



THE ACADEMY

ARIZONA ACADEMY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

2024 TOUR GUIDELINES & PACKING LIST



THE ACADEMY 2024

Welcome to The Academy! Marching in a Drum Corps can be a truly profound and influential experience; the places you'll travel, the friends you'll make, and the memories you'll create will stay you for a lifetime. Our goal as an organization is to operate and manage in such a way that allows you to concentrate on what you do best—performing!

Preparation, planning, and clear communication will make our season successful and provide an enjoyable and memorable experience for all. This packet serves as your packing list and travel guide for All-Days and Summer Tour. All expectations and guidelines communicated here will be in place for the entire season. Please read all information completely and carefully.

GENERAL PACKING TIPS

Bring only what you need! Drum Corps Tour is a whirlwind and you will have little to no time for non-drum corps activities.

Everything you pack, you will need to be able to carry yourself in one trip to and from the bus. Consolidate everything in one tidy package of reasonable weight, while not forgetting your water jug is part of your baggage. Be considerate of others' needs for space both under the bus and in the sleeping area.

Find ways to organize contents of your suitcase/backpack using Ziploc bags or other dividers. Ziplocs come as large as 5 gallons and you can have a separate bag for shorts/shirts/socks/etc. Snip ¼" off the bottom corners to minimize the trapped air problem when packing.

LIFE ON THE BUS

Your bus seat will be the closest thing to a room of your own while on tour! Personal space is a hot commodity on a bus with 55 of your closest friends; respect each other's space and treat your neighbors' bus seats and overhead bin space as their own bedroom with a door. Seat partners will be chosen during All-Days.

Due to our cross-country schedule, the bathrooms on each coach are not able to be serviced. For both servicing purposes and smell purposes, bus bathrooms are not to be used at all throughout the season.

SLEEPING ON THE BUS

Nights get chilly with bus AC—be sure to have sweatpants/hoodie/sweatshirts for sleeping on the bus, as well as a pillow and blanket. Some members are more comfortable stretching out on the floor in front of the seat with their feet in the aisle which would give their seat partner both seats to stretch out in.

REST STOPS & BUY STOPS

While traveling, we stop every 3 – 4 hours for driver breaks, restroom breaks, and fuel. These stops will be announced by the Corps Manager or Corps Director; some stops will be restroom only, some will be 'Buy Stops' where you can purchase food/snacks/etc. If you get off the bus, make sure someone who is awake knows you got off. Walking on armrests to get off the bus is not allowed—we have chartered new buses for the season and they must be returned to the company in the same physical condition they were in when they left the yard.



CHANGING ON THE BUS

There will be times where members need to change in/out of uniform or in/out of clothes on the bus. At The Academy we do not allow any nudity on the bus. More details about changing in and out of uniforms will be discussed at Move-Ins.

YOUR HOME ON WHEELS

Turning your bus seat 'house' into a bus seat 'home' is easy! We recommend bringing suction cup hooks/holders for window storage, a car seat cover/fitted sheet for a seat cover, bungee cords for strapping towels/other items to the overhead bins, and plastic bags for trash.

Some members choose to bring a floor rug/floor mat (we recommend discussing this with your seat partner and perhaps sharing a large rug on your floor space) and a bus box for snacks/earbudschargers/etc. Bus boxes must have a working lid and fit under your seat or in overhead bin. Sterilite/Rubbermaid tend to be best.

HOUSING SITES/SCHOOL SITES

We are guests in any school or facility we stay in. As a corps, we must all do our best to keep housing facilities clean while we are staying there and leave them cleaner than they were when we arrived. Each member will have a daily Tour Job to assist with the operations of the corps on the road, but we are all responsible for helping to keep facilities clean. Pick up trash if you see it, replace/change trash bags if bins are overflowing, help keep food and drink out of the gym, and be considerate to other students, clubs, teams, events, and employees that may be sharing the facility with us.

