

The Beat Goes On Marching Band

Portland, Oregon

Twirler Handbook

2022

Version 1.3

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TBGO Twirler Leadership

A 5 person Leadership Team (LT) leads the TBGO Twirlers. The members all volunteer to be part of the LT. If more than 5 Twirlers volunteer to be part of the LT, all candidates collaborate to determine the final 5 members. The membership will be adjusted as required at the annual Twirler meeting.

Each member of the LT is assigned responsibility to coordinate a specific task required to keep the Twirler group functioning. In addition to their area of coordination, one of the LT members will be appointed Spokesperson for the Twirler group as a whole. Details of all responsibilities are listed below.

The 2022 Leadership team is:

- Administration - Robin Guerra
- Costumes - Barb Zahler - also the Twirler Spokesperson
- Events - Donna Sue Sanders
- Practices - Judy Guist
- Routines - Gail Andrews

Leadership Team

- Adjudicate all disputes/concerns. Twirlers with concerns may contact any member of the LT via email.
- Be open to input/suggestions from all Twirlers.
- Approve any modification/addition/deletion that affects the group as a whole
 - Examples are routines, costumes, posting, communication, etc.
- Coordinate communication
 - Appoint a Twirler Spokesperson from the LT
 - Be the contact for external communication
 - Communicate with the Twirlers except as outlined below
 - Events Coordinator will email event information
 - Practice Coordinator will email practice reminders and schedule
- Encourage a Twirler to be on the TBGO Board
- Ensure all Coordinators meet expectations

Administration

- Keep the Twirler documents up to date and available
 - This document - TBGO Twirler Handbook
 - New Twirler Criteria
 - Roster
 - Twirler Book
- On Board new twirlers
 - Assign a Mentor
 - Provide the Welcome packet
- Appoint a Historian/Archivist
- Arrange and run the LT meetings
- Arrange and run the yearly Twirler meeting

- Ensure adequate notice to all Twirlers
- Ensure meeting notes are taken and published
- Conduct the meeting
- Plan social gatherings

Costumes

- Determine costume for each event
 - If special/new costumes are desired, create a taskforce to determine what is needed, how to make it and ensure its preparation
 - Cost will be considered as a factor when special/new costumes are needed
- Coordinate new costume consideration or costume retirement
 - Create a taskforce of at least 3 total to help with costumes
- Ensure the accessory box is available and stocked
 - Ensure there is a borrowing library for excess costume parts

Events

- Send an email to all active twirlers with details for the upcoming event
 - Where to be when
 - What to wear/bring
 - Which routines to practice
 - Other pertinent information
- Track who will be participating
- Prepare and share the lineup
- Assign who will start the cadence twirls and who will signal the next song

Practices

- Send practice schedule and reminder emails to all Twirlers
- Secure practice space
- Ensure there is music at practices
- Determine what will be done at each practice
- Appoint a leader for each practice
- Recruit coaches and teachers as needed

Routines

- Assign routines for events
- Track which routines go with what music and vice versa
 - Include beginnings and endings
 - Modifications if any
- Manage routine videos and write-ups
 - Remove old videos
 - Arrange for new videos

General Guidelines

The goal of these Guidelines is to create and maintain a respectful, safe, learning and fun environment for every member of the Twirler group and the entire band in general.

- Information
 - Read the emails sent by the Leadership Team and the band Director.
 - Make a habit of checking the TBGO website for upcoming performance information.
 - Practice videos are available on the Twirler specific page. (Member Info/Twirlers)
 - Keep the Twirler Roster handy in case you want to reach another twirler for carpooling etc. The Leadership Team will send out the roster periodically.
- Behavior - General
 - Read and abide by the TBGO Code of Conduct Guidelines.
 - Pay attention to the person in charge of the situation whether it is an event, practice, meeting or other gathering. No side conversations.
 - Be respectful when we join the band if they are in the middle of a rehearsal. Keep noise and disruptions to a minimum.
 - Make every effort to attend practices.
 - Be on time to practices and events.
 - Attendance at all events is optional but, if you say you will be there, please honor that commitment.
- Expectations - Events
 - If you have been unable to attend practices, be familiar with the routines we will be performing.
 - Arrive on time and check in with the point person for the event.
 - Honor the Event coordinator's wishes for where you are placed in the line-up. She has a reason and you may ask what it is.
 - Even though you perform in a parade, you are not required to stay for the standstill performance if there is one. The reverse is also true. You may participate in a standstill performance and choose not to participate in the parade.
 - During a standstill performance, you may step out for a specific song if you are uncomfortable performing it. Before the event, please inform the event point person if you plan to do so.
 - When we are not performing, be respectful of the band and/or the performing auxiliaries. Give them your full attention.
 - Tips
 - Wear waterproof mascara
 - For rainy events, a disposable rain poncho can keep you dry and warmer.
 - Eat before the event. We are putting out a lot of energy.

