

2014 SEASON

The following is important information regarding the 2014 Marching Pride season. We have another action packed season in store! **Please review the enclosed information carefully as there are some important changes that have been made. Look over the enclosed schedule and mark your calendars now!**

FRESHMEN

I would like to address some concerns of incoming freshmen. The Marching Pride marches over 60 freshmen each year and this year looks even better. Each summer parents and students ask, "How much time does band take?" and "Will I have enough time for my studies at SRU?" Let me assure you that Slippery Rock University is very proud of the members of the Marching Pride, both academically and musically. The rehearsal schedule (4:00-6:00 pm. M-W-F) is not grueling, and this particular time slot is usually reserved for social events, not studying. **It has been my experience that students who are more involved in campus activities have the best academic records.** Furthermore, many freshmen recall how comfortable they felt when attending their first classes because they had met 200 band members at band camp before classes began. I look forward to welcoming a large incoming class of Marching Pride.

BAND CAMP

This year's camp will be one week long and will begin on **Sunday, August 17, 2014.** (Drum Line camp will begin on Friday, August 15, 2014.) The purpose of our band camp is to learn as much music, drill, and dance/auxiliary routines as possible prior to an action-packed performance schedule. Those of you who have been a member of the Marching Pride before know how much hard work it takes to achieve our goals. Band Camp will end on **Saturday, August 23, 2014**

BAND CAMP CHECK-IN (Please read the following information carefully!)

Check-in will be between the hours of **12:00 pm. and 4:00 pm. on Sunday, August 17, 2014. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE LOBBY OF SWOPE MUSIC HALL BEFORE REPORTING TO ANY RESIDENCE HALLS!** (Residence Hall staff will only be on duty from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm). At Swope Music Hall you will receive an instrument, music equipment, and other important information. It is very important that everyone follow these procedures and time-line to provide a smooth check-in!

The Marching Pride is a non-profit organization and we do not ask you do fund raising of any kind. Almost everything that we need to operate is supplied by either the SGA or the University and we use our "self-support account" to cover other expenses. I am asking that every member pay a one-time \$20 "materials fee". This money will be used to provide your band T-shirt, the band picnic, drill books, medical supplies, and the Stadium Echoes Banquet. Please be prepared to pay this fee at check-in for band camp. You may pay the fee by cash or check. Please make your check payable to "SRU Marching Pride".

Students living on campus or in University-owned housing should also be prepared to pay their **House Council Fee** before receiving their residence hall keys. **All Residence Hall keys will be distributed by each respective facility. NO KEYS WILL BE HELD AT SWOPE MUSIC HALL! Commuters and students living off campus:** If you have a problem concerning somewhere to stay during camp, please call the Band Office (724)-738-2436 as soon as possible. I will make arrangements for you during camp.

DRUM-LINE / FRONT ENSEMBLE CAMP

If you wish to participate in the band as a member of the drum line or front ensemble/pit, your check-in date is **Friday, August 15, 2014**. Please check-in between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Your check-in will be in the band room of Swope Music Hall. Meals will be provided for you. Please report directly to the band room upon arrival on campus.

You will be receiving audition materials and other important materials regarding drum-line camp directly from the instructors in a future correspondence.

Instrument auditions and drum line rehearsal will be held Friday evening. Please notify me in advance if you have a problem checking in at this time.

REHEARSAL POLICY

Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday rehearsals are for the benefit of the individual and the band as a whole. However, you must understand that having band only three days a week for two hours makes attendance imperative. Class conflicts and absences from rehearsals except for emergencies and illness will not be tolerated. The only exception to this rule will be seniors who have mandatory graduation requirements. I also cannot overemphasize the importance of our "Marching Pride Camp" and how it affects our entire season! THEREFORE, IF YOU HAVE ANY CONFLICTS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CALL ME IMMEDIATELY.

I am sure many of you have or will have questions that you would like answered. Here are a few commonly asked questions and answers that may help.

