



THE BUSHWACKERS

2017

MEMBERSHIP MANUAL

THE MISSION OF THE BUSHWACKERS

The mission of the Bushwackers is to have its Members achieve lifelong excellence through a superior and challenging performing arts experience.

THE CORPS PHILOSOPHY

QUALITY

We know it when we see it
and if we have personally contributed to its presence
it is a special joy.

The common denominator is concentration:
concentration of talent
concentration of experience
concentration of energy
extra hours... extra efforts... extra pains.

Of course, that's the cost of getting better.
But for those who strive to set the standard,
there is no other way.
Any performance can be better.
Every note, every movement improved
and few of us are satisfied.

Quality is yearning to be the best,
but few are willing to pay the price.

But we as a corps intend to continue...
searching, striving, sometimes soaring.
Our commitment is to add new dimensions
to the meaning of Quality
and to be the rule by which others are measured.

WELCOME TO THE BUSHWACKERS

Over the course of the last few months, the Bushwackers administration has been working hard to plan for the 35th Bushwackers season. As always, we aim to make this season as memorable as possible, and we hope that you will be a part of our family as we embark on a mission to thrill ourselves and our fans -- and to be the best that DCA can offer.

“All-age” drum corps is very unique, because young people and experienced members have the opportunity to work, perform, and learn from each other. As you work to help Bushwackers win a 7th DCA championship, you will be doing much more than competing for medals that you can hang on your walls; you will be learning, teaching, and making friendships that will last a lifetime. Most importantly, you will be achieving excellence a very high level, and this translates into all aspects of school, work, and life.

Since the conclusion of the 2015 season in Rochester, NY, the administration and staff have been working on making 2016 an even better experience than years prior. With the 2016 season upon us, we are making our team stronger with changes in staff, additions to our administration, and a renewed commitment to providing an amazing experience to our members. We are dedicated to providing you with a championship corps experience of a lifetime. Together, we will achieve that goal!

For veterans and new members alike, 2016 will be a spectacular season and a great time to become part of the respected Bushwackers legacy and tradition of being the innovators.

We know you will have a wonderful season -- a season that will bring you fond memories and pride... a season that we at Bush refer to as “A Perfect Year.”

Sincerely,

The 2017 Bushwackers administration

Harlan Landes, corps director

Bob Gupta, executive director

Jay Morlot, executive director

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CORPS

In the fall of 1980, drum corps in the east was in a decline. Many of the prior decade's hundreds of junior and senior corps throughout the northeast were no longer active. The idea of starting a brand new senior drum corps, in central Jersey, did not seem to be an easy proposition. A new corps did not have a strong case for survival.

Mike Olszweski had the dream and the money and the guts to start the Bushwackers as a brand new drum corps against the odds. He wanted the corps to be located in his home town of Keyport, NJ, and he secured the Keyport American Legion Post #23 for rehearsals. An organizational meeting was held on November 8th, 1980, at the Keyport American Legion attended by Mike, the first show coordinator Mike Mercadante, and future instructors Lee Romano and Russell Morris.

The 80s showed a great deal of promise and success for The Bushwackers. After spending its first year as a parade corps, Bush stormed onto the DCA scene in 1982, placing 8th at its first DCA Championships. In 1986, four years and one uniform change later, The Bushwackers won their first show ever: the DCA World Championships! The Bushwackers continued their winning ways right into the 90s. The corps won 6 titles in 1986, '88, '89, '90, '92, and '93, and were undefeated in '93. The percussion section captured an incredible six straight percussion titles. The corps performed everything from jazz, to Broadway, to original compositions. Bush's quick rise to the top and virtual dominance of DCA over a span of right years made an incredible mark on the drum corps activity.

The mid to late 90's brought a time of change for The Bushwackers. Staff turnovers and a search for a creative identity proved to be a mixed blessing for the corps. Competitively, the corps declined in the rankings, and experimented with many different styles of music. More importantly however, an incredible sense of family was born among its dwindling but relentless membership. We adopted our corps song, "A Perfect Year," and formed many new traditions, and a great membership base and sense of mission laid the groundwork for what would come next.

