RIVER CITY RHYTHM DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

MEMBER HANDBOOK

2026

www.rivercityrhythm.org
v020126

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a clear and concise list of rules, regulations, and policies for members of the River City Rhythm. River City Rhythm (RCR) Members are required to first review the RCR Code of Conduct prior to the information in this handbook.

DEFINITIONS

“Participant” refers to any person participating in one or more of the RCR programs.

“Corps Administration” refers to Executive Director, Corps Director, Corps Manager, and Administrative Specialist(s).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **2**
DEFINITIONS **2**
TABLE OF CONTENTS **3**
SECTION I: DATES, CONTACTS, AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION **5**
Contact Information 5
Fees and Dates 5
Payment Schedule 6
How To Make Payments 6
Refund Policy 6
Fundraising Opportunities 6
Scholarships And Sponsorships 6
SECTION II: PRE-SEASON **8**
Age Limits 8
Auditions 8
Video Auditions 8
Satellite Auditions 8
Two-Day Audition Camps 8
Communication 9
Audition Grades and Feedback 9
Callback Audition Camps 9
SECTION III: REHEARSAL SEASON **10**
Assignments 10
Camps 10
Communication 10
Contract Acceptance 10
Equipment 10
Annual Operations Fundraiser 10
Health & Wellness 11
Drum Corps International Code of Conduct 11
Housing Site Code of Conduct 12
Field Care Code of Conduct 12
Event Site Code of Conduct 12
Housing and Rehearsal Sites 13
Parent/Volunteer Involvement 13
Maintaining Membership 13
Transportation and Shuttles 14
Schedules 14
School Conflicts and Absence Requests 14
Scholarships and Financial Aid 14
Showers and Restrooms 14

Uniform Preparation 14
SECTION IV: PRE-TOUR 15
Housing 15
EPL 15
Free Days 15
Going Home Early 15
Laundry 15
Mail Stops 15
2026 Mailing Instructions: 16
Nutrition Safety 16
Packing List 17
Traveling to Pre-Tour Housing 17
Tour Jobs 17
SECTION V: TOUR 17
Banquet 17
Corps Jackets 17
Bus Etiquette 17
Finals Week 18
Free Days - on and off the bus 19
Parades 19
Shows and Credentials 19
Uniforms 20
SECTION VI: AGING OUT AND BECOMING ALUMNI 21
Age-out Ceremony 21
Volunteering with River City Rhythm 21
Joining the River City Rhythm Staff 21

SECTION I: DATES, CONTACTS, AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Contact Information

The best way to get in contact with any RCR staff member is through the official email addresses, which are their first name followed by @rivercityrhythm.org. Below are the important email addresses:

- Executive Director- Beau Hansen - beau@rivercityrhythm.org
- Corps Director - Jordon Pinchback- jordon@rivercityrhythm.org
- Corps Manager - Ernad Sisic - ernad@rivercityrhythm.org
- Tour Director - Haley Herem - haley@rivercityrhythm.org
- Brass Caption Head - Joey Tackett - joey@rivercityrhythm.org
- Percussion Caption Head - Calvin Stromwall - calvin@rivercityrhythm.org
- Battery Coordinator - Jack Johnson - jack@rivercityrhythm.org
- Guard Caption Head - Philip Holt - philip@rivercityrhythm.org
- Visual Caption Head - Julia Cordes - julia@rivercityrhythm.org

Fees and Dates

The RCR organization relies a great deal on the fee payment schedule as part of our cash flow over the winter and spring toward the summer effort, while our organization supports all the RCR programs and keeps the summer membership fees affordable. If we were to collect your full portion of the membership financial commitment from you on a daily basis, it would be less than $55 a day per member for the summer, much less than the actual $200+ spent by the drum corps on behalf of each individual (member, staff, volunteers, and drivers) each day for food, transportation, instruction, insurance, facilities, etc. Every member must realize the cost of the operation and accept the financial responsibility of membership.

The 2026 participation fee is as follows:

- If you sign your membership agreement and pay at least $500 *before* February 1, 2026, your tuition amount is $3,200.
- If you sign your membership agreement and pay at least $700 *after* February 1, 2026, your tuition amount is $3,700.