- (Q) When does the band rehearse during the semester?
(A) Practices are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4:00-6:00p.m. Classes begin on Monday, August 25, 2014.
- (Q) Do I have to be registered for Marching Band in order to be a member?
(A) I strongly suggest that everyone be registered for band for credit. Upper classman may use "banner" to adjust your schedules. Freshman can contact their advisors to add marching band as a class. (56-118-01) If you have a class that conflicts with marching band rehearsal time, changing your schedule is a simple procedure that begins with your advisor.
- (Q) Must I audition for the Marching Pride?
(A) Instrumental auditions are held during band camp in a few sections to assign parts only! **NO ONE IS CUT** from participating as a musician. The drum line is auditioned during the first evening of drum camp. (drum line audition materials will be made available to you in a future correspondence) Auxiliary groups, however, Rocklettes (dancers) and Color Guard (flags/weapons) **MUST** audition and be selected as a member of the squad. **Summer try-out for the auxiliary groups will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2014 beginning at 10:00 am. in the band room of Swope Music Hall. For more information please call the band office at (724)-738-2436.**
- (Q) Do I go through some sort of initiation as a new member?
(A) No, our interest is to perform with pride and professionalism.
- (Q) Must I attend every performance?
(A) YES. Since the drill and routines are written for the exact amount of members, it is **imperative** that you attend every performance! Special situations may be cleared with **prior approval** from the Band Director.
- (Q) Will I be able to get into my room in my residence hall for "Marching Pride Camp?"

(A) YES. You will be able to move right in to your assigned housing. If there is a problem with your housing assignment, you will be notified. **If you have off campus housing, please contact your landlord or building manager and make arrangements with them on your own.**

STUDENT MANAGERS

Do you want to be a part of the Marching Pride but you don't want to play an instrument or be in one of the auxiliary groups? Consider becoming a manager for the SRU Marching Pride. Student managers are a very important part of the organization! Managers come to band camp and are members of the Marching Pride just like the instrumentalists and auxiliary and will receive credit if they wish. If you are interested in being a manager, please indicate that on your reply card. If you have questions about the duties of the managers, please call me and I will be happy to talk with you about this position.

RETURN CARD

I am anxiously anticipating your participation in the Marching Pride. Enclosed you will find a 3 x 5 postage-paid card. Please return this card by **Friday, August 1, 2014** to inform the staff of your intentions for the 2014 season. **UNDERSTAND THAT RETURNING THIS CARD MARKED "YES, I WILL BE A MEMBER" IS A COMMITMENT TO BE A MEMBER FOR THE 2014 SEASON AND A SPOT WILL BE WRITTEN FOR YOU IN THE MARCHING DRILL.** This commitment should be made with the best of intentions and not be taken lightly! Be sure that your card is filled out completely and **RESPOND PROMPTLY** to avoid any conflict or problem during check-in!

BAND BUDDIES

The SRU Marching Pride has traditionally used a system called "Band Buddies". During the month of August, new members will be contacted by a returning Marching Pride member. This way you will know at least one member who can help you during camp. RETURNING MEMBERS--Check the box on the return card if you wish to be a Band Buddy. **New members will automatically be assigned a "Band Buddy," therefore, you do not need to mark this space. Please check your SRU email account in August for an email from your assigned Band Buddy.**

SHOES/ GLOVES

All instrumentalists must have **solid black** marching shoes and long, black gloves. If you have black marching shoes that are still in good condition from high school band, you may use those. The shoes must have a "matte" (dull) finish, not "shiny". If you need to purchase shoes or gloves, you will be able to place an order during band camp on Monday, August 18th from 4:00-6:00 pm. This will be detailed in the next mailer.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED!

1. Musical Instrument. If you do not have your own instrument, one will be provided for you upon your arrival. (There is no rental charge for a university owned instrument, however you are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of any borrowed equipment.
2. Comfortable clothing and all the clothing /linens, etc. you will need for band camp week.
3. Comfortable shoes (at least 2 pair), socks, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, etc. for protection from the sun during the day rehearsals. (Be prepared for a lot of sun and heat during camp!)

SANDALS, FLIP-FLOPS, OR BARE FEET ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE DRILL FIELD!!

4. **All members** will be required to have **marching band T-shirt**. This shirt will be provided once you pay the \$20 "materials fee" at check-in.
5. We will need to know once you arrive if you are on any type of medication or if you are allergic to any type of bee sting, etc. All of this information is kept confidential. So be honest for your own protection.

Please note the enclosed schedule of events and performances. Mark all events on your calendars NOW! This schedule is subject to changes and revisions as needed.

If you have any other questions,
please call or send an e-mail

(724) 738-2436

james.berry@sru.edu

or

jberry1@zoominternet.net

Please fill out the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid CARD and return it by mail as soon as possible. Everyone MUST return the card to be placed on the roster. We must know exactly how many will be returning. Remember - returning a card marked "YES" is considered a commitment to the SRU MARCHING PRIDE and means that a spot will be written in the drill for you. Once we receive your card, you are expected to arrive for band camp and participate in the organization.

PLEASE RESPOND BY Friday August 1, 2014

RETURNING MEMBERS: Don't forget to check the box on the card if you are willing to be a Band.