drums)
- Additional gloves, sticks, mallets
- Most meals on trips
- Optional housing (if you prefer less than 4 to a room, or staying in a hotel for gym-stay trips)
- Optional travel expenses (if you prefer to fly or drive on your own rather than take the bus)
- Rehearsal gear: dot book, hat, sunscreen, hearing protection, etc.

Other optional items include:

- Corps jacket
- Section shirt/shorts
- Show shirt
- End of season banquet

Fundraising and Scholarships

We understand that marching any drum and bugle corps can be an expensive proposition. We do not want to turn away any qualified performers because of a particular financial situation. There will be several opportunities for individuals to lessen their dues through fundraisers. More information about these opportunities will be discussed at rehearsal. Also available for individuals is a season scholarship that requires a written essay. Please inquire about these opportunities: director@mnbrass.org