Payments must be made by the first of each month; members are encouraged to pay the entire participation fee earlier if they are able to do so.

Payment Schedule

Payment Due	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Dec 2025	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Jan 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Feb 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Mar 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Apr 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in May 2026
1/1/2026	$500					
2/1/2026	$500	$700				
3/1/2026	$500	$500	$740			
4/1/2026	$500	$500	$740	$925		
5/1/2026	$500	$500	$740	$925	$1,300	
6/1/2026	$500	$500	$740	$925	$1,200	$1,850
7/1/2026	$200	$500	$740	$925	$1,200	$1,850
Total	***$3,200***	***$3,200***	***$3,700***	***$3,700***	***$3,700***	***$3,700***

Any member who is offered a contract following any of these due dates will be expected to be current on their payments within two weeks of the date of their contract offer.

How To Make Payments

Payments toward all registration and tuition fees can be made by Venmo: venmo@rivercityrhythm or for PayPal: payments@rivercityrhythm.org.

Refund Policy

All audition camp, audition packet, and tuition fees are non-refundable.

Fundraising Opportunities

Scholarships And Sponsorships

RCR offers many scholarships for all members to help offset the cost of membership fees. More detailed scholarship information and application forms will be sent during the pre-season. It is the responsibility of the prospective member to be aware of scholarship opportunities and deadlines. Scholarship amounts and quantities are not guaranteed, so all prospective members should have a plan to support their season financially in case they are not awarded a scholarship.

In addition, RCR provides guided resources and support to assist members with independent fundraising efforts to help offset tour costs. Members can also find additional fundraising opportunities, scholarships, and resources through Drum Corps International dci.org

We ask that you DO NOT solicit alumni or staff directly but rather contact corps management, who can connect you with the right person. If a member's fee is being paid by a sponsor, it is NOT a tax-deductible item, and it is the member's responsibility to ensure the sponsor strictly adheres to the fee schedule.

For more detailed information regarding financial aid, contact Corps Manager, Ernad Sisic, at ernad@rivercityrhythm.org.

SECTION II: PRE-SEASON

Pre-season begins as soon as the interest form goes live on our website (September) through the callback camps (December/January for brass and percussion, April for color guard).

Age Limits

To be eligible for membership with the River City Rhythm, prospective members should be at least 15 years of age by June 1st or complete their freshman year of high school by the end of June of the given competition year (exceptions can be made by corps administration). You are welcome to participate in the audition process if you are currently an eighth grader with parental permission, but membership offers will be rare. Drum Corps International's age limit is 21 years of age with one exception. Corps members who turn 22 on or after June 1 are eligible to march during that year. Minimum age limits may vary from corps to corps.You can visit DCI.org/auditions to use the age calculator toward the bottom of the page to check your eligibility.

Auditions

Each season of the River City Rhythm starts with auditions. River City Rhythm offers different ways to audition: video auditions (all sections), satellite auditions (all sections), and two-day and/or three-day audition camps. Drum Major/conductor auditions vary year to year and may either be open auditions or closed. Prices for these auditions vary anywhere from $50 to $100. Attending/completing at least one of these auditions is required in order to receive a callback or contract.

Video Auditions

All prospective members are eligible to audition via video submission. Specific instructions for audition material and submissions are provided in the event details on our website. Only callbacks are awarded for video submissions, though contracts may be given at the discretion of the caption head.

Satellite Auditions

All prospective members are eligible to audition via satellite audition. Satellite auditions are held in various locations across the country and are typically added periodically throughout the audition season. Prospective members attending these events are required to sign up for a 10-15 minute audition time slot.

Similar to video auditions, specific instructions for audition material and submissions are provided in the event details on our website. Contracts may be awarded for prospective color guard members at a satellite audition; however, only callbacks may be awarded to brass prospective members since satellite auditions are typically either music or visual focused and a contract for brass requires proficiency in both areas.

Two-Day Audition Camps

All prospective members are eligible to audition at one of our two-day audition camps. These are typically held in Minnesota, though the exact number of events and locations may vary. Overnight accommodations are provided at the housing site on Saturday night only and prospective

member transportation (shuttles) is not covered by the corps. Please refer to the specifics regarding caring for housing sites in Section II: Rehearsal Season. A camp packing list can be found here. Meals are provided for two-day audition camps starting with lunch on Saturday afternoon and ending with a light lunch on Sunday afternoon shortly before wrap up.

