

# Skyridge Marching Band Handbook 2024

## What is marching band and why?

Students that do marching band gain life-long friendships and memories. They become more mentally and physically resilient. They gain a stronger sense of self-awareness and work ethic. They are a part of something bigger than themselves, which is one of the key human needs.

The product is enjoyed by thousands every year. Parents and individuals (unassociated with our group) have told me many times that our performance brought them to tears. This is a powerful performing medium.

## Who can join the Skyridge Marching Band?

Students who will be in 9-12th grades and live in the Skyridge boundaries or have transferred to Skyridge High School. There is not an audition for wind instruments. Percussion will have an audition for instrument placement. Color Guard will have an audition in the spring. Winds and Percussion must be in a Concert Band class to be in Marching Band.

## What is the commitment?

Joining the Skyridge Marching Band means you are a member of our team! 100% of the students are on the field 100% of the time which means WE NEED YOU TO BE FULLY COMMITTED! Many of the summer rehearsals we are flexible with family vacation (need to be excused). **Band Camp is 100% required! ALL fall rehearsals are REQUIRED (2 excused absences allowed in the Fall). ALL performances are required!** This means most Saturdays in September and October will have a required event (we do take most of fall break and Labor Day off).

## When is the competition season?

Competitions typically start in early September and go through the first or second week in November. Most competitions are on Saturdays although some years there is an occasional week night. We will also perform during Skyridge football halftime show! We should have competition dates in mid July but we won't have specific times until September.

## How to Sign Up!

Although our first rehearsal is not until April we have already started writing music and getting our drill created and we need to have solid numbers as soon as possible. We need all students to commit and register by Feb. 16, 2024.

To sign up:

- Fill out the registration form by February 16, 2024 <https://www.skyridgeband.com/marching-band>
- Make your first payment on myschoolfees.com by February 16, 2024 (see instructions below)
- Bring your signed contract to your current band or color guard teacher by Feb. 16, 2024

The registration link, contracts, schedules, handbooks, attendance excuse form and more can be found at <https://www.skyridgeband.com/marching-band>



## Schedule

As a member of the Skyridge Marching Band you are committing to be a part of the team. You are needed there at every required rehearsal!

- The schedule can always be found on our website [skyridgeband.com/marching-band](http://skyridgeband.com/marching-band). The schedule is accurate, but subject to change. The competition schedule will be out in late summer.
- **Band camp, all fall rehearsals and camps and all competitions are required. No exceptions.** Once we start learning our show it is very difficult to have anyone missing.
- We believe in students taking time to be with their family in the summer and have color coded our summer schedule based on priority.
  - **Yellow** rehearsals: If you are in town you need to be at rehearsal but it can be excused if you are gone. Please do not schedule lessons, doctors appointments or any other conflicts during rehearsals. **If you need to miss more than 5, you will need to talk to Mr. Summers for approval.**
  - **Orange:** Do everything you can to schedule vacations around these dates, but can be excused.
  - **Red:** MANDATORY DATES, do not sign up for marching band if you can not make it (*The only possible exception to RED dates is if you are marching Drum Corps this summer*)
- If you are out of town for yellow or orange rehearsals **please fill out the absence request form found at [skyridgeband.com/marching-band](http://skyridgeband.com/marching-band)**. Simply letting your section leader know is not enough you must fill out this form BEFORE your absence to get it excused.
- Competition performances start mid September and end with state finals Nov. 2-5, 2023.
- If you can not attend all required rehearsals including band camp, all fall rehearsals and all performances you should not sign up. Please come talk to us if you have any questions.

## Cleaning Camps

Cleaning camps are typically 1-3 Saturday morning rehearsals in August or September where we have a longer practice to really focus on “cleaning” the show. These are required.

## Fall Competitions

We perform at 6-8 competitions per year. Times can vary however they are most often on a Saturday and we typically perform in the evening (although weeknights and daytime performances happen on occasion). There will be a call time emailed out when students need to be at the school. Typically when students arrive we have a short rehearsal, we load the busses and trailers and head to the competition (busses and meals are provided, included in the fees). We have a warmup, perform, stay for the awards ceremony and then head home. Depending on the distance students will be gone 6 - 8 hours for a typical competition. We won't have an exact schedule until August. Students are expected to ride on the provided bus both to and from the performance. If a student needs to be checked out for any reason the parent or legal guardian must come talk to the TEACHER at the time of checkout. Parents can ONLY check out their own student and the parent must be present at the time of checkout.

## Other Activities

Commitment to marching band means that you commit to making marching band your priority. This makes participating in other fall activities very difficult. If you are considering participating in another activity please know that you will not be able to miss any marching band rehearsals especially band camp and all fall rehearsals. Come talk to us if you have specific questions. The school's fall play, swim team and mountain biking are especially difficult to do both. Cross country is hard but it is possible.

