



# Audition Packet

## 2026-2027 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.

Allegiance auditions are fun and casual! You'll learn original dance, flag and weapon choreography, meet new people and grow your skills! We always start with stretch, cardio, a few basics then break into groups to learn choreography. You'll wrap up each day by performing the choreography in small groups so you'll have the chance to see what everyone worked on, and be assessed by the Allegiance staff.

### **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.

A Guard (ages 22 & under)

Open Guard (ages 25 & under)

NOTE: Members must not be OVER the age of 22 (A) or 25 (Open) on or before April 1, 2027.

### **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.

In rare, extenuating circumstances, one-off conflicts may be considered, but must be communicated in advance and approved by all unit leadership prior to the absence..

### **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.

For members serving as director-level instructors of high school marching bands, rare, one-off conflicts may be considered due to extenuating circumstances, but must be communicated in advance and approved by all unit leadership prior to approval.

### **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, its 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 serves as a training ground within the Allegiance program, focused on building the skills needed to progress into Open Guard. While the rehearsal and performance schedule is slightly less demanding, members are still held to the same standards of excellence.

A Guard rehearses Sundays in October & November from 9 am - 4 pm. Double-day rehearsals begin in December and typically run 9 am - 5 pm on Saturdays & 9 am - 4 pm on Sundays.

The first 4 - 6 weeks are focused on learning and refining foundational movement and equipment basics that carry through the season. During this time, staff will assess each member and determine equipment responsibilities for the competitive production. Lines will be announced at our first staging weekend.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT OPEN GUARD REHEARSALS

Open Guard is our elite program, designed for members with advanced skill and a high level of commitment to the activity.

Open Guard rehearses Sundays in October from 9 am - 4 pm. Double-day rehearsals begin in December and run 9 am - 9 pm on Saturdays & 9 am - 4 pm on Sundays.

The first 6 to 8 weeks are focused on learning and refining foundational movement and equipment basics that will be used throughout the season. During this time, staff will assess each member and determine equipment responsibilities for the competitive production. Lines will be announced at our first staging weekend in 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 will leave Friday morning and rehearse for 3+ hours on Friday evening. We get up early on Saturday, rehearse for 3+ hours, compete and - at times - rehearse again Saturday evening. Sunday morning we typically rehearse for 2 - 3 hours prior to our finals performance time. NOTE: This is subject to change as we are in the process of determining our competition schedule.

# Financial Obligation

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are non-refundable and can be paid in one lump sum or divided into equal monthly installments scheduled from October through March). For our 2027 season, we'll be taking both our A & Open Guards to WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio. **Our 2027 dues are expected to be between \$2,300 - \$2,700** (though this is NOT final). 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 cast t-shirt
- Allegiance show t-shirt
- Post-season banquet
- Hotel accommodations for out-of-state WGI Regionals & WGI World Championships
- Team travel arrangements for out-of-state WGI Regionals & WGI World Championships
- Wristband admission for all WGI Regionals & WGI World Championships (including World Class Finals)
- 90-95% of meals are donated while traveling out-of-state for WGI Regionals
- 85-90% of meals are donated the week of WGI World Championships (Wed - Sun)

## **NOT INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP DUES** (dollar amounts listed are subject to change)

- Allegiance member jacket (\$65, 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)
- Personal medical supplies (band-aids, pain relievers, KT tape, etc)
- Hair & make-up products for shows (as specified)
- Required undergarments (as specified)
- 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 (Double Good Popcorn, Donate-a-Day Fundraiser, Krispy Kreme sale, and more) 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. We also offer a few seasonal roles (for members & parents) that come with a small dues stipend.

## **EVENT FUNDRAISERS**

Allegiance holds several annual event fundraisers such as our Pancake Breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner, Wine Tasting Event, Hamburger Mary's Event(s) & the Allegiance Home Show. Member attendance is mandatory for most scheduled group fundraiser, unless otherwise noted. We ask that each family plans to contribute to each fundraiser by donating their time or resources.

# Member Responsibilities & Guidelines

*We hold a high standard for how we treat one another. Inappropriate conduct or negative behavior toward members, staff, volunteers, parents or performers from other units will be addressed by Unit Directors and may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the program.*

## **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS & ETIQUETTE**

- **All members are responsible for set-up and breakdown of rehearsals.** End-of-rehearsal duties will be assigned and managed by Unit Captains. Members will be dismissed as a group by Unit Directors unless otherwise discussed.
- **Cell phones must be stored outside of the gym during rehearsals.** Please check messages during breaks. Exceptions may be approved by your Unit Director.
- Members are **not permitted to leave rehearsal or performance sites** without notifying and receiving approval from a Unit Director.
- If you're running **late to any scheduled event, you must call or text your Unit Director.** Consistent failure to do so may result in dismissal.

## **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

- **Allegiance is expected to be a top priority during the season.** Conflicts should be communicated in advance & approved by Unit Directors.
- If you are unable to fully participate in rehearsals due to illness or injury, **you are still expected to attend & observe unless otherwise directed.** Rehearsals missed in any capacity prior to a competition may affect your ability to perform in competition and will be at the discretion of Unit Directors.

- If you miss a rehearsal, **placement in sections taught or cleaned during that time is not guaranteed.** Adjustments may be made as needed in the best interest of the production.

## APPEARANCE & UNIFORM STANDARDS

- All members must wear **all-black, form fitted dance or athletic attire to all rehearsals.**
- **Dance shoes & knee pads are highly recommended.** Athletic shoes may be used for stretch, cardio & technique segments. One pair of Apolla dance socks will be provided to all membership.
- **Contact lenses are required for performances** unless medically exempt with a doctor's note.
- **Long hair must be secured back and off the neck;** necklaces, bracelets, anklets & hoop or dangling earrings are not allowed unless otherwise approved.
- Any significant changes to appearance, including hair, piercings, or visible tattoos, must be approved by your Unit Director in advance. **Unnatural hair color is not permitted after January 1 unless otherwise approved.**

## CONDUCT & REPRESENTATION

- Members are expected to **represent Allegiance appropriately on social media and in public spaces** at all times.
- The use of **alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal drugs is not permitted during any Allegiance-related activities,** including rehearsals, competitions, travel & official events, unless otherwise noted. For members 21 & over, alcohol may be permitted only at designated 21+ events when explicitly communicated in advance. Outside of Allegiance commitments, personal choices are your own; however, members are expected to represent the organization appropriately.

## BOUNDARIES & SAFETY

- Members are **expected to maintain appropriate boundaries with staff & fellow members** at all times. Any concerns related to boundaries or interactions should be brought to a Unit Director.
- **Members share responsibility in maintaining a safe & respectful environment.** If something feels off, crosses a boundary, or does not align with our standards, speak up. This can be shared with a Unit Director, trusted staff member, or Unit Captain. Concerns will be handled with care & discretion.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS & FINANCIAL POLICY

- If a member is **dismissed from the organization or chooses to leave** at any point during the season, all monies paid will be forfeited & future participation may not be permitted.

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

### Open Guard Unit Director

Teresa Duckworth  
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### A Guard Unit Director

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