Communication

All communication with Corps Administration regarding auditions will be done via email and through information sheets. Live information during the audition events will be sent via the audition interest group.

Audition Grades and Feedback

Following your audition, you will get your feedback/result emailed to you. The timeline for expected feedback varies based on your audition and can be anywhere between three days and seven days. Auditions are graded on a "1-2-3-4" scale:

1. **An offer** of membership for River City Rhythm 2026. Contracted members are expected to attend all remaining camps when their section is scheduled: January (brass, percussion, and conductors), February (brass and conductors only); May (full corps both camps). Please plan accordingly.
2. **An invitation** to attend one of our in-person callback/rehearsal events. A callback gives our staff an opportunity to assess your growth after you receive some initial feedback. We will only offer a callback if we believe you have a legitimate shot to earn a position in River City Rhythm.
3. **A reassignment** to join another section, so you get a full summer of drum corps experience to help you become better prepared to earn your desired River City Rhythm position in the future.
4. **A suggestion** to refine your skills using the materials offered in the audition packet and try again next year.

Callback Audition Camps

All prospective members who receive a grade 1, 2, or 3 at a preliminary audition event <u>are required</u> to attend their three-day callback audition camp (brass and percussion in December or January, Color Guard in May) regardless of contract status. Requests of absence due to extenuating circumstances must be communicated with Corps Administration and may or may not be accepted.

SECTION III: REHEARSAL SEASON

Rehearsal season begins as soon as you sign your contract (month varies depending on a number of factors) through the first day of pre-tour (mid June).

Assignments

River City Rhythm members are expected to complete any assignments during rehearsal season. Questions or concerns should be directed to corps staff as soon as possible. The platform for submissions will be up to each caption head.

Camps

Brass and Percussion members will have between two to three rehearsal camps in the winter/spring months during the rehearsal season. These rehearsal camps will begin Friday evenings and end Sunday afternoons. These rehearsal camps typically happen in Minnesota.

Communication

Members will be invited to a Pumble workspace each season where they can communicate with other members and corps staff. This is the primary means of communication for each River City Rhythm season. There will be different channels for different purposes within the Pumble workspace and we ask that all members and staff use the appropriate channels and reply in a thread when necessary to avoid clutter and confusion.

Members should never reach out to staff members on any personal platform, including but not limited to: texts to a personal phone number, calls to a personal phone number, or direct messaging on a social media platform. More information about how to contact River City Rhythm staff can be found in Section I: Dates, Contact, and Financial Information.

Contract Acceptance

River City Rhythm members will receive their membership contract via Jotform and will need to complete and sign this agreement **within ten (10) days of receipt**. Members age 18 and older do not require parental/guardian signatures while members under the age of 18 do. Contracts not signed within a 10-day window will be rescinded unless discussed with corps administration prior to the 10 days.

Equipment

River City Rhythm provides all members with the necessary equipment including brass instruments, percussion instruments, sticks, mallets, straps, pads, color guard equipment, and field lining equipment. It is the responsibility of the member to care for their equipment and submit any necessary requests for repair to the Instrument Repair Form.

Annual Operations Fundraiser

In the spring, each member of River City Rhythm will be required to participate in an annual fundraising campaign to secure each program's finances before the summer. These fundraisers compensate for any unplanned increases in the cost of food, fuel, facilities, transportation, etc.

This is not a fundraising campaign for individual member benefits and does not satisfy member fees.

Health & Wellness

In April 2026, you will receive an email to complete a sports physical. This information is only visible to the Health and Wellness (H&W) team and Corps Administration. It is important that you are as honest as possible with your medical information so that you can receive the most appropriate care possible while with the corps.

All members are also required to participate in a nutrition and conditioning program during the pre-season. Participation in these programs are not only required, but they are also beneficial in preparing your body for the rigorous activity over the summer.