## **Class Requirements**

- Winds and percussion: You do NOT have to join the marching band to participate in regular band activities at the high school (concert bands, percussion and jazz bands)
- Winds and percussion: If you DO decide to join the marching band you are REQUIRED to be in a concert band at either the junior high or the high school. No exceptions!
  - There is also a Marching Percussion class during B5 for the first semester that all percussionists should try and accommodate their schedule for. 9th graders are also encouraged and it just takes the place of their B5 at the junior high.
- Color Guard: Should be signed up for the color guard class at Skyridge. 9th graders it is really beneficial to be in this class if you can make it work. Please do everything you can to participate in this class.

## **PE Credit**

Yes students get PE credit for marching band! To graduate high school there are three required PE classes: PE Skills (9th grade), PE Fitness (10th grade) and PE Activities (11th grade). Each year you are registered for the marching band class will count for one year of PE credit. If you participate and are registered for the marching band class for 3 years you will not have to take any PE classes in high school. The 10th grade class (PE Fitness) does require that you also complete an online course that can be taken through East Shore for free. More information will be sent. Make sure your schedule shows "marching band" term 1 for credit.

## **Fees**

We work hard to keep our fees some of the lowest in the state for a band our size. The fees cover everything (except the parade uniform and marching shoes) for the season. This includes meals at competitions and band camp, transportation, competition fees, instruments, uniform, staff, drill writing, field paint, props, hotel, state finals trip fees etc. Our fees are higher this year due mostly to major increases in hotel, transportation, field paint and food prices. Color Guard and Percussion may have a few additional fees (Color guard: flag bag and gloves, Percussion: sticks and mallets).

## **Payments**

All payments can be made using [myschoolfees.com](https://myschoolfees.com) (through Skyridge, not the Jr high) or in the Skyridge finance office. Total cost is \$1000 - may be paid all at once or with the payment structure below:

Feb. 15: \$75                      March 5: \$250                      April 5: \$225                      May 5: \$225                      June 5: \$225

If you must drop out, we need to know in writing before April 30, 2024 to receive a full refund. If you inform us from May 1 - May 31, you will receive a refund for the trip and camp fees. After May 31 you are responsible for all of the fees even if you drop. If you have dropped but have not paid the fees your school account will be charged.

Payments can be made on [myschoolfees.com](https://myschoolfees.com) however the instructions are different depending on where your student is CURRENTLY going to school. Please see instructions at the end of the packet.

## **Fundraising**

The marching band has two fundraisers each year that help keep the fees low for the entire band. Our summer Palooza is a great community event that includes breakfast, a car show, a 5K and other exciting

events! We also host the Skyridge Review in the fall where you can come watch your students perform as well as several other schools! More information will be sent out but we appreciate all parent help for these big events!

**YARD SALE:** At the Palooza students can do their own yard sale. Kids can often pay their entire marching fees with this one event. The student goes to friends and neighbors asking for stuff they don't want (old mower, bikes, clothes, sound equipment, camping equipment). People often have stuff in their garage that is just sitting there for years and they want to get rid of it - this is what we're looking for. The student collects this, brings it to the Palooza and signs up for a vendor spot (student rate is \$5). The student is responsible for everything: handling money, removal of unsold items, etc.

We encourage students to be creative and proactive to help earn their fees! Babysitting, lawn mowing, cleaning trash cans, yard sales etc. There are lots of great ways for students to earn money towards their fees!

We also really appreciate our community sponsors! We have a variety of donation levels that all go directly to the band and are tax deductible! Please let us know if your company would be interested in sponsoring our band!

### **Wind and Percussion Marching Band Uniforms**

Marching band uniforms are provided as part of your fees. These will be worn for the Freedom Festival parade and for the competition season. Students need to provide their own long black socks and marching shoes (DSI Viper, black - can be used all four years). Students are responsible to take care of their uniform and can be charged for any damage they caused. We will place a bulk shoe order in the spring which gives you a significant discount (we will send info out in May).

### **Wind and Percussion Parade Uniforms**

We have a separate uniform for the Lehi parades. All wind and percussion students will need to provide their own black pants (with belt loops, no holes), black belt and long black socks. Students will need to purchase the Skyridge party band shirt, party band hat and have correct marching band shoes. Yes you can use these items all four years. The shoes are the same ones you will wear for competitions. Yes we have kept them the same since the school opened and you can use a sibling's or neighbor's used items however please make sure they are in good condition. We will have an order in the spring for anyone needing these items.

### **Color Guard Uniforms**

For the parades color guard students will need to purchase a top through the school in the spring. Students will need to provide black leggings. For the season your fees will cover your uniforms but you may need to purchase color guard shoes. More information about that will be sent closer to the season.

### **Communication**

We communicate all information through email. We use the address you provide in the registration form. Some communication will come through Mr. Summers' email [hsummers@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:hsummers@alpinedistrict.org). A lot of information and details will come through the [skyridgebandboosters@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:skyridgebandboosters@alpinedistrict.org) email address. You are welcome to respond with questions to either email address.