SHIRTS

While rehearsing, members must always have a shirt available (not necessarily being worn). Corps rehearsals can sometimes unexpectedly turn into a public clinic with local band students, directors, school administrators, and community members observing. In certain situations, we will ask the corps to wear shirts during rehearsal.

Shirts are **required** inside any school/facility. Schools are often used for driver's ed classes, rec team practices, summer school classes, sports camps, etc. during the summer, plus most school administrators will still be in the building. We want to avoid situations where students/children come into contact with shirtless adults walking around their building. Once rehearsal is over and you head inside to eat/shower/pack, shirts must be worn.

Shirts are **required** in the food line. No one wants someone else's sweat dripped onto their chicken patties.

Having an extra shirt or two in your backpack will set you up for success in all situations.

SHOWERING ON TOUR

Taking a shower daily is a requirement for all corps members. Showers are separated by gender and age (under 18/over 18) and we will offer Closed Shower Times for members who request it. The shower schedule/daily schedule will be posted every morning on the white board and on Slack. Be cognizant of your shower time and help keep the corps running on time.

SLEEPING ON TOUR

Sleeping arrangements will be like audition camps, the sleeping area will be separated by gender and age (under 18/over 18). Every member must sleep in their designated area; failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.



Every member must wear appropriate sleeping attire, meaning attire appropriate to be seen in public. We are guests in our housing facilities, and schools will often be hosting summer events/practices/teams. Always be aware of others' presence in the building.

Drum Majors will wake the corps up each morning. Please do not turn on your alarm!

FOOD TRUCK/MEALS

Our Food Team prepares over 40,000 meals for the corps each summer! The kitchen crew has one of the hottest and most demanding jobs—a little patience and appreciation can go a long way!

MEAL GUIDELINES

- Shirts are ***required*** in the food line.
- Meals will be served for the first 45 minutes of each mealtime. The kitchen crew is on an even tighter schedule than the corps. Respect their time and do not wait until the end of a meal break to eat. The first part of EPL is EAT!
- Save your plate for seconds so we don't waste plates. Seconds will more than likely be available at each meal after everyone has been through the line once.
- Peanut Butter & Jelly will be available at every meal.
- Only use Academy trash bins—we are not responsible for emptying school/site bins.
- **DO NOT STACK YOUR GARBAGE!** Trash bins can fill up quickly while serving 180+ people at a meal. If you see a full trash bin, please empty it and switch the bags for us. Stacking garbage just creates more work for our Food Team when it inevitably falls over.
- It is important that you eat at every meal. The energy needed for a full drum corps tour is critical. Without eating you will not be healthy, productive, or successful!
- We can accommodate vegetarians and most food allergies. If needed, substitute food products (such as soy milk) must be provided by the member and can be kept in the food trailer.
- Let our Food Team know you appreciate them! Say 'Thank You' as you go through the food line. Our volunteers are often corps alumni or corps parents volunteering their time and skills to keep the corps fed and moving down the road. 'Thank You' is part of our food line routine!

WHITEBOARD SYSTEM

The daily schedule and important schedule information will be posted on a whiteboard at the Food Truck each day. The schedule will be posted before breakfast, but it can change during the day and additional info might be added. Verbal schedule announcements will be made throughout the day, but it is your responsibility to check the whiteboard at each meal. The daily schedule will also be available in Slack.

LOST & FOUND

Lost & Found items will be collected at the Food Truck. To diminish the possibility of losing something, make sure every personal item and article of clothing you have is labeled with your name.

LAUNDRY

Laundry stops on tour are planned for approx. every 12 - 14 days. It is recommended that you pack 15 days' worth of clothing to get you through the 2-week laundry period in case of rain, spills, etc. Members are responsible for doing their own laundry while on tour.



