Skyridge High School
Marching Band Handbook

2026 Season

Skyridge Marching Band Handbook 2026

What is marching band and why?
Marching is first and foremost about developing good humans. How do we do that? Wind Instruments (Tuba, baritone, trombone, french horn, trumpet, saxophones, clarinet and flutes), Percussion Instruments and Color Guard performing music, drill and dance on a field - at an extremely high level! Students that participate in 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 (3 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 fall break and Labor Day off).

Kids are addicted to cell phones. Constant bombardment with digital dopamine is addictive. Research shows this constant bombardment with dopamine diminishes the body's response to dopamine. This is a huge factor in the increase in Anxiety and Depression. (read Anxious Generation, Jonathan Haidt).

Marching gets kids addicted to real life. Learning a skill, overcoming difficulty, creating an amazing show - all give kids real-life dopamine associations. Being part of a team and interacting face to face gives kids the sense of belonging through oxytocin. Being an integral part of a community and a production like this gives a sense of meaning.

Yes, your kid will be gone a lot, but this is where you want them to be. This is who you want your kids socializing with. This trains kids to be ready for college and the workplace (being on time, communicating, being relied on). We hold feet to the fire, but we do this in a positive, constructive way. Kids need this in today's world.

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 a 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 Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026.

To sign up:

- Fill out the registration form by February 12, 2026 https://www.skyridgeband.com/marching-band
- Pay your $250 deposit on myschoolfees.com by February 12, 2026 (see instructions at the end of the packet and on the website)
- Bring your signed contract to your current band or color guard teacher by Feb. 12, 2026.

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. 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.** 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 6, 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 to ALL of the dates!** (*The only possible exception to RED dates is if you are marching Drum Corps this summer).*
    - Green: We are providing FREE private lessons for all woodwinds/brass. This is required for winds when in town. If you are on vacation, don't sign up, and you're good. If you sign up for a lesson and miss the lesson you will be responsible for the cost of the lesson. ($20 each missed lesson)

- If you are out of town for yellow or orange rehearsals **please fill out the absence request form found at 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 6-7.
- This year we are allocating 3 absences in the Fall. **If you reach the 3, we'll have a meeting (Mr. Summers, student and parent) to come up with a game plan.** If attendance doesn't improve, the student may be removed from Marching Band without a refund. This is not an automatic thing, but will be considered on a case by case basis.
    - Don't use them up early. You'll have a homework emergency at some point and you'll want it then.

- Don't use them up early. You will be sick some time in the season. If you're sick, and not there, that counts as an absence.
- **2 tardies count as one absence. Students who are chronically tardy will need to meet with their parents and Mr. Summers to come up with a game plan.** If attendance doesn't improve, the student may be removed from Marching Band - without a refund. This is not an automatic thing, but will be considered on a case by case basis.
- If usage is in the week of a competition, there is still a possibility that you won't be able to perform depending on how much new material was taught that week.
- Please come talk to us if you have any questions.

Skyridge Marching Band Google Calendar
We have a google calendar with all of our rehearsals and performances! This gets updated throughout the season. You can always find it on our website at https://www.skyridgeband.com/marching-band. You can subscribe to the calendar (so it shows on your own calendar) by using this link: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/7?cid=c2t5cmlkZ2ViYW5kYm9vc3RlcnNAZ21haWwuY29t

Summer Band Camp
Band camp is fun! It is a lot of work! This is the week that we put our show onto the field. If there is a student missing then the kids around the student learn their parts wrong! There is so much that the student would have missed it is extremely difficult to get them caught up. This year we will be learning most of our choreo during band camp as well. There is so much going on every day which is why they are all REQUIRED. If you have to miss Band Camp, you can sign up as an alternate.

Alternates
If you can't do Band Camp but still want to march, you can sign up as an alternate. You'll rehearse with us all summer. For any Band Camp that you can be at, we would want you there shadowing someone in your section. For fall rehearsals, you'd shadow someone in your section to fill a hole for someone that is sick. If someone drops, you'd get that spot. You would attend all rehearsals and competitions. You'd pay half of the regular fees as an alternate (regardless of whether you end up getting a spot or not) and all of the trip fees.

Cleaning Camps
Cleaning camps are longer practices where we get a deep dive into "cleaning" the show. These are required. (This is not cleaning instruments!) Please see the schedule for this year's dates.

Fall Competitions and Performances
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). We also have our Family Night and we perform at a home Skyridge football game!

There will be a call time emailed out a week before 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.

