

Guidelines and Expectations for Minors Performing with The Beat Goes On Marching Band

As an all-adult marching band, The Beat Goes On Marching Band admits Band Associates who:

- Are at least eighteen years of age; or
- Have graduated from high school.

However, TBGO's mission includes the goal of "Encouraging young musicians to remain musically active by providing a clear example that performing can be fun for musicians of all ages and skill levels." With that goal in mind, TBGO has informally permitted minor children of its Band Associates to participate in the Band Support Crew (water carriers, etc.) at some events. The TBGO Board has also been asked to determine whether minor children may occasionally perform as part of the band with their parents.

To address the latter question and to formalize our intent, this document sets out the guidelines and expectations for minor children of Band Associates who wish to participate in the Band Support Crew and/or perform with the band in TBGO events.

1. Participation in a TBGO event by a minor is a privilege, not a right.
2. Since TBGO is an all-adult band, minor participation *as a performing member of the band* is explicitly *not* permitted unless the TBGO Board specifically designates the event as a Minor Performance Event. Minor Performance Events will be rare (a likely frequency is once per year) and typically restricted to low-key, local events.
3. Because of wide variability in the types of events at which the band performs, minor participation in the Band Support Crew is managed by guidelines rather than hard and fast rules. Most local events and nearby regional events are appropriate for minor participation. Travel events (including regional travel events like Long Beach and Astoria) are generally *not* appropriate. Major and national events are almost never appropriate. In addition, some events specifically prohibit participation by minors or minors below a given age.
4. Band Associates are encouraged to consult a TBGO Board member well in advance if there are questions about the availability of an event for minor participation or the suitability of a minor for a specific event.
5. Each participating minor must be sponsored and accompanied by a responsible adult (typically a parent or grandparent) who is a Band Associate. ***The sponsoring adult is responsible for monitoring and supervising the behavior and safety of the minor throughout the event (arrival in staging area through completion of event).*** Do not expect other Band Associates to assume responsibility for or supervise your sponsored child.
6. The sponsoring adult is responsible for ensuring that the maturity, skill, and fitness levels of the minor are adequate for the role that the minor will fill.
7. A minor participating in a TBGO event is expected to understand that his/her actions reflect on the reputation of the band and assumes the responsibility of maintaining appropriate behavior. The sponsoring adult is responsible for monitoring the minor for conformance.
8. Minor musicians participating in a Minor Performance Event must have musical skills sufficient to allow them to play all or much of the music at the event. For parades, they are expected to be able to march in step and in alignment with the rest of the band.
9. To maintain a consistent look for the band, the "specified minor uniform" must be worn for the event. At the band's discretion, some uniform parts may be made available for minor participants to borrow rather than purchase.

10. Because of safety and appearance concerns, auxiliary units (twirlers, dancers, color guard) may choose to implement more restrictive rules for Minor Performance Events, up to and including completely disallowing participation.
11. Minors participating in the Band Support Crew must have a real role of use to the band, not just march along with their sponsors.
12. The TBGO Board reserves the right to remove a minor from an event at any time for any reason.
13. The sponsoring adult assumes full responsibility of all risks on behalf of the participating minor. The Beat Goes On Marching Band, the TBGO Board of Directors, and TBGO Band Associates other than the sponsoring adult are not responsible for any outcomes resulting from minor participation.
14. Before a sponsored child may join a Minor Performance Event, the sponsoring adult must complete, sign, and return the Adult Sponsor Acknowledgments for Performing Minor Child and accompanying Hold Harmless Agreement (below).

Adult Sponsor Acknowledgements for Performing Minor Child

- I have read and understood the Guidelines and Expectations for Minor Children Performing with The Beat Goes On Marching Band.
- I have discussed the relevant parts of the Guidelines and Expectations with my Sponsored Minor Child to ensure that he/she understands and can adhere to TBGO's expectations for performing with the band.
- I acknowledge that I am responsible for monitoring and supervising the behavior and safety of my Sponsored Minor Child throughout the event.
- I understand that violations of these Guidelines may result in disciplinary actions including removal of my Sponsored Minor Child from the event and suspension of future Minor Child Participation privileges.

Hold Harmless Agreement

As a participating TBGO Band Associate on behalf of my Sponsored Minor Child, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify The Beat Goes On Marching Band, its officers, and its directors from and against any loss, damages, liability, claims, cost, and expense including legal fees that may be incurred by reason of my Sponsored Minor Child's participation in The Beat Goes On Marching Band, unless such claims are a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of The Beat Goes On Marching Band.

Sponsored Child (Print): _____

Sponsor Name (Print): _____

Sponsor Signature: _____

Date: _____