

PURDUE "ALL-AMERICAN" MARCHING BAND

WELCOME TO BAND CAMP 2026!

Greetings from West Lafayette!

We are so excited to know you are planning on auditioning for the 141st edition of the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band – truly the Heartbeat of Purdue University! Excitement is building about the 2026 Boilermaker football team, and we can't wait to see the new version of the "All-American" Marching Band take the field.

This year's band will be made up of about 395 members. The unfortunate reality is we will not have a spot for all 500+ students auditioning for the marching band. With that said, Purdue Bands & Orchestras is committed to finding a place for any and every woodwind, brass and percussion player to participate. Those not making the marching band will be given an opportunity to transition into one of our concert bands, jazz bands, or orchestras immediately following band camp. Some of our Drumline candidates may have the opportunity to perform with the Boiler Beats. I assure you, the experience in our department is outstanding, and you will have an incredible experience here!

Also note that in Spring 2027, the AAMB will be making our fourth trip to Ireland and the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade! This trip is optional, but our participation level is always extremely strong. This will almost certainly be the only international trip the AAMB will take in the next four years, so we hope you are able to join us if selected. Further information on the Ireland trip is available later in this document and from our travel partner Music Travel Consultants.

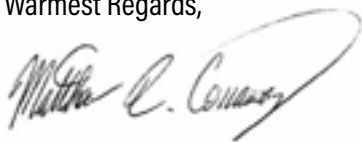
In this document, there is quite a bit of information you need to read before arriving for Band Camp. Of particular note, please make sure you are completely aware of all audition requirements and all aspects of the Band Camp schedule. Returning members should take special care to see the start dates for this year's Band Camp!

Golden Silks, Goldusters, and Twirlers: Welcome to the AAMB, and congratulations on your successful audition! The below information also applies to you except where you see references to "auditions;" you've already taken care of that.

To get you started on the right (well... left) foot, please read the points below carefully. This information is also available on our Purdue Bands & Orchestras website (<https://www.purdue.edu/bands/band-camp/>). If you have any questions, please contact the band office (765.494.0770) and we will be happy to assist.

Thank you again for joining us this season, and we wish you good luck and good skill on your preparation process. We are so excited for our season, and we can't wait to meet you and get it all started!

Warmest Regards,



Matthew R. Conaway
Professor of Bands
Director, Purdue "All-American" Marching Band

WELCOME ABOARD!

Everyone coming to band camp needs to register as soon as possible. Please navigate to the link below, log in, and complete your registration.

<https://www.purdue.edu/bands/registration/BandCamp/register>

Thanks for helping us maintain the most accurate roster possible!

NOT COMING TO BAND CAMP?

If your plans have changed and you are not planning on participating in Band Camp/AAMB this season, please reconsider!

If, after reconsidering, you determine that you still cannot participate, please email your section leader and let them know you are not planning on attending. If you have already registered for band camp, navigate to the link below, log in, and remove yourself from the band camp registration. We cannot manually remove you, so you will continue to get camp update emails from us until you remove yourself from this list.

<https://www.purdue.edu/bands/registration/BandCamp/register>

Remember – we have many other ensembles you can participate in at Purdue Bands & Orchestras! Check out other opportunities at www.purdue.edu/bands/audition.

ARRIVAL DATES AND TIMES

The Band Camp schedule has a very detailed list of dates and times for everyone and is available on the Band Camp page of our website - www.purdue.edu/bands/band-camp. This section is merely a summary of initial report times for each group of attendees.

- **Student Leadership Team:** Thursday, August 13, 6:00 PM for all 1's and 10's.
- **NEW Woodwind, Brass, and Big Ten Flag Candidates:** Sunday, August 16, 9:00 AM
- **RETURNING Woodwind, Brass, and Big Ten Flag Candidates:** Monday, August 17, 1:30 PM
- **ALL Drumline:** Sunday, August 16, 9:00 AM for new members; your scheduled audition time for returners
- **Golden Silks, Goldusters, Twirlers, and Big Bass Drum:** Sunday, August 16, 9:00 AM

Some auxiliary units have pre-camp activities - your coach will be in touch! As you work through your move-in times, please take care to select a date/time that allows you to comfortably move in prior to your group's Band Camp start!