During any River City Rhythm events (auditions, camps, tour), members will be informed about where to find medical attention at all times. If medical attention is needed (including physical, emotional, and mental), members should inform their staff immediately so that they can then begin the protocol for care.

Members that are required to sit out of rehearsal/activity for any physical ailment (not including concussions or other restrictive ailments directed by the H&W team) will need to remain actively mentally engaged in the rehearsal/activity from the sideline. If a situation requires further medical attention than can be provided by the on-site H&W team, a member of the corps administration will take the member to the ER or Urgent Care. Members will need to have their ID and insurance card on them for these visits. A member of corps administration may be asked to stay at the ER or Urgent Care depending on the age/comfort of the member or the severity of the injury/ailment.

Members should be tested for any infectious disease upon suspicion of infection or sign of symptoms prior to attending any River City Rhythm event (auditions, camps, tour). Members are responsible for providing their own tests to be administered by the H&W team if they suspect they are carrying an infectious disease while with the corps. Members should wash their hands regularly and are required to wash prior to getting in the food line.

Drum Corps International Code of Conduct

The following performer-related items are reproduced from the DCI Code of Conduct.

Drum Corps International is the world leader in producing and sanctioning competitive stadium events for the world's most elite and exclusive marching music ensembles. As "Marching Music's Major League", we share a responsibility to serve as ambassadors for our activity and to uphold the standards of excellence which are expected of us by all of those with whom we interact. Adherence to the DCI Community Code of Conduct and Ethics Guidelines along with the supplemental Codes of Conduct listed below will help to create a fair & equal performance stage upon which all DCI Participating Organizations can continue to grow & excel.

DCI and its Tour Event Partners have made arrangements on the Participating Organization's behalf to utilize facilities in connection with their preparation and participation at events. As a condition of participation, the DCI Participating Organization's staff, volunteers and performers are

“ambassadors of DCI” when participating in DCI Tour Events and therefore agree to the following event related codes of conduct:

Housing Site Code of Conduct

- Abide by local/state/federal rules and regulations including the prohibition of alcohol, tobacco and drug use on the grounds of any facility contracted by DCI or the DCI Tour Event Partner. This includes the discarding of empty containers, ashtrays, etc., on facility property which could be construed as having violated the law.
- Abide by the wishes of the facility administration including respecting those areas which are marked "off limits", either expressed or by basic common sense. Cooperate with facility officials with regards to scheduling around previously scheduled events in the facility.
- Use sensitivity and common sense in dress codes while at schools, especially if summer sessions are occurring. Shirts and shoes that would be deemed appropriate in a school setting should be worn and clothing changes should occur in an appropriate place.
- Be sensitive to public audiences, including utilizing language that is appropriate for professional and student populations.
- Leave the facility better than found. The handling and disposing of waste products, especially garbage and sewage from food preparation, should be in accordance with health codes and facility administration standards.

Field Care Code of Conduct

- Fields at rehearsal facility should be agreed upon with contact and/or facility administrator before utilizing. Participating Organizations are prohibited to use any field without permission.
- All facilities officials, especially turf managers, are SUPER-SENSITIVE regarding use of their artificial or natural turf field. SPECIAL CARE must be taken at ALL times.
- Be aware that DCI is leasing housing and event venues. Despite detailed explanation of DCI's use of the field prior to the stay or event, at any point, the manager of the facility may decide to prohibit equipment, carts, props, etc. from going onto the field.
- Non-permanent paint or other substance that will not kill or burn the grass should be used when marking the field. NO logos or anything other than yard lines shall be painted. (Policy 418)
- Reminder that substances such as liquids (including water), any powder like substance, or anything that would leave debris behind are forbidden. (also reference 4.7.2 in the DCI Rules Manual)
- Care should be taken when moving front ensemble equipment and props on and off the field so as not to cause damage to the field. A minimum of 8" wheels should be utilized on any carts or props pulled onto the field. (Policy 418) Extremely special care should be taken with any type of equipment on the "playing" surface.

Event Site Code of Conduct

- Housing Site and Field Care Codes of Conduct as expressed above.
- Parking lot sensitivity, including trash clean-up, performers dressing out of direct view of the public, and health code regulations if utilizing food service.
- Staff/performer demeanor and language should be professional and non-aggressive in critique and audience situations, and when interacting with event staff.