LAUNDRY ITEMS TO BRING

- **Quarters:** Some laundromats will have machines that accept cards, but many are still coins only. Put quarters in a plastic prescription bottle to prevent spilling and losing them.
- **Laundry bag for dirty laundry:** Fill up a laundry bag in your suitcase with dirty laundry as you go. Laundry bags must be kept in your suitcase—there is no room under the bus for separate bags.
 - It is recommended that your laundry bag is **NOT** mesh as this will help keep your clean clothes smelling clean while in the same suitcase with your dirty clothes. You can also throw a dryer sheet or two in your dirty laundry bag to help keep the smell at bay.
- **Detergent:** **DO NOT BRING LIQUID DETERGENT ON TOUR.** Many laundromats will have detergent packs available for sale, but if you want to pack laundry detergent it can only be detergent sheets (i.e. Purex 3-in-1 Laundry Sheets) or detergent pods (i.e. Tide Pods). It is recommended that you store your detergent in a Ziploc/Tupperware to avoid spilled Tide Pods or melted detergent in your luggage.
- **Helpful hint:** Throw your laundry bag in and wash it with your laundry. This will help get the 'dirty laundry smell' out of your suitcase throughout the summer.

MEDICAL/FIRST AID

We have a great Medical Team and Athletic Trainer with us throughout All-Days and Summer Tour. If you need first aid, see the Medical Team immediately. We will always err on the side of caution regarding seeking medical attention.

FIRST AID KITS

The corps carries a well-stocked first aid kit, but each member/section should have a personal supply of band-aids, triple antibiotic ointment, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and other non-prescription low-dose medications as you see fit.

INJURIES/MEDICAL ATTENTION

We will always err on the side of caution regarding seeking medical attention. An adult member of the Admin Team will take members for medical treatment if necessary. Members are required to have up-to-date medical insurance and carry an insurance card. Any medical treatment costs or prescriptions costs are the financial responsibility of the member.

MEDICATIONS

Any required medications are the personal responsibility of members. If you begin to run out of your medication, tell a staff member and work with the Admin Team in order to get a refill or have a refill mailed.

TOUR OPERATIONS

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

LYS – Label Your Stuff! The Academy organization is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings of any member, staff member, or volunteer. Each personal item and article of clothing you have needs to be marked/labeled with your name. We will have 150 pairs of member shoes, 150 member shirts, 150 cell phones, 150 water jugs, etc. Use a permanent marker or label device to put your name on everything you own.

We cannot always control public access to our sleeping areas, shower areas, or rehearsal facilities. Do not bring anything you can afford to lose, and keep your personal belongings confined to your spaces, both on the bus and in the housing sites. International members should always keep their passports with them.



PHONES

LYS – Label Your Stuff! Your phone and charger should be marked/labeled with your name. It is recommended to bring a power strip to help facilitate device charging in a housing site—there are only so many outlets in a gym! It is *not* recommended to leave your phone charging in the housing site during the day. We cannot control public access to our sleeping areas, shower areas, or rehearsal facilities.

T.C.R.O.T.

This Corps Runs On Time! Getting down the road efficiently and promptly starts with every member following the daily schedule and making smart decisions throughout tour. If sectionals start at 1:00 pm, you should not be still eating lunch at 12:50 pm and needing to visit the Athletic Trainer. This Corps Runs On Time! We expect all meals, blocks, EPL's, etc. to fit within the given schedule.

MISCELLANEOUS

RELIGION

Due to the religious diversity of our organization, we do not schedule time for members to attend religious services.

FREE DAYS

There will be a handful of Free Days/Free Blocks throughout All-Days and Summer Tour. Members are expected to abide by all corps policies during these days. No members will be permitted to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages on tour (including free days), regardless of age.

SPENDING MONEY

The amount of spending money needed for the summer is entirely up to the individual. You will potentially need quarters/money for Laundry Days and spending money for Free Days, a few meals, snacks, and supplies. It is recommended that you carry a credit/debit card instead of cash.

KEEPSAKES

Many members like a keepsake/souvenir from the summer. A DCI Tour can be the experience of a lifetime, and we support and encourage you to keep souvenirs! Some ideas:

- Autographs on your member shirt.
- Autographs on a program from a show.
- Autographs on a drumhead (check with battery staff first on inventory).
- Visit The Academy souvenir booth or DCI souvenir booth during tour.