Following the 2000 season, The Bushwackers made a renewed commitment to its philosophy of **QUALITY**. The corps discovered a new style was discovered, assembled a great staff, and a membership on a mission was ready to work. The corps climbed steadily through the rankings and held its ground as not only being a competitive drum corps, but also a contender for the title every year.

Most importantly, the corps was able to employ the lessons of family they had learned during a tough and trying time in their history. Consequently, the corps grew in numbers, placements, and in determination. In 2006, the corps placed 3rd at the DCA World Championships taking the High Brass and High Color Guard awards. In 2007, we again captured the High Color Guard award and in 2008 our guard won "Best Showmanship" while our percussion section surged into the top 5 in DCA. In 2013, we completed the season with a solid 8th place finish at finals after a two year hiatus from a finals performance. We anxiously await what will be in store for the 2016 season as The Bushwackers take the field in competition for the corps' 35th anniversary.

The rest of our history has yet to be written, and you are now a part of it.

MAKING THE BUSHWACKERS

The Bushwackers does not require auditions, but we will work with each individual participant to ensure the corps is the right fit for every prospective member, and that every member has a role in the corps that is right for them.

Below is the membership process for participants (potential Members) of the Bushwackers.

Register for the Open House

The Open House is our introduction. Aside from a few specific details, what you experience at Open House will be very similar to the experience at our first group of regular rehearsals. The registration fee is \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door, and registering in advance is highly encouraged.

The day will start with an introductory meeting where new participants will hear from the administration and veteran members of the corps. This will be followed by an introduction of the educational staff.

Participants will split into sections (brass, percussion, and color guard) for rehearsals through the end of the day. At the start of the rehearsal, the corps administration will speak to parents, guardians, and friends to further review the details of corps membership.

When you get a Membership Contract

Brass and percussion participants will receive a membership offer in the form of a Membership Contract at some point throughout the winter. The timing of the contract will depend on a number of factors, but every prospective member (participant) committed to the Bushwackers will receive one. Color guard Membership Contracts will be offered any time between Open House and the close of the indoor competitive season.

Anyone offered a Membership Contract can opt to pay the tuition in full immediately.

Five requirements for membership in the Bushwackers

Talent. The instructional staff will evaluate your abilities on your instrument/equipment, your movement ability, your development and progress over a period of time based on specific criteria as outlined in the audition material.

Fees and payments. You need to demonstrate willingness and ability to fulfill the financial commitment as described in this packet. We expect payments to be made in a timely manner. Any difficulties in adhering to the payment schedule must be discussed with corps management.

Attendance. You will be expected to attend all winter and spring camps required of your section. When you attend the Open House, you should discuss with the staff any known events that conflict with camp dates. If you have a critical family or school conflict with a camp, notify your caption head(s), as well as the corps management (membership@bushwackers.org) as soon as you become aware of the issue. If we don't hear from you, we consider the absence unexcused, which could negatively impact your membership status. You will need to clear your summer calendar of all conflicts.

Attitude. You will need to maintain a positive attitude in challenging circumstances. The hours are long and the work is hard. You will be asked to do things that you've never done and work harder than you probably ever have. Your ability to stay positive and focused will help you and those around you meet the challenges you'll face.

Health. You must be physically, mentally and emotionally able to withstand the rigorous requirements of practices, performances, and travel. A complete health history and sports physical are required. If you have ANY doubts about this program, please discuss your concerns with corps management and medical staff. If you are new to the drum corps experience, this may all sound overwhelming, and it can be.

Keep in mind that many thousands of individuals have successfully faced these challenges before you and found it to be one of the most rewarding times of their lives. Don't be afraid to try.

ALL ABOUT OPEN HOUSE

Open House is the introduction to the 2016 Bushwackers. It is an all-day event designed to give prospective members a taste of the Bushwackers experience. Most of the day will be a typical rehearsal, but we will also have informational sessions for participants, as well as for parents, guardians, and friends.

This year's Open House will also include information for prospective members who are interested in auditioning for Drum Major.

Where and when?