## **Pass-offs**

Throughout the season we will have “pass-offs” where each student is responsible to demonstrate that they understand the fundamentals of marching and that they know all of their parade and show music. Students will work with their section leaders. Any students who are not up to date on their pass-offs may be required to come in for extra help. Any student who is struggling should seek out help from the section leader as soon as possible!

## **Grades**

Marching band is a UHSAA sponsored activity. One of the policies is that students must maintain their grades to be eligible to perform and to go on the state finals trip. Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and no more than 1 F to participate. Please make sure you are checking your grades and keeping up on your assignments throughout the term!

## **Parent help**

This organization can not happen without the support of our awesome parents! We know that everyone has different circumstances but we encourage all parents to find a way to be involved. There are a lot of different ways that will be emailed to you throughout the season including food donations, sewing help, prop support, uniforms, cooking food, chaperones and so much more. We encourage all parents to fill out this form (please fill out a separate one for mom and one for dad) to get us started - you are not committing with this form just helping us know who we can call! You can find the form using the QR code and on [skyridgeband.com/marching-band](http://skyridgeband.com/marching-band). Thank you!



## **Disneyland**

The marching band will not be taking a trip to Disneyland this season. We have a three year rotation for Disneyland trips. In the 2022-2023 school year the marching band marched in the parade at Disneyland. The Skyridge concert band classes will have the opportunity to have a backstage experience in the spring 2024. None of the groups will go on a trip in the 2024-2025 year.

## **Come to Rehearsals Prepared**

Students should be prepared at every rehearsal for both music rehearsal and an outdoor rehearsal. You should have the following items at EVERY rehearsal:

- Bag or backpack
- Water
- Instrument (bring in its case)
- Comfortable athletic clothing
- Athletic shoes
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Music binder (given at first rehearsal)
- Dot sheets (they will get these later in the season)
- Snacks
- Wear Deoderant

## **Common New Member Questions**

*"What will we be doing?"* Students will rotate through different "stations" throughout the rehearsal, usually with your section. Stations include music rehearsals and marching basics so you will be prepared to march in both parades and in a show.

*"Will the music be too hard?"* The music may be hard at first but we promise you will get it! This is part of what makes marching band so awesome - you will have the entire summer playing with more advanced students who will help you and by the end of the summer you will sound great! We are here to help and you will be amazed at your growth!

*"Should I be scared?"* This was asked with a smile but...the answer is "NO!" Everyone was a freshman once and you will work together as a team to help everyone be awesome! We have handpicked an awesome staff who are all there to help you the entire time! Mrs. Smith says "it's normal to feel scared or nervous about something new but you'll learn to love it so fast!"

*"Is marching band fun?"* Yes! Is it a lot of work? - also yes! You will be proud of what you learn to accomplish over the season. Taking trips to competitions and the state finals trip at the end of the season will give you memories you will cherish the rest of your life!

\*If you ever have questions or need extra help please make sure you ask! There are section leaders and staff who are happy to help! We want everyone to be successful!

## **Questions**

We are really looking forward to another amazing season! We are happy to help! Please email us with any questions you may have!

Howard Summers - Band director [hsummers@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:hsummers@alpinedistrict.org)

Leslie Sampson - Band director [lsampson@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:lsampson@alpinedistrict.org)

Jessica Crandall - Percussion director [jessicalcrandall@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:jessicalcrandall@alpinedistrict.org)

Gracie Cook - Color Guard director [garcie.cook1@gmail.com](mailto:garcie.cook1@gmail.com)

Sarah Ahlstrom - Secretary [skyridgebandboosters@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:skyridgebandboosters@alpinedistrict.org)

# Skyridge Marching Band Payment Instructions

*The instructions are different depending on where your student is CURRENTLY attending. The payment system changes over to the new year in July - after July use the school they will attend in the fall*

**If your student is currently at Viewpoint or Lehi Jr (currently 8th or 9th grade):**

## **Payment instructions**

Go to [myschoolfees.com](https://myschoolfees.com)

Select "UT - Alpine - **Skyridge**"

Select "Show Public Items"

Select "Marching Band" from the drop down menu

Add the items your student needs to the cart (for the first payment select Feb. Camp \$75)

\*\*\*Please indicate your student's name at checkout\*\*\*

Continue to Checkout

*If you have a problem: **check that you selected Skyridge as the school.***

*When you check out please only put your STUDENT's first and last name that you used on the registration.*

**If your student is currently at Skyridge (currently 10th or 11th grade):**

## **Payment Instructions**

Go to [myschoolfees.com](https://myschoolfees.com)

Select "UT - Alpine - Skyridge"

Select "Show Student Items"

Choose your child's name from the drop-down menu

Click on the drop down menu that says "Select from other categories"

Select "Marching Band"

Add the items your student needs to the cart (for the first payment select Feb. Camp \$75)

Continue to Checkout

*Please do not use the "public" option if you are currently at Skyridge*

If you have questions or need to check what payments have been made please email  
[skyridgebandboosters@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:skyridgebandboosters@alpinedistrict.org)