NO UNIFORM PART OR CORPS EQUIPMENT IS TO BE TAKEN OR GIVEN AWAY AS A SOUVENIR.

Members found to be taking uniform parts or corps equipment will be subject to disciplinary action.

VISITORS

Parents, friends, and family members are absolutely welcome to visit housing sites, watch rehearsals, and meet up with their corps member during free times and after shows. It is understood that visiting family/friends are not to interfere with the corps rehearsal schedule, and members are *not* free to leave the rehearsal site with family/friends except for very special circumstances with prior approval from Admin.

We cannot provide meals, transportation, or lodging for visitors.



MAIL DROPS

Letters and care packages from home are always appreciated by the members! (Bus snacks and new socks are popular). Please mail at least a week before the final date for delivery and stick to USPS for ease of delivery (no UPS/FedEx/Amazon).

- For member mail during All-Days (May 28th – June 30th), we will do mail drops about once a week through the end of June. Please make sure your letters/packages will arrive by **June 29th** to make the last mail drop.
- For mail during All-Days, please send all letters/packages to The Academy offices addressed in the following way:
The Academy
Member Mail Attn: *Member Name*
5861 S. Kyrene Road, Suite 17
Tempe, AZ 85283
- For member mail on tour, we will do one mail drop in Atlanta, GA. Please make sure your letters/packages will arrive by **July 25th** to make this final mail drop.
- For mail on tour, please send all letters/packages to this Atlanta address in the following format:
Kelsey Brunson
Member Mail Attn: *Member Name*
528 Rockborough Terrace
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

ATTENDING SHOWS

To get tickets for shows (including our 'Home Show' in Mesa, AZ) please visit www.dci.org and click on 'Schedule'. On the left side of the page there is an option to list shows by corps. Select 'The Academy' and you will see all shows on one page with links to tickets.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

World Championships will be held August 8 – 10 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. It's not too early to start thinking about tickets and accommodations! Some corps, including The Academy, buy blocks of tickets to re-sell to their fans. Look in our online store or contact us to see if group tickets are still available. If not, get tickets through www.dci.org or through another corps. (Sometimes you can get better seats buying from another corps).

On Thursday 8/8 more than 40 Open Class, World Class, and International corps will perform. On Friday 8/9 the top 25 corps from Thursday's competition will perform, and on Saturday 8/10 the top 12 will perform. There is no way to predict whether we'll perform on Saturday or even Friday (we have performed on Saturday night only once so far, in 2016). We will stay in Indianapolis to attend Finals on Saturday night whether we perform or not. Members will be admitted free all three nights but will not have reserved seats.



GETTING HOME

Finals in Indianapolis will end late Saturday night, 8/10. We will send buses to the airport after leaving the show to drop off all members who will fly home at their own expense the next day (Sunday, 8/11). Be sure to have your flight information on hand to be ready for the trip home Sunday.

All luggage must accompany you on the trip home—we will not be able to transport anything on the returning buses or corps vehicles. Sometimes there are collections for unwanted air beds, bedding, pillows, blankets, etc. to be donated to shelters in Indianapolis. It doesn't make sense to pay overweight baggage fees if you can leave heavy, inexpensive items behind for a good cause.

Members can also be released to travel home with their family Saturday after the show. Please let us know in advance if this is your plan; we will ask you to complete a form specifying who and when the member will be leaving with.

All Tour Admins

touradmin@arizonaacademy.org

Josh Thye, Corps Director

Cell: (480) 254-0554

josh@arizonaacademy.org

Kelsey Brunson, Corps Manager

Cell: (706) 870-5403

kbrunson@arizonaacademy.org

Sherry Rogers, Member Manager

Cell: (520) 280-9459

srogers@arizonaacademy.org

Jenny Alan, Business Manager

Cell: (402) 326-1081

jalan@arizonaacademy.org

Mark Richardson, Executive Director

Cell: (480) 235-8796

mark@arizonaacademy.org



The Academy

5861 S. Kyrene Road, Suite 17
Tempe, Arizona 85283



2024 PACKING LIST

LYS – LABEL YOUR STUFF!