The 2017 Bushwackers Open House will be held at Montgomery Township Lower Middle School (373 Burnt Hill Rd., Skillman, New Jersey), the same location as our winter rehearsals. The event will take place on Saturday, November 19, and Sunday, November 20. Check-in will begin promptly at 9:30 am both days.

Prospective members and returning members are invited to bring friends who might also be interested in becoming members of the Bushwackers, as well as parents (for those who are under the age of 18).

What do I need to do before Open House?

1. Please provide us with your information by completing the form at joinbush.org
2. Please pay the registration fee for Open House in advance at bushwackers.org/2017-open-house/
3. By pre-registering, you will be able to download music, exercises, and other Open House information ahead of time.
4. For brass and percussion, practice the music you download.

What do I need to bring to Open House?

We are expecting a large turnout at Open House. To ensure we have enough equipment for everyone, brass should bring instruments and mouthpieces. Percussion (battery) should bring instruments if available. Color guard should bring any flags and weapons they might have available.

We do have corps equipment, but asking participants to bring equipment will help us ensure we are prepared for unexpected attendance.

Brass should also bring a black or royal blue towel. The towel is used to protect your instrument, and the size should be proportional to the size of your instrument. Brass should also bring a pair of gloves to protect the instruments from dirt and oil when being handled.

All participants should bring a **great attitude** and a willingness to learn a significant amount in a short period of time!

Wear comfortable clothing, like sweatpants, sneakers, and a tee-shirt. **Bring a friend or two or five!**

THE RULES

Image

The Bushwackers have an excellent image and reputation in the drum corps community, and we intend to keep it that way. Members of the Bushwackers are expected to adhere to all policies and guidelines, which include demonstrating respect for all rehearsal and performance facilities, corps property and information, all corps personnel, members, and fans.

Media and social networking

Although we love when people share positive stories and information about the Bushwackers, we require you to refrain from posting ANY media or specific details about material presented at camps or rehearsals. You must not misrepresent, disrespect, or otherwise damage the Bushwackers, Drum Corps Associates, or any other drum corps or marching arts organization.

Drugs

None. Period. The use, sale, or possession of illegal drugs and/or drug-related paraphernalia may be cause for immediate and permanent dismissal from the Bushwackers.

If you are taking medication, it needs to be noted on your medical form. You should also notify the corps management.

Alcohol

Even if you are of legal drinking age, you **may not consume alcohol** at any time during your time with the corps, unless the corps management says it is permitted to do so.

Consumption of alcohol to excess while with the Bushwackers is not tolerated. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal.

More details on these policies appear later in the Member Policies section of the Membership Manual.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

If a parent or guardian is responsible for you, please share this information with them.

Open House Fee

The Open House fee is \$45 in advance or \$50 on the day of the event. The fee is non-refundable. This covers lunch at the Open House, the Open House facilities, the corps equipment, the education you will receive, and the administrative costs of operating the event.

Rehearsal Camp Fees

For each camp, every participant must pay a \$75 non-refundable fee. When a participant is offered a Membership Contract, all previously-paid camp fees will be applied to tuition fees.

Tuition Fee Schedule

The total tuition fee doesn't fully cover the expenses of operating a drum corps. We aim to keep the cost to members low while providing the excellent experience one might expect from a corps that costs twice or three times the price. We charge only **two-thirds** of what it costs the organization per member to provide the following to the entire corps:

- A world-class education
- Meals
- Housing
- Transportation to the entire corps.

The corps covers the remaining third of the total expense.

Unlike many other corps in the DCA competitive circuit, our tuition fee is **all-inclusive**. We offer many of the same services as a DCI touring corps, but at a significant discount. While other corps expect members to find their own housing, transportation, and meals, we provide these services to our members as part of the Bushwackers experience.

See the Quick Information Sheet for the table of due dates for tuition. Participants may only pay camp fees until they are offered a Membership Contract. At that point, they must immediately catch up to all payments owed. See below for consequences for missing a required payment. A fee of \$25 applies to any late payment or returned check.

Any member may bypass the tuition fee schedule by paying the full tuition cost when they are awarded a Membership Contract.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Share this information with your parents or guardians!

