

BIG SPRING SEASONAL COLORGUARD CONTRACT

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Big Spring Color Guard Program is to provide an opportunity for students to participate in representing their school, to grow as individuals and team members, to teach performance skills and build self-confidence and self-esteem. Group activities require that an individual put aside their personal feelings for the good of the group. What is required of one is required of all. When each individual is willing to give up a small part of himself/herself, the group benefits as a whole. Personal sacrifice and understanding the dynamics of a team will be crucial to becoming the best color guard member possible.

Most importantly, membership in color guard is a privilege not a right.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Attendance Policy

Each member plays an integral role in the color guard program. All other activities and appointments must be scheduled around rehearsal and performance dates and times. Social plans, dental/doctor/optometry appointments, jobs, group project meetings, and other appointments or commitments of this nature cannot interfere with rehearsals or performances.

1. Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is mandatory.

2. Excused Absence Policy

- An absence is excused if both of the following criteria are met:
 - The member's parent or guardian notifies an instructor one week in advance of the absence, or the member's parent or guardian notifies the instructor of a sudden, serious family emergency.
 - ii. The absence is not related to any of the following events or activities: social plans, dental/doctor/optometry appointments, jobs, studying, and other appointments or commitments of this nature.
- Illness is an excused absence.
 - If you attend school, you must attend rehearsal unless you are contagious or too ill to observe rehearsal.
 - If you do not attend school, you may not come to practice.
- Missing school the Friday before a competition, for any reason, may prohibit you from performing in the competition. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the administrative staff.

3. Missed Rehearsal

- If a student is missing rehearsal a parent/guardian must contact a staff member by **Noon** the day of rehearsal or it will result in an unexcused absence

- 3 unexcused absences will result in loss of performance. These absences need not to be consecutive.
- If students miss 2 consecutive rehearsals in a row due to illness or injury a doctor's note must be provided in order to resume rehearsals.

Performance Policies & Procedures

1. You are never to be in "partial uniform." The uniform is either entirely on, or entirely off.
2. Uniforms must remain completely on after performances until you are told otherwise.
3. You are not to run in uniform.
4. You are not to eat in uniform.
5. You must be on your best behavior while at a performance venue. Making negative comments about other performing groups is not permitted.
6. You may not leave the performance venue early unless you have it approved in advance with one of the staff members.
7. You may not go anywhere alone while at a performance venue. You must always be with another guard member.
8. Please remember you are a representative of Big Spring while you are in uniform and proper manners will be shown.
9. There will be absolutely no profanity/inappropriate language/actions

ETIQUETTE

General

1. Arriving at rehearsal "on-time" means at least 15 minutes early. Unless you notify a staff member ahead of schedule.
 - a. "To be early is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late shows you do not care."
2. Do not spin while staff members are giving whole-group instruction.
3. Do not move or talk at the end of a repetition until you are told to "relax."
4. If the staff is working with another group that does not involve you, please remain quiet until given further instructions. You may spin on your own as long as you do not cause any major distractions to those learning.

Technique

One of the most important aspects of color guard is having good technique. A color guard only has good technique if we all strive for, and achieve, the technique as a unit. The technique program used by each color guard is at the discretion of the color guard staff. How we spin in the BSCG may be different than other schools or other instructors you have had in the past.

Disagreeing with or questioning the technique of the instructors will not be tolerated. All of the instructors have spun with multiple color guards and thus have experience spinning within the

guidelines of different technique programs. We have pooled our experiences to create a technique program appropriate for the current level of the BSCG.

Social Media

Students are responsible for their own behavior when communicating with social media. They will be held accountable for the content of the communications that they state/post on social media locations. Students may not disrupt the learning atmosphere, educational programs, school activities and the rights of others.

Inappropriate communications may not be included in student's social media, including but not limited to:

- Confidential, personally identifiable, and sensitive School District information about students, employees, and the program
- Bullying/Cyber bullying
- Inappropriate commercialization of childhood experiences
- Defamatory or discriminatory statements and images
- Threats
- Information deemed inappropriate by the instructional staff and or school district

Information that a student deleted may be recovered indefinitely by the Staff.

Appearance

Students have the freedom to represent themselves by choices made in their personal appearance. However, students will be held accountable to the school stated dress code and the instructors reserve the right to pull a student from a performance if they make drastic changes to personal appearances without prior approval.

1. A list is provided of personal appearance changes that may result in loss of performance without prior approval:
 - Hair Color- Hair color can be changed to natural tones. Any color changes such as blue, purple, red, green etc. needs to be discussed with the instructional staff before the change is made. Bright colored hair causes a judge to single a performer out and distract from the overall ensemble.
 - Tattoos- Must be covered and not visible to the audience while performing. If a tattoo already exists and is visible with the uniform, it will be discussed on a case by case basis. Students may need to cover any tattoos up with makeup for a performance if it is located on part of the body that is visible while in uniform.
 - Piercings- Students are limited to 2 piercing holes in their ear during a performance, these must be considered "studs" and be flat to the ear. It is

dangerous to spin with piercings, due to the risk of fabric getting caught and tearing the piercing out or an injury taking place and a piercing causing more complications to the event.