TRAVEL GEAR/LUGGAGE



- Medium - Large size duffel bag with wheels (no larger than 30" x 22" and labeled with your name)
 - Suitcases are discouraged, hard-side suitcases are prohibited. Keep in mind your bag will travel under a bus, be handled and loaded/unloaded twice a day, and get thrown around a bit. It needs to withstand the demands of a summer tour but should not be so expensive that you'll be upset if it suffers minor damage.
 - Many people like a bag with a separate zippered compartment on the bottom for air mattress, dirty laundry, etc.
- Ideally, your air mattress/sleeping gear should fit in your main luggage. If absolutely necessary, you can have a small separate sleeping gear bag, either a duffel bag or stuff-sack (no larger than 12" diameter and 24" long).

SLEEPING GEAR

- Twin size air mattress or single camping pad/sleeping pad (no queen size air mattresses, no cots)
- Air mattress pump, battery powered is preferred to save outlet space
- Air mattress patch kit, just in case
- Sleeping bag or camping blanket
- Bus blanket
- Pillow & pillowcase (travel pillows help save space)

CLOTHING

- 2 pairs of rehearsal sneakers
- 15 days' worth of rehearsal shirts (i.e. t-shirts, tank tops, cut-off shirts) (maybe only 8-10 if re-worn)
 - Brass players: white shirts for full ensemble rehearsals during All-Days (any sleeve length)
- 15 days' worth of rehearsal shorts (maybe only 5-6 pairs if re-worn)
- 15 days' worth of underwear (fresh every day is important!)
- 15 days' worth of socks (fresh every day is important!)
- 15 days' worth of sports bras for women (no bikini tops/bathing suit tops) Helpful hint: try to get sports bras with various cuts/strap designs to avoid chaffing/irritation in the same places and even out sun exposure.
- 1-2 long sleeve shirts
- 1-2 pairs of rehearsal sweatpants/joggers
- 1 sweatshirt/hoodie/jacket
- Rain jacket (no ponchos)
- Pajama pants/sleeping clothes (members must wear sleeping attire appropriate to be seen in public)
- Flip-flops/shower shoes (mandatory)
- 1 set of Free Day clothes to wear in the real world
- Uniform undergarments (more info under SHOW GEAR)

**** If at any point your clothing is deemed inappropriate, (cut of shorts, logos on shirts, amount of clothing coverage during rehearsal, etc.) Corps Admin reserves the right to ask you to change ****



TOILETRIES

- Toiletry bag/shower bag (labeled with your name)
- Toothpaste, toothbrush (with case or holder), floss
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash (combo shampoo/body wash options are great)
- Shower sponge (natural anti-bacterial sponge is preferable to a washcloth or loofa. It dries quicker and helps prevent against mold)
- 2 bath towels (microfiber camping towels work well, dry fast, and take up less space)
- Deodorant (**mandatory**)
- Razors/shaving cream
- Glasses/glasses case/contacts/contact solution/contacts case (if needed)
- Hairbrush/comb/hair gel/hairspray/hair ties/headbands/hair clips
- Show hair products/show makeup products (if needed)
- Lotion
- Nail clippers/nail file
- Period products (if needed)

MEDICAL

- Small first aid kit including:
 - Band-Aids
 - Neosporin
 - Tylenol/Advil/Aleve of your choice
 - Any other non-prescription low-dose medications you usually take (i.e. Benadryl)
- Q-tips
- **Gold Bond** (Helpful hint: the roll-on stick is less messy than the powder)
- Any braces you may need (knee or ankle compression, wrist stabilizer, etc.)
- Aloe vera
- Personal prescription medications
- Tennis ball for stretching