The Bushwackers offer various methods for reducing the total membership fee for every member.

Family discount. The second and subsequent sibling or child within the same family will receive a \$50 discount.

Returning member discount. Returning members who are in good financial standing at the time of Open House will receive a \$100, \$150, or \$200 discount.

Other discounts. The management may offer other discounts at any point.

Fundraising. The Bushwackers offer various types of fundraising opportunities, such as raffle ticket sales, Entertainment book sales, Yankee Candle sales, etc. A percentage of the money the corps receives from each fundraising effort will be credited to the member's account.

Sponsorships. The corps will provide resources to each member to help with the solicitation of sponsorships from companies, alumni, and friends. 100% of the sponsorship funds received are credited to the member's account

All discounts will be applied to the last fee milestone, then applied to other milestones in reverse order. For example, a member with a total of \$100 in discounts will need to make all payments as usual until the final tuition fee, which would be reduced from \$200 to \$100. On the other hand, fundraising credits will be applied immediately after the funds are received by the Bushwackers, and will reduce any current or outstanding fees first.

The total fee does not cover the full cost of operating a drum corps. It costs the Bushwackers almost \$2,000 per member to educate, feed, house, transport, and otherwise operate the corps. Tuition fees are supplemented by other income from the corps, from efforts such as performance fees and instrumental rentals.

COMMUNICATION

The Bushwackers use email and Facebook for primary communication, to store an organize information, and to maintain a database to keep everyone who's involved with the corps connected – past present, and future.

- Make sure you are a member of the 2017 Bushwackers Interest Group on Facebook: <https://goo.gl/Kp6DXt>
- From there, you can also join Interest Groups for your section.
- Once you are a full member of the 2017 Bushwackers, you will be invited to a Members/Staff only Facebook group and other members-only groups. This will be our primary method of communication.

We also communicate important information through email. Make sure you receive the emails by registering: <http://joinbush.org>

MEMBER POLICIES

Attendance

To maintain the high level of performance excellence, we must have full attendance at all Bushwackers rehearsals and performances. Any absence from a rehearsal or a show must first be approved by the caption head. As an educational organization, we recognize that **school-sponsored performances** can take precedence over **Bushwackers rehearsals**.

No corps member may miss any Bushwackers performance, including parades. Rehearsals may only be missed for school-sponsored performances.

Code of Conduct

To meet the high standards of work ethic, professionalism, and performance required of all Bushwackers, everyone must adhere to the rules and policies set forth by the organization.

Attitude:

The attitude you bring to and develop in The Bushwackers is very important. The staff will consider your attitude throughout the season. We are an organization of many, not a specific section or individual. We are all working hard and dedicating ourselves to a common goal. To achieve that end, we must all have the same positive approach.

There are many high-quality groups around the country for us to enjoy and respect. One of the greatest experiences in this activity is getting to know others and watching them work as hard as we do. Learn from, and applaud, their efforts and achievements.

The Bushwackers organization is a family. As a member of the Bushwacker family, you are expected to support and encourage your fellow members. You will make friendships in these years that will continue long into the future. Do not over-react to things you do not have any control over. Concern yourself with your own efforts. There are many memories waiting for you--don't cheat yourself out of them. Enjoy the good times and learn from the hard times. This may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Professionalism:

The Bushwackers are a first-class organization and seek to be champions every season, both on and off the field. All of its members are expected to act the part. As a representative of the corps, you will be expected to carry yourself in a professional manner during performances, rehearsals, or any other Bushwackers sanctioned event. Smoking and consumption of alcohol (for legal age members), foul language, and behavior that shows disrespect for other corps is strongly discouraged, particularly while wearing apparel that identifies you as a Bushwacker (i.e., corps jackets), but strictly prohibited while in a Bushwacker uniform. Acts of disrespect towards staff, administration, fellow members, fans, critics, other corps and/or any other acts inconsistent with the policies and philosophies of the Bushwackers will not be tolerated. This includes online newsgroups/discussion groups.

