
Member Financial Agreement 2021

For:

Who is completing this form?

- I am a Participant I am the Parent/Guardian

Spirit of Atlanta 2021 Member Financial Agreement

Your commitment to the corps starts with your financial obligations. We understand that this is a significant financial commitment and the organization is constantly looking for ways to make participation as affordable as possible.

All members are required to remain current with their financial obligations. Failure to fulfill financial obligations may result in either loss of a performing role or termination from the corps.

The following document outlines the financial agreement between the Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps and its marching members. This agreement must be signed by members and their legal guardian (if member is under 18). By signing you are stating that you have read and understood the dates, expectations, and requirements to maintain good financial standing. Please read thoroughly. This contract is legally binding, so please be sure of the information before you commit to it in writing.

2021 Member Tuition is \$4,500*

*Up to \$400 discount available for returning members (see section I. Membership Fees for details)

Tuition covers winter camps, spring training, and summer tour expenses, including:

- Food
- Transportation
- Performance accessories
- Lodging
- Instruction and staffing
- Equipment and costuming

When available, tuition may be paid in full upon acceptance of this contract, or you may choose a payment plan. Payment options are listed later in this document.

This financial agreement does not constitute a Member Contract. The Member Contract is a separate document.

Neither this Financial Agreement, nor the Member Contract guarantee a performing role in the field show.

Upon acceptance into the Corps, each member will be assigned a part or role in the Corps. Assigned roles may be 'performing' or 'alternate' positions. Initial assignment of positions is not a guarantee and the Corps reserves the right to alter such assignments. This includes reassignment to or from alternate status.

Alternates are responsible for the same fees, with potential refunds available depending on their performance status. (see 'Alternate Refund Policy' attached)

TUITION REFUND POLICIES

For:

Spirit of Atlanta requires the commitment of its Members, its staff, administration, and volunteers, and that commitment includes a financial commitment. Therefore, it is the policy of Spirit of Atlanta that A Member who withdraws from the Corps is not entitled to a refund of any amount. No alleged oral agreement for a refund is enforceable.

If the Member's withdrawal is a result of a medical condition or injury, the Member can petition the Spirit of Atlanta Executive Management in writing for a refund. If the Management determines that the Member who withdrew because of a medical condition or injury is entitled to a refund, the refund will be limited to a maximum amount of fifty percent (50%) of the Membership Tuition he/she paid, and the refund will be paid to the Member no later than six (6) months following DCI Finals.

No refund of any kind will be given should I willingly leave the Corps (for any reason) after signing the Membership Contract or have my membership terminated due to disciplinary reasons including, but not limited to, non attendance at rehearsals/camps, nonpayment of fees, failure to comply with performance improvement goals, failure to comply with the terms of this Membership Contract or corps policies outlined in the Membership Handbook.

INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

If a member discontinues membership with the Corps due to performance considerations, the member will not be eligible for a refund. If a member discontinues membership with the Corps due to injury/health reasons (determined by Spirit of Atlanta Management and/or appropriate medical staff), the Member can petition the Spirit of Atlanta Executive Management in writing for a refund as stated above.

VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

If a member discontinues membership with the Corps by his/her own choosing no refund will be made. Voluntary Termination includes family emergencies.

MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

If a member's contract is terminated for misconduct, rules violations, or failure to meet financial obligations the member will not be eligible for a refund.

REFUND GUIDELINES

The fee structure for 2020 is all-inclusive and CANNOT be manipulated in anyway; this includes adding or subtracting of the content offered.

Refunds will be processed by check only through the Spirit of Atlanta office and may take up to 6 months after DCI Finals 2020 to be processed and mailed to the member's mailing address on file unless otherwise requested.

Refunds can and will be withheld until all corps property is returned to the Corps and all fees are up to date.

I: MEMBERSHIP FEES

For:

The 2021 tuition for all members is \$4,500.*

The following discounts are available:

- \$200 Discount for returning members (vets) who have completed 1 season with Spirit of Atlanta
- \$300 discount for returning members (vets) who have completed 2 years with SOA
- \$400 discount for returning members (vets) who have completed 3 or more years with SOA

These discounts may not be combined and will be applied to the last payment(s) of the selected payment plan.

Members contracted in 2020 may count 1 year of membership as part of the above.

Members not paid in full, or who are not current on their payment plan, will lose certain privileges. Privileges forfeited will include but are not limited to the following:

July 1 - Members may not be allowed to move in for Spring Training and could be moved to an alternate position or released from membership.

August 1 - Members will not be eligible for age out/season ending privileges.

November 1 - Members will not be eligible to audition for the 2022 season of Spirit of Atlanta.

Members not clear of all financial obligations will not be eligible to participate with another drum corps. This is a DCI policy.

Payment plans are available to Members who do not pay their tuition in full. Payment plan details are listed below. Exceptions to this policy must be in writing with the approval of the Corps Director.

Audition fees and additional costs

An audition fee of \$140.00 is required of all prospective members to be considered an eligible candidate for the Corps. This fee is included in the registration fee of the 2021 Auditions.

