



Preparing for your Color Guard Tryouts

Note from the Director: For many of , trying something new can be a scary and intense adventure. If this is your first time trying out for the band color guard, you may feel you don't stand a chance against all those veterans. After all, just look at them! They can spin and toss and move with ease. Well, here is a word of advice – Don't be intimidated. They ALL had to try out for the first time. Think about it. No color guard could survive if it only took returning members. Every year our band program will need new members to replace those that have graduated or left the program. Give it your best and there may be a place for you on next year's corps.

What you must remember, however, is that it's all in the attitude. Remain calm and positive during the audition process. The judges (or staff) are not looking for perfection. They are looking for potential, commitment, spirit and attitude.

Here are some helpful hints to assist you in your first try out experience:

- 1) **Wear appropriate clothing.** If you have been given a list of items to wear, stick to it! That list was selected for a reason. If you do not have a required tryout outfit, I highly suggest you wear the following: A fitted T-shirt (too large and your pole can get caught, too tight and you will constantly be adjusting yourself); gym-type shorts that fit properly (again, too loose and they might slip; too tight and you won't feel comfortable moving around); and tennis shoes and socks.
 - Remove your rings, watch, and large earrings/necklaces (they can get damaged or get in the way);
 - Bring water and a towel.
 - It is also a good idea on the day of tryouts to wear dark clothing without a lot of graphics on the t-shirt. This will allow the judges to clearly see your hands and body positions.
- 2) **Pay attention to instructions** – look and listen carefully. You are there for a purpose. Try to eliminate distractions. (Leave your cell phone in your locker or at home!)
- 3) **Ask for help** when you need it, but don't monopolize the time. There may be fundamentals that you pick up quickly and others that will take time to develop. If you do not understand the concept or hand position, you should ask for clarification or hands on help. (Hint: "I don't get it!" is NOT a question.)
- 4) **Practice!** Practice! Practice! (Need I say more?)
- 5) **Keep a positive attitude.** Yes, you will get frustrated. Yes, you may get slightly injured. And, yes, your ego may get bruised. But if you really want to make the color guard, do not give up.

In conclusion, I just want to encourage you to be yourself and give it your best shot. If you are selected for the color guard – Congratulations, now the work (and fun) really begins! If you are not selected for the guard, take the critique you received and use that to improve your skills. I know you may feel disappointed but trust me; it is not the end of the world. If you are serious about making the color guard the next time tryouts come around, you can practice with your friends or purchase technique videos to help you improve. Thank you for your interest. Go ahead and "Swing It!"