



Audition Packet

2024 - 2025 Season

Allegiance Color Guard of Dundee, Illinois, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit youth performing arts organization governed by a Board of Directors made up of members, staff, parents, alumni and volunteers. Through the art of color guard and dance, our mission is to provide life-enhancing educational and performance experiences for young people while building their confidence, character and self-esteem. Allegiance supports diversity, equity and inclusion for all.

AFFILIATIONS (WGI, MWCGC, BSA)

Allegiance competes within Winter Guard International ([WGI](#)) and the Midwest Color Guard Circuit ([MWCGC](#)). We're also an Exploring unit of the Scouts ([BSA](#)) which provides our organization with various benefits and opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation with Allegiance is available to a wide variety of age groups. If you're currently attending an area high school that competes within the MWCGC or WGI, we may need authorization from your band director to participate during our competitive season.

Cadet Guard (ages 9-14 via Dundee Township Park District)

A Guard (ages 14-22)

Open Guard (ages 16-23)

ALLEGIANCE APP

As a potential auditionee, you're encouraged to download our app where we'll share info for our upcoming audition, sneak peeks of any choreo you'll learn and more. During the season, our app is used exclusively for communication with our membership and will house season schedules, allow members to post video assignments, share photos, chat with members & staff, volunteer for event fundraisers and so much more!

To join, follow the instructions below:

- 1) Download StackTeam App from the App Store or Google Play.
- 2) Register for a Team App account
- 3) Search for "Allegiance Color Guard" in the "Search for Team/Club" option
- 4) Request to join our "Audition Interest" group

Allegiance Is Your Priority

ATTENDANCE & COMMITMENT

It is crucial to the organization's success that members attend all rehearsals and performances. Allegiance **MUST** be a high priority among extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, clubs, drum corps, church, social events, job schedules, dental/doctor/optometry, vacations, spring break trips, etc.). If you see any conflicts with our season calendar, they must be included on your contract and brought to the attention of the director(s) immediately for approval. On very rare occasions, we may make exceptions for significant school events that are grade/score affecting (e.g. marching band competitions, chorus concerts, band concerts, SATs, ACTs, etc.). **ALL performances are MANDATORY.**

Members must arrive at all rehearsals and competitions at least 15 minutes **EARLY** to unload equipment, open the tarps and change into proper attire so each rehearsal starts on-time. Frequent unexcused tardiness and/or absences may lead to dismissal from the program.

DRUM CORPS CONFLICTS

DCI or DCA auditions are not considered an excusable absence. If you're planning to audition for a DCI or DCA corps, please reach out to your corps director or caption head and request to submit a video audition. Allegiance should be your top priority and missing any rehearsal is a huge detriment to the forward motion of the program.

FALL MARCHING BAND CONFLICTS

As the winter guard rehearsal season begins, we realize some fall marching bands are finishing their competition season (mid to late-October). If you're a member of your school's fall marching band/color guard program and you have performance obligations that conflict with Allegiance in September or October, please list those dates and details on your contract. This attendance exception only pertains to active students performing in their school's marching band program, not instructors. If you are an instructor for a fall marching band or color guard program, you will need to ask another staff member, parent/chaperone, or captain/section leader to lead/support your band or color guard team at those competitions so that you do not miss a winter guard rehearsal, competition or event.

ILLNESSES/INJURIES

If you become sick or injured, you must advise the director or a staff member immediately. It is your responsibility to seek professional medical care for any significant illnesses or injuries. Doctor's note(s) and/or releases may be required in certain circumstances. In many cases, a mild cold or injury should NOT prevent a member from attending a rehearsal or performance as long as they are not highly contagious. If a mild illness or injury occurs, it's required for a member to attend and observe a rehearsal with limited or no participation to avoid falling behind or risk losing a part in the show. Previous or ongoing illnesses or injuries that become an issue at rehearsals or competitions will require a medical examination and a doctor's note with their recommendation for participation.

Rehearsals & Competitions

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A GUARD REHEARSALS

Our A guard is a training ground for the Allegiance program with the goal of providing members with the tools to successfully progress into our Open guard. Our A guard will have a slightly less demanding rehearsal and performance schedule, but will still be held to the same standards of excellence. A guard will rehearse Sundays in October from 9am - 4pm. Double-day rehearsals start the first weekend in November and typically run 9am - 6pm on Saturdays and 9am - 4pm on Sundays. Our first 4-6 weeks are spent learning and perfecting our standard movement and equipment basic routines that will be used the duration of the season. During this time the staff will be assessing each member and deciding who spins what piece(s) of equipment for the seasons competitive production. Lines will be announced at our first staging weekend in early November.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT OPEN GUARD REHEARSALS

Our Open guard is our elite program built for members with exceptional abilities in the activity. Open guard will rehearse Sundays in October from 9am - 4pm. Double-day rehearsals start the first weekend in November and will run 9am - 9pm on Saturdays and 9am - 4pm on Sundays. Our first 6-8 weeks are spent learning and perfecting our standard movement and equipment basic routines that will be used the duration of the season. During this time the staff will be assessing each member and deciding who spins what piece(s) of equipment for the seasons competitive production. Lines will be announced at our first staging weekend in early November.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

Both our A and Open Guards typically rehearse before all MWCGC competitions at Marengo (our home gym) and car pool to the show sites.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT WGI REGIONAL COMPETITIONS (excluding the Chicago Regional)

We leave on Friday morning

Financial Obligation

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues can be paid in one lump sum or divided into equal monthly installments (Oct - Mar). For our 2024 winter season, our A guard members paid roughly \$1,600 and our Open guard members paid roughly \$2,300. This may seem like a lot of money, but it includes the following:

- Costume & garment bag (yours to keep)
- Practice silk (must return)
- Competition silks (must return)
- Apolla Joule compression dance socks (1 pair)
- Gloves (1 pair, as determined)
- Allegiance show shirt
- Post-season banquet
- Hotel accomodations for out-of-state WGI Regional competitions (A & Open Guards)*
- Team travel arrangements for out-of-state WGI Regional competitions (A & Open Guards)*
- All ticketing fees/admission for all WGI Regional competitions (A & Open Guards)*
- 90-95% of meals are usually donated while traveling out-of-state for WGI Regionals

OPEN GUARD DUES ALSO INCLUDES

- Hotel accomodations for WGI World Championships
- Team travel arrangements for WGI World Championships
- Admission to all WGI World Championships Sites (including World Class Finals backside ticket)
- 85-90% of meals are donated the week of WGI World Championships (Wed - Sun)

NOT INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Allegiance member jacket (\$65, new members only)
- Allegiance t-shirt (\$10, new members only)
- Allegiance slides (\$28, new members only)
- Personal equipment bag (\$26, if needed)
- Allegiance branded backpack (\$43, not required)
- King Kong Rifle (approx. \$70, if needed)
- King Sabre (approx. \$240, if needed)
- Medical supplies (band-aids, pain relievers, KT tape, etc)
- Hair/make-up products for shows (as specified)
- Required undergarments
- Meals at rehearsals/competitions (amounts vary)
- Optional housing for WGI Chicago Regional & MWCGC Championships weekends

LOWER YOUR DUES WITH FUNDRAISING

We offer a variety of fundraising opportunities – including Double Good Popcorn and Donate-a-Day Fundraiser – that can help lower the cost of your individual dues. With these select fundraisers, 100% of the profit will go towards your account, directly decreasing the amount of dues owed.

EVENT FUNDRAISERS

Allegiance holds several event fundraisers: Pancake Breakfast & Allegiance Home Show. Member attendance is mandatory for each scheduled group fundraiser. We ask that each family contributes to each fundraiser by donating their time or silent auction gift baskets/items, door prizes for raffles, baked goods, restaurant gift cards, etc.

Member Guidelines

- All guard members are required to wear all-black, form fitted, dance or athletic attire to practice.
- Dance shoes, footies and knee pads are highly suggested. Athletic shoes are acceptable for stretch/ cardio and equipment technique segments.
- Long hair must be secured back from the face and pulled up/off the neck (ponytail or bun is OK).
- Contact lenses are required for rehearsals and performances unless members have a medical condition that inhibits their ability to wear contacts. Doctor's release will be required.
- Necklaces, bracelets, anklets and hoop/dangling earrings are not allowed.
- Any significant changes to your appearance like hair length, hair color, piercings, tattoos, etc. should be discussed with your director in advance. As of January 1st, unnatural hair color will not be permitted unless otherwise discussed with the membership by a unit Director.
- Members must bring their equipment and guard bags to all rehearsals.
- No gum chewing is allowed at rehearsals or while in uniform at competitions.
- All members are responsible for the set-up and breakdown of rehearsal including proper storage of props and equipment, unloading/loading the trailer, etc. Members will not be dismissed until our rehearsal space is clean, everything is organized/stored, all trash is deposited into the proper receptacles and final announcements have concluded.
- Cell phones must be appropriately stored outside of the gym and kept on silent/vibrate during rehearsals. Please check messages during breaks.
- Unnecessary talking during rehearsals is not allowed.
- Members are not allowed to leave the rehearsal or performance building without notifying a director.
- Be respectful towards the directors, staff and fellow guard members at ALL times.
- Inappropriate conduct/behavior will not be tolerated. Any negative behavior towards fellow members, staff or parents will result in disciplinary action and potential dismissal from the program.
- As the season progresses, changes to the winter guard schedule may be necessary; however, we will always do our best to notify members and families of any changes right away.
- If you miss a rehearsal, regardless of the reason and whether it was approved, we cannot guarantee you will be included in areas of the production that were taught or cleaned during your absence. In some instances, we may need to move another guard member into your spot or close the spot for that segment of the production. The staff will do their best to accommodate absences, but they must always consider what is best for the production.
- If you are running late to any scheduled event, you must call or text the director and provide an estimated time of arrival and a reason for being tardy. Consistent failure to do so will be grounds for dismissal.
- If a member is dismissed from the organization at any point during the season due to misconduct, poor attendance, social media misconduct or quits without a legitimate reason – they will forfeit any monies paid and may not be allowed to return to Allegiance in the future.
- Drinking or smoking/tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated.
- While the State of Illinois has legalized certain controlled substances, Allegiance is a drug-free organization. Any guard member found possessing or using alcohol or illegal drugs will be subject to immediate dismissal from the organization and will forfeit any monies paid.

PRIMARY REHEARSAL LOCATION

Marengo Middle School
816 East Grant Highway
Marengo, IL 60152

HELPFUL LINKS

Allegiance Website
allegiancecg.org

Allegiance Facebook Page (public)
facebook.com/allegiance.colorguard

Allegiance Instagram
instagram.com/allegiancecg

Midwest Color Guard Circuit (MWCGC)
midwestcolorguard.com

Winter Guard International (WGI)
wgi.org

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Executive Director &
Open Guard Director**
Kirsten Miller
(630) 442-4400
ExecutiveDirector@AllegianceCG.org

Open Guard Director
Teresa Duckworth
(414) 915-1702
OpenDirector@AllegianceCG.org

A Guard Director
Kasia Kulchawik
(708) 925-2405
AGuardDirector@AllegianceCG.org

Board President
Cami Janzen-Guare
(847) 501-1860
President@AllegianceCG.org

Treasurer
Joe Taylor
(847) 431-0604
Treasurer@AllegianceCG.org