

Marching Pride Fall 2016 Pre-Camp Information

Enclosed in this packet is helpful information regarding the 2016 Marching Pride season. With a terrific year in store, we hope that this will assist in keeping you informed of the latest as we embark on an exciting season.

Note: Take a moment to review this information and mark important dates in your calendars immediately. For both returning and new members, it is important to take note of items listed to prepare you for the upcoming season!

FRESHMEN

It has been a pleasure to see so many of you at the SRU Orientation Days this summer. The marching band this year looks like it will have membership representing a sizeable portion of the northeast and Midwest. In fact, there are freshmen and returning members of our organization from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, New Hampshire, Maryland, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and so many places in between! With that said, we all have a diversity of experiences in marching band – traditions, expectations, and more – so, allow me to answer a few questions that are specific to you and the Slippery Rock University Marching Pride.

Q: "How much time does band take?" "Will I have enough time for my studies at SRU?"

These are two very common questions for incoming students. Let me assure you that Slippery Rock University is very proud of the members of the Marching Pride, both academically and musically.

Our rehearsal schedule is 4:00-6:00 p.m. M-W-F. This schedule is designed so that it will not conflict with morning or early afternoon classes, during which time the majority of classes are scheduled. More so, the rehearsal schedule is not grueling and this particular time slot is usually reserved for social events, not studying.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed tentative performance calendar for more information.

Q: "Is it difficult for some majors to participate in marching band?"

It has been my experience as both teacher and student that students who are more involved in campus activities have the best academic records. The Marching Pride represents students from across campus regardless of major – music majors, education majors, physical therapy, psychology, you name it! 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. You are part of a 200 member support system that looks out for each other. I look forward to welcoming a large incoming class of Marching Pride.

Q: "This band camp you speak of... is it required? I live out of town... will that be a problem?"

Band camp is our opportunity to learn the halftime and pregame show music in addition to marching fundamentals, drill, stand tunes, getting to know each other, etc. For those reasons, it is required.

Resident/Dorm Students: During band camp, you will be able to move into your dorms. Once you send in the enclosed return card, I send a list of band members to Residence Life and Housing. They organize those names according to your fall semester room assignments, ensuring that you are ready to move in early for camp!

Commuters/Students Living Off-Campus: If you are not staying in the dorms, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with your landlord/complex to move in early for band camp. **If you are unable to make arrangements for band camp, please contact the Band Office at (724) 738-2436 and I will make arrangements for you.**

For additional questions, consult the enclosed FAQ page

BAND CAMP

This year's camp will be one week long and will begin on **Sunday, August 21, 2016**. (Drum Line/Percussion camp will begin on Friday, August 19, 2016.) During camp students will become acquainted with the marching style of the SRU Marching Pride and 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 27, 2016**

BAND CAMP CHECK-IN

(Please read the following information carefully!)

Check in procedures:

1. Students will check-in by **FIRST** coming to the Lobby of Swope Music Hall.
2. Check-in will be between the hours of **12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Swope Music Hall on Sunday, August 21, 2016. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE LOBBY OF SWOPE MUSIC HALL BEFORE REPORTING TO ANY RESIDENCE HALLS!**
 - a. Here you will register, complete your medical form (please have current health insurance information available- provider/policy), check out an instrument, order gloves/shoes, pay the "materials fee," and receive other information.



- Remember: The Marching Pride is a non-profit organization and we do not ask you to do fundraising 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 \$25 “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”.
- b. To ensure a quick check-in, be certain to have your order information for shoes/gloves completed (if applicable).
 - c. Resident Students are encouraged to arrive early in order to move into the dorms on time.
3. Dorm Check-In (LAST STEP): 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 ensure a smooth check-in!
- a. 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.
 - b. **All Residence Hall keys will be distributed by each respective facility. NO KEYS WILL BE HELD AT SWOPE MUSIC HALL!**
 - c. **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 19, 2016**.