- After a Participating Organization performs, performer-seating is to be in non-reserved and/or non-sold sections of the venue. Seating in aisles or "squeezing in" to reserved areas not only is an infraction to fire codes, but also diminishes the paying audience's experience. (Policy 418.4)
- Dress should be clean and in keeping with the image of the activity.

Housing and Rehearsal Sites

River City Rhythm is fortunate to have created long-lasting relationships with housing sites for our rehearsal camps. In an effort to continue those positive relationships, we ask that all members respect these spaces and adhere to the following guidelines while at housing and rehearsal sites:

- Do not roll your suitcases on any gym floors
- Do not share a bed with another member or have beds pushed directly next to each other
- Do not go in areas we are not assigned to
- Cots are NOT permitted (per DCI)
- Do not hang towels from basketball hoops, fire alarms, or other fragile equipment
- Treat the school employees with respect and thank them for their time on site with us

River City Rhythm provides separate accommodations for minors, adult members, and staff/volunteers regardless of the accommodation type. RCR also provides separate showering times for minors, adult members, and staff/volunteers with special accommodations for non-binary members via communication with the corps director regardless of the accommodation type.

Parent/Volunteer Involvement

Parents may volunteer with the corps at any time. All volunteers must submit their registration form, undergo a background check, complete any necessary certifications, and request to be scheduled for a shift through our website. Interested volunteers may also sign up via the Volunteer Interest Form, and/or email Tour Manager, Haley Herem, at haley@rivercityrhythm.org

Maintaining Membership

Once a contract is given, it is up to the member to maintain their contract through submission of assignments, continued skill development, a commitment to pre-tour training and rehabilitation, and adherence to the code of conduct. All contracted members experience the possibility of getting a field position, an alternate position, a continuation of audition during pre-tour, or being released from the corps if they do not maintain these standards.

The River City Rhythm will have chosen member leadership positions decided on by the staff management team in partnership with the corps director. These positions include, but are not limited to: Drum Major(s), Horn Sergeant, Guard Captain, Percussion Captain, Trumpet Section Leader, Mellophone Section Leader, Baritone Section Leader, Tuba Section Leader, Snare Section Leader, Tenor Section Leader, Bass Drum Section Leader, Cymbal Section Leader, and Front Ensemble Section Leader.

Each season's specific needs will determine if the appointment of these positions are available for all to apply or closed due to internal, pre-determined appointments. Any member can express an interest in a leadership position to the appropriate staff member.

Transportation and Shuttles

Shuttles between the airport and housing site are available to prospective and contracted members only during the callback camp or rehearsal camps. In order to secure transportation, each member must submit their flight confirmation information to the form located on our auditions page or here no later than 48 hours prior to the camp start time of 5:00 PM local time.

Schedules

Detailed schedules for callback camps and rehearsal camps will be available to members 72 hours prior to the event check in. All camps are three days long and check-in will begin at 5:00 PM (local time) on Fridays and clean up will begin at 3:00 PM (local time) on Sundays.

School Conflicts and Absence Requests

Members are responsible for reviewing all audition camps/rehearsal dates and communicating any known conflicts in a timely manner upon receiving a contract offer. Any additional conflicts that may occur require a written request of absence at least 2 weeks in advance to corps manager, Ernad Sisic, at ernad@rivercityrhythm.org. A required event can include camps, virtual meetings, any date for spring training and summer tour, performances, and more. Read provided information carefully, utilize all resources available, and questions are welcome when you need more clarification.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Information regarding scholarships will be released by corps administration in early 2026. More information on financial aid can be found in Section I: Dates, Contact, and Financial Information.

Showers and Restrooms

All members will be given access to showers and restrooms at housing sites. In the event that a shower is not available to us, corps administration will provide best efforts to make arrangements for alternate showers prior to moving to the following housing site.

The use of cell phones is prohibited in locker rooms for any member at any time (Members should take this opportunity to charge devices). Nudity is not acceptable anywhere but in locker rooms or within stalls of restrooms. Members are required to wear shoes at all times outside of the gym/locker rooms.