WHAT TO BRING

1. **Shoes:** Comfortable shoes for rehearsal are required. Tennis shoes are the norm. Sandals, flip-flops, etc. are not an acceptable alternative. Students are encouraged to break-in shoes before arriving to camp!
2. **Large water bottle or water backpack.** Drinking fountains are available at the field, but will be quite slow if people are not prepared to hydrate!
3. **Reeds:** Woodwind players will need to provide reeds. We expect students to use quality reeds at all times.
4. **Supplies:** All musicians should come to camp with your own supply of cork grease, slide oil, valve oil, etc. to keep your instrument in great working order.
5. **Instrument:** All candidates for wind instruments except for mellophone, baritone, and sousaphone are expected to bring their own instrument to camp. *Everyone should bring their own mouthpiece whenever possible.*
6. **Drawstring backpack or fanny pack:** This is HIGHLY recommended to carry drill charts, water bottles, etc. to and from the drill field each day.
7. **Flip folder:** Every instrumentalist (winds and percussion) is required to own a flip folder for music, including sufficient windows to organize show/concert materials. These may be purchased from the Band Kloset in the Hull AAMB Complex if you do not already have one.
8. **White gloves:** All students using a university woodwind or brass instrument will be required to use white gloves at every rehearsal/performance. These can be purchased in the Kloset in the Hull AAMB Complex.
9. **Black Shorts:** all students must provide a pair of solid black shorts (no stripes, patterns, or large logos) that can be used for the End-of-Camp performance and all Gold Day rehearsals throughout the season.
10. **Sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat:** Highly recommended for all outdoor activities.

MUSIC PREPARATION

New and Returning wind candidates for marching band need to have submitted a music audition video prior to attending Band Camp. Specific audition instructions for Woodwind and Brass candidates may be found on the Band Camp link - <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/band-camp/>

Auditions will be evaluated throughout the summer; we will let you know if your music audition is complete OR if we will need you to re-audition after applying the feedback we provide. Re-auditions are quite common among new and returning members alike – don't panic if we ask you to submit a re-audition!

Drumline candidates will audition in person on the Sunday of camp. Specific audition information for Drumline candidates may be found on the Band Website after July 1. Check <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/band-camp/> for up-to-date information.

Under no circumstances should anyone arrive at camp without significant musical preparation on the provided audition materials. We will learn the entirety of the pregame show in the first 24 hours after the band is selected!

Finally, we ask that you arrive at band camp with "Hail Purdue IC" (m. 1-8, then letter 'C' to the end taking the 2nd ending) and "Back Home Again In Indiana" memorized. We will utilize these pieces as part of Band Camp, and this will help you tremendously.

INSTRUMENT CHECK-OUT

Anyone using a school instrument for camp will be issued an instrument and locker at check-in. All woodwind and brass candidates will be expected to provide their own mouthpiece, except in hardship cases. Plan to complete the pre-selection portion of Band Camp on your personal instrument. For those selected to the AAMB, a school instrument will be issued, and you may bring your personal horn back to your campus residence.

BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

The most up-to-date camp schedule is always available on the Band Camp website www.purdue.edu/bands/band-camp. Please check this frequently to see if there have been any changes. Conflicts with the schedule should be communicated to Prof. Conaway (conaway@purdue.edu) immediately.

RESIDENCE HALL CHECK-IN

Students will receive a link from University Residences to select their early move-in time sometime during the summer. Be sure to check your Purdue email and spam folders often. Cost per night is *approximately* \$35 for the room until the academic year contract begins. This cost will be billed to your MyPurdue account. Contact University Residences with any questions regarding the move-in schedule. It will be helpful to complete the Band Camp Registration form prior to selecting your move-in date.

COURSE REGISTRATION

During registration, remember to sign up for Band 11000-001, which is the course number for Marching Band. Note that this is the 3:30-5:20 PM section; the other section (002) is for Boiler Beats and is not available for enrollment until after the AAMB and Boiler Beats are selected.

Students will need to be registered for the correct Band class by the end of the first week of classes

DATABASE

All students must go to the following link and complete your profile: <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/registration/bandcamp/register> After logging in, click on "My Profile". Returning members should be able to copy in the previous year's information, making this a VERY easy process! This form includes your medical/insurance information, so please make sure all information is completely up to date. If you do not have a passport, leave that information blank. Even though your registration may show that you are less than 100% complete, we recognize it as being done. The database/medical information must be completed before you can participate in Marching Band Camp.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

All performances on the calendar are required, **including post-season bowl games**. Bowl participation is uncertain until we win six games OR lose seven, so avoid making significant travel plans during late December and the very beginning of January. Absences from performances are not taken lightly, and must be approved well in advance. The AAMB handbook can be found on our website - <https://www.purdue.edu/bands/ensembles/aamb/> - and has a partial list of acceptable reasons to miss a performance, but ALL must be pre-approved. If you know you will be missing a performance for an invalid reason, it is best not to audition for the ensemble.