Uniform/Equipment:

The physical embodiment of “Bushwacker Pride” is our uniform. The Bushwackers take great pride in their performances; we also take great pride in our appearance. Once you are issued a uniform and/or any piece of equipment by the Bushwackers, the item becomes the member’s responsibility for the remainder of the season. The member must maintain uniform cleanliness and appearance. This includes washing, ironing, polished shoes, etc. Members with unacceptable uniform appearance may be forbidden from performing. If a problem with a uniform piece arises that the member is unable to take care of, ample notice must be given to appointed individuals who may aid in the repair of the uniform.

Brass instruments, drumsticks, drum heads and guard equipment is expensive. The appearance of the equipment and its state of repair are the responsibility of the member once they are issued the equipment. Failure to maintain equipment in a manner that reflects positively on the Bushwackers may result in forfeiture of the equipment.

Anti-Bullying Policy:

The Bushwackers organization prides itself as a safe and nurturing environment for its members to learn and perform to the highest caliber possible. To that end, the organization does not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment among membership, volunteers, staff, and administration.

Bullying or harassment is any gesture in any form (verbal, written, or digital communication, physical action, etc.) that can be perceived to be intimidating, hostile, or otherwise likely to induce fear of physical or emotional harm, and may be motivated by bias or prejudice based on any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; or a mental, physical, or sensory disability or impairment; or by any other distinguishing characteristic, or is based upon association with another person who has or is perceived to have any distinguishing characteristic.

Any incidents of such bullying or harassment must be reported to a staff or administration member immediately. Consequences for bullying or harassment can include the immediate expulsion from the Bushwackers, and all consequences will be considered based on factors including but not limited to degree of harm, surrounding circumstances, nature and severity of behavior, past incidents and patterns of behavior, relationship between the parties involved, and context.

Anti-Hazing Policy:

Here at the Bushwackers, there are no "rookies" only future Bushwackers. Everyone, regardless of the amount of experience one has, starts on the same playing field and will be treated with respect equally. No member of the Bushwackers should feel degraded or demeaned by another member to "prove their worth." Hazing in any form will not be tolerated and must be reported immediately to their caption head. Hazing is a serious issue that effects many members of various organizations around the world and will not be tolerated at the Bushwackers. Hazing of another member can lead to the immediate expulsion from the Bushwackers.

Social Media and Internet Posting Policy:

Each member is expected to always personify the professional expectation it takes to be a member of this corps when making personal statements and posts on social media and message board groups. Please keep comments about the Bushwackers positive in social media platforms, and refrain from posting opinions on Drum Corps Planet or other message boards/forums. The corps will make official announcements from time to time on these sites, and we encourage supporting and elevating the corps position on these official posts. Responding to negative critiques, personal attacks, or gossip does not reflect well on the corps, its members, or yourself.

Drugs:

No member, volunteer, or staff shall be in possession of or use any illegal drug or substances while participating in activities or events sponsored by the Bushwackers. This includes in or around facilities provided by the corps for rehearsal, sleeping, or congregating. If any illegal substance is found to be present in any capacity, law enforcement may be contacted, and penalties may include suspension or dismissal from the corps. If the incident involves a minor, the parent/guardian will immediately be contacted to remove you from the organization at their expense. Rumors or complaints will be taken seriously and investigated by the corps administration.

Alcohol:

Alcohol use is not permitted before or during rehearsals, performances, or scheduled events. If members of legal age choose to consume alcohol after hours, they must do so legally away from the corps and at their own arrangement. No underage member shall be present. If an underage member is found to be in possession of or having consumed alcohol, they will be immediately dismissed from the organization. If an of-age member is found to have provided alcohol to an underage member, penalties may include dismissal from the organization at their expense. If a situation involves a minor, the parent/guardian will be contacted to immediately remove the member from the organization at their expense.

Prescribed Medications:

Each member, staff, and volunteer will be required to complete a medical release form. This form will include a list of prescribed medications and appropriate doses. Only medications noted on these forms, and approved over-the-counter medications will be allowed. Any updates or changes to this must be reported to the corps administration. Any legal ramifications resulting from possession of non-prescribed controlled substances are at the sole responsibility of the person(s) involved.