Uniform Preparation

Member measurements will be taken in the spring for the summer uniforms. Members not present on this date will be contacted by a member of the corps creative team in order to complete their measurements on their own in a timely manner.

SECTION IV: PRE-TOUR

Pre-tour begins at our first housing site (mid-June) and goes through the last rehearsal before moving into long-term member buses (early July).

Housing

Members and staff will sleep separately inside of school gymnasiums, media centers, and other large venue spaces during the pre-tour weeks depending on cost and availability at the pre-tour housing site(s). Corps administration reserves the right to search sleeping spaces at any time if there is suspicion of the use or possession of illegal substances. All participants should respect the rules of the campus facility at all times.

EPL

EPL, or "Eat, Pack, Load," will occur at the end of every rehearsal or show day when the corps is moving to a new location. This will be between 90-120 minutes and a detailed schedule of assigned tasks, meal times, and shower times will be posted on the member Pumble. Additionally, the EPL schedule will be read to the full corps at the backfield meeting at the end of ensemble rehearsal.

Free Days

The corps will be provided with the occasional free day and/or free blocks throughout the summer. These days will be available on the member calendar (provided once they are finalized) and will be added as the tour is being finalized.

Going Home Early

River City Rhythm has the capacity to tour with 165 members including alternate members. During the pre-tour season, we may bring on more than 165 members in order to ensure a full corps once we get on the road as we often see members go home early due to a number of reasons including injury and family emergencies. If a member is in a position where they are brought to pre-tour but are not guaranteed a spot on the road, they will be aware of this prior to accepting their contract. A prorated refund will be given to any members we are unable to take on the road following pre-tour.

Laundry

All members are financially responsible for the use of machines and any laundry materials they may need. Laundry is available to members every 14 days over the summer.

Mail Stops

Members may receive mail throughout the summer and a schedule of mail stops will be made available prior to the start of the summer. We ask that no perishable items or illegal substances, including alcohol regardless of legal age of drinking, be sent to a corps member. Please also note that many of our mail stops are volunteer alumni and all members must be considerate of large, oversized, or multiple packages coming to each mail stop.

2026 Mailing Instructions:

- Mail delivery is available to all River City Rhythm members, volunteers, and staff throughout the season. Please reference the schedule below to ensure you send your letter or package to the correct address in the correct time frame.
- If sending a package, please consider the size of the item and the high volume of mail we receive. We do our very best to deliver packages and letters in a timely manner. If the mail does not arrive by the dates specified below, it will be returned to the sender.
- Please be sure any items sent to River City Rhythm DO NOT require a signature for delivery.
- We recommend using the USPS, but we should be able to receive deliveries from most commercial shipping services.
- We can receive/deliver Amazon.com orders.
- Under NO circumstances should anything ever be sent to housing sites.
- Please email Tour Manager, Haley Herem at haley@rivercityrhythm.org should any packages be time sensitive so we can try to get the package to the student sooner.
- Mail and packages should be postmarked to:
    - River City Rhythm Drum & Bugle Corps
      3642 Brentwood Drive
      Monticello, MN 55362
- Items must be shipped ***and arrive*** by the following dates:
    - Mail Stop #1 - June 24th, 2026 - Delivered to membership by June 26th, 2026
    - Mail Stop #2 - July 16th, 2026 - Delivered to membership by June 17th, 2026

Nutrition Safety

River City Rhythm has a culinary team that works with nutrition consultants to ensure that member nutrition needs are met.

Please refrain from sitting on your water jug to stop the spread of germs. Water jug refills should happen at every meal break with the filtered water filling station provided. Member water jugs should be uniform in size and appearance (1-gallon, deep ocean) and will be purchased by members prior to joining the corps in June. These will be sanitized regularly during the season with sanitizing stations provided by the corps.

If an individual has dietary restrictions or allergens, please email the corps director at jordon@rivercityrhythm.org. If your dietary needs have changed, please update your account and notify culinary staff directly. Dietary restriction meals will be served separately from the main meal unless the meal already adheres to the restrictions.

While in line, everyone's hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds and hand sanitizer will be provided in line as an additional means of defense against germs. Please limit what is touched from that point until eating. Individuals should not be on their phones while in line for food service as that is your time to connect with other corps members and thank the staff and volunteers serving you. Shirts and shoes are required while in line for food and while eating.