- Nose rings, tongue rings, septum piercings, facial piercings, and additional ear piercings etc. must be taken out for all performances.

Cell Phones

Cell Phones should only be used at practice in case of an emergency or to confirm rides etc. Cell phones are not to be used during practice to text friends or to post on social media outlets including but not limited to snapchat, Instagram, Facebook etc. Cell Phones are not permitted on the field during practice, in the stands during a football game or out during the awards portion of a competition. We ask that if a student needs to be on their phone during rehearsal/game/awards ceremony that they let a staff member or chaperone know at the beginning of rehearsal or before the start of the game.

- As a reminder the Staff & Chaperones almost always have their cell phones with them. If there is an emergency and you need to get ahold of your student ASAP, you are more than welcome to call a staff member or chaperone for quick access.
- If cell phone usage becomes an ongoing problem for the group the staff will collect cell phones at the beginning of rehearsal, place them in a clear waterproof container and redistribute at the end.

Bullying /Drama

The staff understands that this is High School/Middle School and drama is bound to happen. We do not ask that all our students be friends, but we are very clear in the aspect that this is an all inclusive activity and we try to instill the values of a family atmosphere and having your teammates back. With this being said this is a NO Bullying and NO Drama zone. We ask that you leave your dislike and personal issues with other members at the door and that they do not interfere with the group as a whole. This goes for the entirety of the school year.

Repercussions:

1. We have a zero-tolerance policy for breaking any of the rules stated.
2. We will be working on a three strike system:
 - First offense is a warning.
 - Second offense punishment (I.E. detention or loss of performance)
 - Third offense and you will be asked to leave the program for one full season and be subjected to paying the pre established quitting fee.

Leaving the Program:

If a student chooses to or is asked to leave the Big Spring Color Guard program during the outdoor or indoor seasons, after the initial grace period has ended a \$200.00 quitting fee will be charged and students will not be permitted to return to the program for a year.

CORE VALUES

1. Being “good” people: We defined “good” person as someone who is honest, respectful, and treats people with caring and love. We will form healthy working relationships with each member of the guard.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

- Be on time
- Don’t laugh at others’ mistakes
- No backstabbing or gossip
- “Help” without being asked
- No cliques - talk to everyone
- Team building exercises
- Give/receive constructive criticism
- Listen more than we talk
- Genuine positive feedback
- Positive ATTITUDE at all times

2. Having “fun”: We define “fun” as having a good time, laughing, and use of humor during rehearsals, but at the same time, maintaining focus on our job and work ethic so we continue to achieve to our highest potential.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

- Taking time to give positive feedback
- Bring snacks to share
- Learn how to focus ourselves and pay attention
- Share and chat on breaks
- Build confidence within the group (individual praise)

3. Becoming “friends”: We define “friends” as people we like to be around, people who accept us for who we are, and people who communicate with each other in healthy ways. We will help each other on and off the field and grow with each other, emphasizing our strengths and improving our weaknesses.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

- Communicate outside of guard— call, email, and talk at school
- Guard parties— sleepovers, pizza, beach, mall
- Admit our mistakes and make it right
- Talk about our problems and resolve them before or after rehearsal
- Do regular “mood checks” before rehearsal starts

- Modesty and humble nature, not critical or boastful
4. Practice and perform “our best”: We define “our best” as working toward a technically clean and emotionally moving performance. We will perform the way we practice, so it is critical to improve each time we rehearse and to give 100% at every practice.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

- Regular individual practice that is focused on improving weak areas
- Sectionals within our ranks
- Clearing our minds before rehearsal to keep focused and coming prepared
- Practicing mindfulness and breathing techniques
- Keeping a positive attitude, even if you have to “act enthusiastic”
- Being responsible and asking instructors/captains for extra help

Please sign and return by Monday July 30th:

Student Agreement

I have read and understand the information presented. By signing below, I agree to abide by the guidelines listed herein. I acknowledge that by signing below, I am making a commitment, not only to myself, but to the other members of the marching band and color guard. My fellow members will depend on me to attend all rehearsals and performances, be prepared for rehearsal, and meet all the other obligations outlined in the handbook. I understand that if I am unable to or choose to work or act in a contrary manner to the standards and expectations listed in the handbook, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which may include my being removed from the team.

Print Student Name

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I have read and understand the information presented. By signing below, I agree to support the guidelines listed herein. I acknowledge that if my student does not follow these guidelines he or she will be subject appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being removed from the team.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