COURSE CONFLICTS

We allow up to 2 hours per week of course overlap with BAND 11000 in the fall semester. No pre-approval is needed for a conflict up to this amount. Any requests for more than two hours per week of conflict must be approved by Dr. Petersen (lhpeters@purdue.edu) prior to auditioning for the AAMB. For all two-hour conflicts or less, schedule overrides can be requested using the schedule assistant tool. Susan Lipscomb will process the override after faculty approval. Note that non-course conflicts will not be considered (outside employment, study time, etc.).

EXPECTED COSTS

All students who are accepted to the AAMB will be expected to purchase certain mandatory uniform items upon their acceptance. These items are purchased through the university and will be billed to your MyPurdue account sometime during the first semester. Returning members may already have some of these items. For planning purposes, the estimated breakdown of costs is as follows.

- Band Jacket: ~\$99
- Band Polo Shirt: ~\$25
- Uniform Shoes: ~\$40
- Gold Day Hat: ~\$25
- Percussion and Auxiliary sections will have some additional fees and expenses.

Note that these fees are in addition to the course/activity fees that are concurrent with enrollment in BAND 11000, which will total \$170 for the semester, and includes the fall banquet ticket, all uniform dry cleaning/repairs, equipment maintenance, and the like. All fees are billed to your MyPurdue account several weeks into the fall semester, so don't be surprised when this bill comes across.

Dining during Band Camp is on your own. Students may eat in the Dining Courts as needed by paying the door rate with a Credit/Debit Card or Boiler Express. The costs per meal are: Breakfast: \$8.82 Lunch: \$13.44 Dinner: \$13.98. Many students eat at other restaurants on and off campus and pack breakfast items and snacks for the week.

2027 IRELAND TRIP

In March of 2027, the "All-American" Marching Band will be making its fourth appearance in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade. This trip is optional, but we usually see around 85-90% of the AAMB elect to participate. If you are a returning member candidate, you have likely already completed your registration process and have been making your monthly payments with Music Travel Consultants. If you are a new member candidate, you will be given an opportunity to register for this trip in the weeks immediately following your acceptance in the AAMB.

The trip is administered through Music Travel Consultants, who will handle all payments and arrangements for our travel experience. The student cost is still mildly in flux, but is approximately \$4,500. An accelerated payment schedule will be distributed to all new AAMB members immediately after acceptance. The deadline to register is September 4, 2026, so please have some advance discussion with family members on this trip's feasibility!

There is also a "Friends and Family" companion trip that is available for family members who would like to see the band perform on this trip. This companion trip will allow participants to attend every performance of the AAMB and one gala banquet together, but will operate on a somewhat more independent schedule on the non-performance aspects. Information regarding this trip will also be sent out through the selected band members.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media for official updates and unique content, and tag us @purduebands!

Main Instagram: @purduebands

Facebook: Purdue "All-American" Marching Band, Purdue Bands & Orchestras, Purdue Band Fan

YouTube: @PurdueBandsAndOrchestras, @PBO_ConcertArchive

Follow our section Instagram accounts, too!

@purdueaambpiccs

@aamb_clarinets

@saxes_of_purdue

@aamb.trumpets

@purdue_mellos

@aamb_baritones

@aamb_bonestagram

@purdoobahs

@purduedrumline

@worldslargestdrum

@drummajors_aamb

@aamb_btf

@purduegoldensilkscolorguard

@purduegolddusterdanceteam

@purduetwirling

@purduebetasigma

@kky_gammapi

@purduejazz and @purdue.jen

IN CLOSING

- Start hydrating regularly NOW. Band Camp is almost always extremely warm and we rehearse on asphalt.
- Start conditioning yourself to be on your feet for long periods of time. Frequent brisk walks will help you start to get into condition.
- Complete the profile form as discussed above. You must have the medical information completed in order to participate.
- Get in the habit of answering all correspondence immediately. Your parents will not be able to do this for you, as we ONLY communicate with students about schedules, course requirements, and nearly everything else about your potential participation in our programs.

We know this is a ton of information, but it is all relevant to coming into this program with a complete understanding of the schedule and preliminary expectations of membership in the "All-American" Marching Band.

If you are completely familiar with all of this information, you should expect to come to camp fully prepared to give your very best audition and performance. Just focus on coming in and showing the very best of your work ethic and abilities. While we cannot take everyone who auditions into the AAMB, know that there will be a place for you to perform somewhere in our department!

Come prepared, ask questions, and do everything in your power to be prepared for camp. You're in for a great experience this year!