Monthly fees are \$200 each for non-contracted members. Winter monthly fees will be applied toward tuition.

Additional costs to be paid by members separate and in addition to the membership tuition may include:

Mouthpieces for brass players, shoes or other footwear, gloves, medical supplies, individual uniform components that cannot be reused (undergarments, etc.)

Any member who has fees outstanding after November 1, 2021 may have their outstanding balance sent to collection.

* See 'Payment Schedules' below for information about possible tuition changes for 2021.

II: MEDICAL INSURANCE/EXPENSES

Members who do not have medical insurance, or who do not have their insurance card on file with the corps, are responsible for covering all medical bills and costs incurred while with the corps.

Members that do have insurance are responsible for their own co-pay, as well as all medical bills and costs incurred while with the corps.

Members are responsible for other associated medical costs, including but not limited to prescription costs and over the counter medication costs.

III: SPONSORSHIPS

For:

Many individuals seek assistance in paying tuition fees through sponsorships and personal donations. Please read this section carefully if you plan to seek sponsorship for your tuition so that you may provide clear and accurate information to your sponsors.

- Money paid directly to the member: The corps is not involved in the process, and the member simply turns the fees over to the corps.

- Money paid directly to the corps, to be credited to the member: This can be done by mailing a check to Spirit of Atlanta, or online by credit card at spiritofatlanta.org/membertuition.

Please ask sponsors to clearly indicate the payment is for '2021 Tuition - Member name.'

Please make it clear to sponsors that **PAYING MEMBER TUITION OR FEES ON YOUR BEHALF IS NOT TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**, regardless if they send it to the Corps directly. (No member tuition fees are ever tax-deductible because the member receives goods or services in exchange. This is IRS policy.)

It is not the responsibility of the corps administration/staff to seek out sponsors for payment. It is the member's responsibility to ensure tuition fees are handled. Regardless of whether you have received commitments from individuals concerning payment of your tuition, you are ultimately responsible for your financial obligations to Spirit of Atlanta.

If a member is involuntarily or voluntarily removed from the corps, sponsorship money is forfeited to the corps' general fund.

IV: PAYMENT METHODS AND REQUIRMENTS

Acceptance of a contract requires that you enroll in an automatic monthly payment system to draft funds from your account or credit card. Our preferred method of payment is by e-check. Be aware that **TUITION PAYMENTS MADE BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD WILL INCUR A 3% PROCESSING FEE THAT WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR ACCOUNT**. To avoid any processing fees, please make your tuition payments via e-check. If you choose, you may pay your tuition all at one time. There is a \$100 discount if you pay your tuition in one full payment by the next due date after being offered a contract, and payment is made by e-check, check or money order. Credit card payments are not eligible for this discount.

If you choose, you may pay your tuition all at one time. There is a \$100 discount if you pay your full tuition within 10 days of signing your contract and **PAYMENT IS MADE BY E-CHECK, CHECK OR MONEY ORDER**. Credit Card payments **DO NOT** qualify for the \$100 full-pay discount. Payments by checks should be sent to the corps office: Spirit of Atlanta - PO BOX 941790, Atlanta, GA 31141.

V: TUITION PAYMENT POLICY

No member will be allowed to audition for or become a member of Spirit of Atlanta 2022 unless their 2021 member fees are paid in full.

Potential sponsorship donations **DO NOT** account for collected fees. Sponsorships will only be credited towards a member's fees when payment has been received by the organization from the sponsor. All payments from sponsorships must be received per the schedule in the member's contract and/or in this policy.

NO MEMBER WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND SPRING TRAINING IF A TUITION BALANCE REMAINS ON THEIR ACCOUNT, unless specific arrangements have been made and approved by corps management. Payments cannot be extended beyond the summer season. Membership status may be changed or revoked for failing to meet payment deadlines, per the terms of the contract and financial agreement.

PAYMENT SCHEDULES

For:

Contracted members are expected to make monthly payments to maintain their status in the corps. Failure to meet payment deadline can affect your contract status. The payment schedule is adjusted based on when you are offered and accept a membership contract. The later you receive your contract, the higher the initial payment will be.

Contracted in April

Due at signing: \$100

May 1: \$2000

June 1: remaining balance minus \$2000 and monthly tuition. PLEASE NOTE there may be a reduction in the final payment based on changes to the corps' summer budget. You will be notified when/if such changes are made via an addendum to this and your member contract.

Before Move In - Full outstanding balance due.

2021 TUITION PAYMENT AGREEMENT

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have fully read, understand, and accept all of the policies and procedures found in the appropriate Spirit of Atlanta Member Handbook for the 2021 season (under separate cover).

I understand that strict adherence to all of these policies and procedures is considered a requirement for participation in Spirit of Atlanta and that any violation could result in termination of membership.

I understand that failure to comply with this agreement may result in termination of membership and eventually with my information being sent to a collection agency for the corps to retrieve the funds.

By my signature I hereby agree to all of the terms and conditions in this Financial Agreement.

Signature _____ Date _____