All members, volunteers, and staff under the auspices of the Bushwackers will abide by the policies and/or laws mandated by private/corporate property owners, as well as the Local, City, State, and Federal government. Any arrest or legal action will be the sole responsibility of the individual(s) involved. The corps is not responsible for any member's actions in legal matters.

These policies are non-negotiable. They exist for the welfare and legal protection of all members of the Bushwackers organization. We believe in providing a safe and enriching environment for our members, regardless of age.

REQUIRED FORMS

Each participant must complete and return the following forms. The forms are available at all rehearsals and on our website.

- Participant information form
- Equipment / uniform agreement
- Medical information and release
- Member manual, drug and alcohol policy acknowledgment
- Audio/visual release

Signature of member or of parent or legal guardian conveys an agreement between all parties that Bushwackers, its members, executive committee, agents, board of directors, instructional staff, and all other volunteers or affiliates and anyone else with whom Bushwackers has agreed to include as an additional insured shall be held harmless from any and all damages, medical bills and liability, whether deemed negligent or not, which are sustained by any member while participating in the sport of drum corps. This includes all bodily injury and property damage sustained because of the use of any and all property, equipment, mobile equipment, vehicles (hired, owned or non-owned).

Medical Information and Release Form

Without full knowledge of a member's medical needs or problems, we cannot be expected to adequately seek care for a member when we do not know his or her medical history. All information will be kept confidential, and will travel with the corps to all functions.

If an emergency arises, it may be difficult to reach either parents or other family members in order to give permission for treatment. **HOSPITALS WILL NOT TREAT A PATIENT WITHOUT CONSENT.**

The Membership Medical Information and Release Form authorizes Bushwackers to seek emergency medical treatment on a member's behalf, and gives permission to any qualified health professional or hospital to give emergency treatment (including injections, anesthesia, or surgery, as needed) only if the member is unable to give consent at the time of emergency. It also clarifies that payment for any and all medical expenses are not the responsibility of the Bushwackers Organization, but will remain the responsibility of the member and/or his/her insurer or legal guardian.

If a member is less than eighteen (18) years of age, their legal parent or legal guardian must also read and sign this Medical Information and Release Form.

The drum and bugle corps activity is very physical. All members are encouraged to and should consult with their physician before participating in this sport. If approved by your doctor, it is also suggested you proactively participate in a fitness/nutrition program throughout the year to meet the physical challenges associated with the sport of drum corp.

The Bushwackers also reserves the right to request a physician's approval from ANY participant whom the organization may consider "high risk" for strenuous activity. Failure to provide approval will result in suspension in all drum corps related activities until physician's approval is provided to the corps management.

Equipment/Uniform Agreement

The Equipment and Uniform Agreement outlines the responsibility of the member for his/her equipment and uniform. While in the members' possession, normal upkeep of any corps equipment/uniform will be the responsibility of the member. Member will be held financially responsible for loss, theft, and damage to because of misuse, carelessness, or neglect of equipment/uniform.

The member agrees to return any and all pieces of equipment in the same condition, less normal wear and tear, under which it is issued and further agrees to return all equipment either upon request of a member of the executive committee or the instructional staff, at the completion of the 2016 season. The member is advised that if he/she fails to produce any property belonging to Bushwackers, or if he/ she recklessly damages any equipment (beyond normal wear and tear), that member will be charged for the full replacement value or repair cost, of the item(s) along with any collection or attorney fees incurred in the process.

If the member is less than eighteen (18) years of age, their legal parent or legal guardian must also read and agree to the terms of this agreement that will be provided to the member, and indicate such agreement by their signature in addition to the members'. The parent or legal guardian shall ultimately be held responsible for all terms of this agreement on behalf of the member.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are the Bushwackers?

The six-time DCA World Champion Bushwackers are a not-for-profit drum and bugle corps in its 35th year of existence. It is our continued goal to provide a quality, educational, fun, and competitive marching experience to our members.

What is an all-age drum corps?