Seconds will be served at least 30 minutes into the meal break. Service will end fifteen minutes before the start of the next rehearsal block so that staff and volunteers can begin packing away food items and cleaning to prepare for the next meal.

Please put food waste in the garbage cans provided at the food trailer (or subsequent service areas) only and be respectful of custodial and admin staff by not overfilling any garbage can. If there is a garbage can that is full, please work with the admin team or food crew in coordinating where to leave full bags, then replace the can with a new bag. If there is a garbage can that is not full, please do not remove it to conserve garbage bags. Liquids should not be placed in any garbage can. If there is no grate in which liquids can be poured or if the local laws forbid such disposal, corps administration will provide an alternative means of liquid disposal.

Delivery services such as Uber Eats, Postmates, or DoorDash are prohibited any time outside of a free day. If you have any questions about the menu, please speak to the Corps Director so they can rectify any issues with culinary staff.

Packing List

The River City Rhythm Member Tour Packing List can be found here. Please keep in mind that some items may be added depending on the production needs of the show each season and that RCR is not responsible for any broken, stolen, lost, missing, or damaged items.

Traveling to Pre-Tour Housing

Members are responsible for transportation to the first pre-tour housing site (information regarding that site will be provided to the corps during the Spring). Shuttles will be provided from the nearest allocated airport to the housing site.

Tour Jobs

All members will be assigned a tour job prior to the start of pre-tour. Tour jobs are important to the efficient operation of the summer tour and are not optional. Tour jobs will have supervisors, whether it be a member tour job captain or a staff member.

SECTION V: TOUR

Tour begins as soon as we load the long-term member buses (late June) through the post-DCI Finals banquet (mid-August).

Banquet

River City Rhythm generally holds an end of season awards banquet during Finals week (more information to come). This banquet is free of charge for all participating members and staff. Volunteers and parents/friends are invited to attend, but will need to purchase tickets. Ticket price will be determined and communicated prior to July 15, 2025. The details of the banquet will be shared on/around July 15, 2025.

Corps Jackets

Corps jackets are available for purchase during the Spring of any given season; prior to the start of the summer tour. Only those current on their dues may purchase them.

Bus Etiquette

Members are expected to treat the charter buses with respect and upkeep the cleanliness throughout the season. This is the membership's "home" while the corps is traveling. All members

are expected to adhere to the policies and procedures of River City Rhythm at all times, especially when riding on the bus.

- Member leadership will assign specific bus cleaning duties to be completed by full corps membership.
- Members should refrain from sitting on the bus with anyone that they would interact with romantically.
- Members under the age of 18 may only sit with other members under the age of 18 and will have an assigned area toward the front of the bus. At least one member of the corps administration will travel with the member buses and reserve the right to regular checks for behavior outside of the code of conduct.
- For night time bus rides, there will be an assigned "lights out" time on the bus where all disruptions should cease, including drumming on pads or playing loud music/videos. The reason for this is to allow others to sleep during transit and to avoid any unnecessary distractions of the bus driver. Videos or movies shown on the bus must be appropriate to be viewed by all members of the bus (nothing over PG-13) and should not contain any explicit or inappropriate content.
- Be sure that your luggage and carry-on items fit within the standard spelled out in the tour packing list. Members are not allowed to share blankets on the bus. No physical intimacy on buses, or in gymnasiums, is permitted. Please sit only with your assigned seat partner after lights out.
- Items should not be hung in the windows of any River City Rhythm vehicles other than corps signage.
- Sleeping in the middle aisle is prohibited due to it being a safety hazard. The bathrooms on member buses should not be used and corps administration will plan stops for bathroom accessibility.
- Please contact your bus admin in the event of an emergency stop request being needed.
- When stopping throughout bus travel, always assume the breaks are for the restroom only unless otherwise informed by your bus captain or corps admin.
- Members should never stray from the building (gas station, rest stop, etc) as bus captains and/or corps admin will take attendance by sweeping the building and immediate perimeter prior to departing each rest area.

Finals Week

The corps will go through many traditions and rehearsal schedules that are out of the norm from what will have been happening throughout the summer. It is best practice to remember that policies and procedures do not change during this week.