St. George Trip

The Marching Band participates in two competitions back to back in St. George at the end of the season. We take tour buses down and stay at a nice hotel. Kids stay 4 to a room with 2 beds. Some kids prefer to bring an inflatable bed or pad, which is fine. Students are expected to ride to the competition and stay with the marching band for the entire trip. We typically leave Friday morning and return early Sunday afternoon. This is a required trip for all students and is included in the fees (including hotels, bus, all food, entrance to competitions etc).

Day 1 (Friday) is the Utah State Championships (also called "Red Rocks"). Day 2 (Saturday) we participate in a regional competition (including bands from several states) called Bands of America (BOA). This competition consists of a preliminary performance during the day. If we make it to the finals (announced at 4:30 PM) we will perform again that evening. Awards are around 10:30 PM. It is not a guarantee to make finals but we have done well the last several years. All students are required to be there for all performances.

We love to have an audience on this trip! We REALLY want parents and family to come support! This is our biggest competition of the year, and having a large contingent of parents in the stands really can impact our kids' performance positively. We recommend getting accommodations early as hotel rooms tend to book up fast!

If you go down for Friday, there's an opportunity to volunteer for the competition, and our program gets a percentage of the ticket sales (based on how many we have volunteer that day). We'll send out info when we're getting close.

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 and swim team are activities that are especially difficult to do both. Cross country and Mountain Biking are hard but definitely doable. Marching would need to be the priority for most conflicts.

Class Requirements

- Winds and percussion: If you want to march, you have to be in one of our concert bands/percussion classes. No exceptions!
- Marching Percussion class: There is a class during B5 for the first semester that all percussionists should try and accommodate in their schedule. 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 for Life (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 for Life) does require that you also complete an online course that can be taken through East Shore for free. Please talk with your school counselor to get signed up for this online class. The counselors recommend signing up in November of your sophomore year. Make sure your schedule shows "marching band" for term 1 to be eligible for the PE credit.

Fees

We work hard to keep our fees some of the lowest in the state for a band our size. Our fees include <u>everything</u> for the season except for student consumables (Color guard bag/gloves/shoes, Percussion sticks/mallets and shoes, Wind student's shoes). Optional swag will be available! Here are some of what is included in your fees:

Staff (directors, instruments, percussion and color guard)
Sound equipment
Show design
Competition Registration fees
Music Arranging
Music Arranging rights
Uniform costs
Props
Instruments
Food at camps and competitions
Guard equipment
Guard Costumes
Student buses
Trailer hauling
Trailer Maintenance
Uniforms
Instrument Maintenance
Food supplies
Field Paint
Corps Encore trip (subsidized)
Banquet
Show Shirt
St. George trip (hotel, busses, food)

Payments

All payments can be made using myschoolfees.com (through <u>Skyridg</u>e, not the Jr high) or in the Skyridge finance office. **Total cost is $1090:**

We are working with the finance office on a payment schedule. We will let you know details as soon as they are finalized. We anticipate a deposit due in February, a camp fee due in March. The rest of the payments will most likely be in July and August.

If you must drop out, we need to know <u>in writing</u> before April 30, 2024 to receive a full refund. If you inform us from May 1-May 31, you will not receive a refund on the deposit. 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 however the instructions are different depending on where your student is CURRENTLY going to school. Please see instructions at the end of the packet and on the website.

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!

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!

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.

Corporate Sponsors
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. Students are responsible to take care of their uniform and can be charged for any damage they caused. The uniform will be worn for the parades and for the competition season. Wind and percussion will need to provide their own long black socks and marching shoes (can be used all four years). We will place a bulk shoe order in the spring which gives you a significant discount (we will send info out in May). We have discontinued our previous Lehi parade uniform and instead have purchased a "parade top" similar to last year's show top! Party band shirts will continue to be available for students for party band!

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 and shoes. For the season your fees will cover your uniforms but you may need to provide color guard shoes that can be ordered through the school. 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. A lot of information and details will come through our secretary Sarah Ahlstrom through the skyridgebandsecretary@alpinedistrict.org 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 and choreo. 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 sewing help, prop building, uniforms, cooking food, chaperones and so much more. We encourage all parents to fill out the form on skyridgeband.com/marching-band (look for the "ways parents can help form." Please fill out a separate form for mom and one for dad). You are not committing with this form just helping us know who we can call! Thank you!

Disneyland / Trips
We are currently working towards a trip plan for the next couple of years. We will send out more information as it becomes available! An additional trip is not included in the regular marching band fees.

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
- Laced athletic shoes (no high tops, boots or sandals)
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Music binder (given at first rehearsal)
- Dot sheets (they will get these later in the season)
- Snacks
- Wear Deodorant

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!

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Leslie Sampson - Band director lsampson@alpinedistrict.org
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