An all-age drum and bugle corps (or just “drum corps”) does not restrict membership due to a person’s age. Our members have ranged in age from 13 to 55. Although we do not restrict age, we suggest that anyone younger than 16 is sponsored by an older member or a parent who can act as a mentor and chaperone for the younger person, and we encourage involvement at the volunteer level. The average age of our members is 19.5.

What is the level of time commitment?

Members must attend all rehearsals and performances which are on the official schedule unless they have been excused in advance by their caption head. Communication with staff in advance about schedule conflicts is critically important. Our philosophy is that school performances come first.

If there is a conflict, it is the responsibility of the Member to notify the caption head ahead of schedule so that we may attempt to work with the school to resolve scheduling issues. Should a compromise be unattainable, we support our Members to attend to the school function.

How often do you rehearse?

We are a weekend-only drum corps. Our winter schedule is one weekend and one Sunday a month with various parades and performances announced during the winter. See our online calendar and quick info sheet for the Bushwackers’ schedule and locations.

After Memorial Day weekend, we rehearse every weekend including Friday nights.

Beginning with the first competition in June, the schedule will depend on the location of the scheduled competition but plan on Friday night through Sunday afternoon with the corps from June until Championships.

Where does the corps rehearse?

During the winter, the corps rehearses at Montgomery Township Lower Middle School, 373 Burnt Hill Road, Skillman, New Jersey.

When the corps begins full outdoor rehearsals in the spring, our rehearsal location is a private park located in Hopewell Township, New Jersey. The address will be provided in the Membership Contract.

Some summer rehearsals will take place at facilities near the show site. Each week, Members will receive weekend-specific information that will include detailed schedules and locations.

What if I have a conflict between a corps event and a school event?

Only academic and band-related performances constitute acceptable conflicts. All personal time (such as vacations, etc.) must be scheduled to avoid conflicts with rehearsals and performances. If there is a conflict in which our member has no control over, they must notify their caption head and director ahead of time (at least two weeks in advance).

Are there auditions?

Audition criteria are at the discretion of the individual caption heads. Everyone will be given ample opportunity to try out for the section of his/her choice. However, the caption head may suggest that an applicant audition for a section that he/she believes would be better suited to the individual and the corps. **We DO NOT “CUT” anyone** interested in being a Member of the Bushwackers.

What is a typical summer competition schedule?

Beginning in the middle of June the corps performs at various competitions throughout Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and other states in the northeast corridor. At times, the corps may travel beyond these boundaries, possibly to North Carolina or Ohio. The season will end on Labor Day weekend in Rochester, New York.

Your commitment to the corps will begin on Friday night at the discretion of the caption head for your section and continue through Saturday morning ending after rehearsal on Sunday afternoon every weekend during the competition season.

Does the corps provide housing for members?

During the winter and summer season any members, regardless of distance traveled, will have access to overnight accommodations provided by the drum corps as part of their tuition fees.

Does the corps provide transportation to and from performances/competitions?

Transportation for the 2016 season will be provided by the Bushwackers except for local competitions and performances and any Bushwackers home shows.

All members will be required to ride on the busses provided by the corps to and from competitions and performances unless arrangements have been made in advance with the

corps management. There will be NO exceptions to riding the provided busses during Championship weekend.

Does the corps provide meals?

Meals will be provided by the Bushwackers. Otherwise, members are welcome to bring money with them to shows where vendor and stadium food may be available.

Do I need my own equipment?

The corps provides all brass, percussion, and color guard equipment during the competitive season.

Do I pay for my uniform?

The corps supplies uniforms. Percussion and brass members will be required to pay for hats, which will be included in the uniform fee assessed at the beginning of the competitive season. The cost is usually \$50.

Brass and Percussion members will be given one free pair of gloves at the beginning of the winter season. Any further gloves can be purchased from the corps for \$5.

Color guard members will be expected to supply their own gloves and will be required to purchase shoes at the discretion of the staff.

Brass and percussion members will be notified by staff of any additional needs, plain blue t-shirt, black socks, horn towels etc.

Equipment, such as horns, is the responsibility of the member to be cleaned before every performance. Any needed repairs should be reported to the staff as soon as possible.