1. Please check-in between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Swope Music Hall.
 - a. Percussion check-in will be in the band room of Swope Music Hall.
 - b. Meals will be provided for you.
 - c. Please report directly to the band room upon arrival on campus.
 - d. **Note that a pre-camp percussion audition will take place July 17th. This audition is designed to set the line prior to camp and ensure that music is arranged specifically tailored to our strengths! Please contact the Slippery Rock University Marching Pride Percussion Instructor, Mr. Mike Blazer, at mikeblazer@verizon.net for audition materials and more information.**
2. Drum line and front ensemble rehearsal will be held Friday evening. It is critical that you arrive on time so that our percussion instructors are able to distribute equipment, music, and information to begin rehearsal in a timely manner.



MATERIALS

These items are required for band camp:

1. **Instrument(s):**
 - a. The SRU Marching Pride allows students to check out instruments for use during marching band such as piccolos, mellophones, euphonium/baritones, sousaphones, percussion, and auxiliary equipment.
 - b. We also have a *limited* number of instruments available for students to check out from other sections. We prefer that students march their own instruments if possible so that we are able to loan equipment to members of our ensemble who may not have equipment to march. These instruments will be available on a first come, first serve basis during registration.
 - c. Students are expected to provide accessories – mouthpieces, reeds, tape, etc.
 - d. Fee for instrument rental: \$0.00. There is no cost; however, students are expected to properly care for all borrowed equipment and return it undamaged at the conclusion of the semester.
2. **Rehearsal Items:**
 - a. Pencils, highlighters, water bottle/Camelback, sunscreen, tennis shoes (preferably 2 pair), and hats.
 - b. Sandals or bare feet are not permitted on the marching field.
3. **Shoe/Glove Order Form** (if applicable):
 - a. All instrumentalists must have solid black marching shoes and long, black gloves.
 - b. 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 at registration. See the enclosed order form for pricing and details.
4. **Comfortable Clothing/Linens:**
 - a. All of the overnight and daytime items.
5. **Materials Fee (\$25.00):**
 - a. The Marching Pride is a non-profit organization and we do not ask you to do fundraising 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 \$25 "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.
 - b. 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".
6. **A Positive Attitude!**
 - a. Be prepared to make friends for life, memories to look back on, and be a part of a fierce tradition that is the Marching Pride!



REHEARSAL POLICY

Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday rehearsals are for the benefit of the individual and the band as a whole. However, 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! Now is the time to contact your places of employment regarding the 2016 camp and season schedule.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONFLICTS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY.

STUDENT MANAGERS

Do you have friends that want to be a part of the Marching Pride but do not play an instrument or participate in color guard? The Pride is looking for managers for the 2016 season! 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 **Monday, July 25, 2016** to inform the staff of your intentions for the 2016 season. **UNDERSTAND THAT RETURNING THIS CARD MARKED "YES, I WILL BE A MEMBER" IS A COMMITMENT TO BE A MEMBER FOR THE 2016 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.**



Frequently Asked Questions

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.

1. *(Q) When does the band rehearse during the semester?*

(A) Practices are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Classes begin on Monday, August 29, 2016.

2. *(Q) Can I receive credit for marching band?*

(A) Yes! Registering for Marching Band ensures that it appears on your transcripts and contributes to your GPA.

How to Register: Upper classmen may use “banner” to adjust schedules. Freshmen 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.

3. *(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/front ensemble is auditioned during a pre-camp audition in July. (drum line/front ensemble audition materials will be made available to you by the percussion instructors).

Auxiliary groups, however – Rocklettes (dancers) and Color Guard (flags/weapons) **MUST** audition and be selected as a member of the squad.

4. *(Q) Do I go through some sort of initiation as a new member?*

(A) No, our interest is to perform with pride and professionalism.

5. *(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.

6. (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.**

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 Monday, July 25, 2016

RETURNING MEMBERS: Don't forget to check the box on the card if you are interested in being a Band Buddy.