REHEARSAL GEAR

- 1 gallon water jug (labeled with your name)
- Rehearsal backpack (labeled with your name)
- Pencils/pens/highlighters
- Two hats/visors
- Fanny pack
- Sunglasses
- Bug spray (or dryer sheets to help ward off bugs)
- Earplugs
- Chapstick/Lip Balm with SPF
- LOTS of sunscreen, recommended SPF 30+ (**Wearing sunscreen daily is important to protect against long term UV damage and future risk of skin cancer**)
- Plastic bags/trash bags/waterproof pouch for your backpack and phone in case of rain
- For important items (wallet, phone, passport for international members), a zippered pocket/pouch that can be secured with a small combination lock is a good idea

LAUNDRY GEAR

- Laundry bag (preferably not mesh to help contain odors in your suitcase)
- Detergent (**either pods or sheets ONLY**), stored in a Ziploc/Tupperware to avoid spilled Tide Pods or melted detergent sheets in your luggage.
- \$20 worth of quarters (put quarters in a plastic prescription bottle to prevent spilling and losing them)



BUS GEAR

- Bungee cords
- Suction cup hooks/bins for windows
- Seat cover/fitted sheet for your own seat.
- XL King pillowcase to put over the seat in front of you. Fold up the bottom and pin it and you've got a storage pouch for your seat (a la seatback storage on an airplane) and the person in front of you has an extra seat layer/seat cover.
- Bus box for snacks/supplies (must have a functional lid and fit under your seat or in overhead bin. Sterilite/Rubbermaid tend to be best)
- Floor rug/floor mat
- Warm socks/slippers for bus

MISCELLANEOUS/OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Cell phone + charger (labeled with your name)
- Wallet/debit card/credit card/limited cash
- Notebook paper/journal
- Watch + charger
- Duct tape
- Various Ziploc bags/plastic bags/trash bags/waterproof pouches
- Wet wipes/hand sanitizer
- Carabiners
- Extra shoelaces
- Solar charged battery pack
- Sleep mask/earplugs

SHOW GEAR

- Show shoes, show undergarments, show hair/makeup supplies, etc.
- Long black calf-length socks **with no logos** (compression socks will be less bulky)
- Uniform leotards/bodysuits will be provided by The Academy
 - In addition to the uniform bodysuits, Brass/Percussion *can* wear black compression underwear (i.e. boxer briefs, boy shorts, briefs) under the leotard if preferred, plus black sports bras
- Color Guard: uniform-specific garment needs will be communicated by Caption Manager

BRASS SPECIFIC ITEMS

Caption Manager will communicate any section-specific needs.

- White shirts for full ensemble rehearsal blocks during All-Days
- Horn polishing/cleaning supplies
- Black hand towel for horn arc

PERCUSSION SPECIFIC ITEMS

Caption Manager will communicate any section-specific needs.

- Practice pad, sticks/mallets
- White electrical tape (battery)

COLOR GUARD SPECIFIC ITEMS

Caption Manager will communicate any section-specific needs.

- Guard gloves (1 show pair will be provided)
- Show hair/show make-up items



ITEMS NOT TO BRING

- Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia
- Vape pens of any kind
- Tobacco products of any kind
- Clothing with logos of other drum corps
- Clothing with logos of companies other than our sponsors. Current sponsors include:
 - Jupiter/Mapex/Majestic/KHSA
 - Remo
 - Vic Firth
 - Zildjian
 - Fruhauf
 - DSI
 - Pageantry Innovations
 - UDB
- Clothing with vulgar or inappropriate images or text
- Jewelry or similar high-value, easily-lost items
- Irreplaceable items or items of sentimental value

All Tour Admins

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Josh Thye, Corps Director

Cell: (480) 254-0554

josh@arizonaacademy.org

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Cell: (706) 870-5403

kbrunson@arizonaacademy.org

Sherry Rogers, Member Manager

Cell: (520) 280-9459

srogers@arizonaacademy.org

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Cell: (402) 326-1081

jalan@arizonaacademy.org

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