Housing for finals week is at the discretion of DCI Housing.

Any unwanted items a member may have carried throughout the summer should not be thrown out in bulk without permission from corps administration. The corps will provide member housing through the morning of Saturday (finals day), at which point all luggage will need to be loaded onto the bus(es), and will provide a shuttle to the airport on Saturday night following the finals retreat and loading of the trucks for anyone who is departing early Sunday morning.

At the conclusion of the season, members will be responsible for transportation home. The corps will dismiss from the Lucas Oil Stadium parking lot after finals. Bus(es) will go to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) from the DCI Finals lot for drop off. For those traveling back to Minnesota, there will be a few opportunities to leave in your home state, including but not limited to:

- Indy Airport - Indianapolis, IN
- Madison Towne Point Mall - Madison, WI
- Eau Claire McDonalds on Traux - Eau Claire, WI
- Monticello HS - Monticello, MN

Please book your flight departing from Indianapolis International Airport (IND) anytime on Sunday, August 9th, 2026.

Free Days - on and off the bus

Regardless of age, all members should refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages in excess while on free days and/or free blocks. Members of legal drinking age are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages while in the presence of members under the legal drinking age or with staff members of River City Rhythm/RCR. Any beverages purchased on a free day need to be completely sealed/unopened or discarded prior to getting back on the bus. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages may be brought into the bus or housing area and corps administration has the right to search your belongings if there is suspicion of a violation of this rule.

Members are not permitted to leave the general area of drop-off/pick up while on a free day (outside of a 10-mile radius) without prior authorization from the Corps Director. In such instances, pre-approved members would need to confirm alternate transportation in the event of not being able to meet back with the corps prior to departure.

Parades

The corps may participate in parades during the summer. On such occasions, a parade uniform will be assigned as part of the tour packing list. Music and choreography will be provided and taught and it is the responsibility of the member to have such music and choreography learned prior to the parade. Full member participation is required for parades.

Shows and Credentials

When members arrive at show sites, they are to treat show venues with the same respect as housing sites, rehearsal sites, and the member buses. Show sites are great opportunities to show the drum corps community what RCR is all about and eyes are on River City Rhythm from the moment the buses are unloaded to the moment they leave. Members should always walk in pairs or groups while at show sites.

DCI will provide all participants with credentials (badges) and members are expected to have their credentials with their name on it at any time a corps uniform is not being worn. **Members may NOT let anyone else borrow their credentials.**

Uniforms

River City Rhythm will have a uniform (sometimes referred to as the “costume”) unique to each season’s production. Further instructions regarding how to wear the uniform, how to style hair, and if make up is to be worn will be given by the aesthetics designer.

Corps administration and volunteers will do uniform laundry periodically throughout the season and it is the responsibility of the member to make sure their uniform is turned in at the assigned time (usually after a performance before the trucks are loaded). Once uniform laundry has been completed, it is also the responsibility of the member to collect and hang their uniform on the truck in a timely manner (well before EPL).

Additional non-uniform articles of clothing (baseball caps, watches, jewelry, headbands, etc) should never be worn while in uniform/costume.

Haircuts, facial hair, and sideburns should be one natural color and have a uniform appearance from member to member in a manner that will be explained at a camp prior to the summer. These may change depending on the production of each season.

Any damage or alterations needed for uniforms should be reported through the Uniform Repair Google Form.

SECTION VI: AGING OUT AND BECOMING ALUMNI

Age-out Ceremony

Members in their age out season will go through the age-out ceremony during finals week. River City Rhythm has its own age-out traditions during rehearsal days and DCI holds an age-out ceremony semi-finals night at Lucas Oil stadium for all members of DCI aging out.

Volunteering with River City Rhythm

An aged-out member may also come back to volunteer for River City Rhythm. More information can be found on our website.

Joining the River City Rhythm Staff

Any member aged out of River City Rhythm may speak to corps leadership about an interest to be on staff (admin, instructional, or support). It is best practice for River City Rhythm to ask aged out members to take a year off in between aging out and coming on staff, though exceptions may be made depending on the maturity and experience of the aged-out member.