Costumes

We have various costumes for the different events in which we participate. Please contact the Costume Coordinator of the Leadership Team for where to purchase or other information.

Need Now:

- Regular Baton
- Skorts, both black and white
- Sequined Wrist Bands 4 inch - one set of each Red and Purple
- Sequined Leg Warmers - one set of each Red and Purple
- TGBO dry-fit shirt (purple, black and white)
- Patriotic dry-fit shirt with stars
- Shoe Tassels - one set of each Red, Purple and Patriotic Mix
- White socks and shoes

Need down the road:

- Black Rally Pants *or* Boy Shorts
- Purple Dress
- Black Dress
- Purple Fleece Twirler Jacket
- Long Sleeved Turtle neck or Mock t-neck shirt for cold weather - one each Black, Red and White
- Black tights or leggings to wear under black skorts in cold weather
- Black tapered pants to wear in really cold weather
- Sequined Wrist Bands 4 inch - one set of each Silver and Green
- Sequined Leg Warmers - one set of each Silver and Green
- Shoe Tassels - one set of each Black and Green
- Narrow purple and narrow rainbow sequined wrist bands

EXTRAS:

- Glow Stick Baton - used for night parades.
- Cool White Fairy Lights - used for night parades
- Glow Sticks for the Glow Stick Batons, usually someone in the group arranges a purchase for everyone
- Purple Fleece Twirler Vest is optional. It can be worn in place of the Jacket
- Black TBGO jacket - Optional, we do not wear for performances.
- Baton Tape - Optional, some find it useful especially in the rain. Your choice of colors
- Bling - Optional, feel free to jazz up your outfits with sequined or rhinestone pins. You can find a variety of baton related pins online. Have fun with earrings, hair decorations.
- Visors - Optional, keeps the sun and the rain out of your face. Choose colors that match or coordinate with the outfits we are wearing.
- Flesh colored hose or support hose - Optional

*In a pinch it is always possible that you may be able to borrow just about anything you need for an upcoming performance, check with your mentor and she can ask around at practice.

Purple dress - front



Purple dress - back



Black dress - front



Black dress - back



TBGO dry-fit purple shirt



Patriotic dry-fit shirt



New Twirler Process

- Applicants should submit the twirler application found on The Beat Goes On Marching Band website. Applications are accepted at any time. Auditions will be held in the September - October timeframe of each year depending on if there are positions to fill. The current limit is 33 Twirlers on the roster.
 - Once an application is received, the candidate will be sent or directed to the New Twirler Criteria as well as this handbook.
 - In August, a routine video will be sent to all candidates to learn for the audition.
- New Twirler Criteria - updated May 10, 2022
A review committee consisting of or appointed by the Leadership team will audition prospective twirlers.

Prospective twirlers must demonstrate or agree to the following:

- At the audition:
 - Perform a short (1 minute) routine that you have prepared which includes 5 different twirls using both hands and 2 different tosses
 - Learn a short routine at the audition and perform it while following another twirler
 - Perform the routine from the video sent prior to audition.
- Additional expectations:
 - Be experienced in, or have the ability to learn, how to: march, count beats, understand signals, guide right, halt, etc. - previous marching band experience is a plus
 - Attend and participate in practices as much as possible
 - Participate in parades and field shows
 - Have the fitness level to actively participate in parades up to 3 miles long
 - Be responsible for learning routines for each event or performance
 - Be willing to attend special teaching practices to aid in learning the routines
 - Be willing to work at home on learning the routines from our video library
 - Have the ability to purchase costume material, accessories etc.
 - Roughly \$200-\$600 over time
 - Travel expenses for longer trips
 - Conform to our twirling and marching style
 - Follow the TBGO code of conduct
- Mentor program

Each new Twirler (Newbie) will be assigned a Mentor from volunteers from the existing membership. The 'relationship' as Mentor and Newbie would last for roughly a year. The expectation is to have a friendly, consistent person on which the Newbie can rely. The responsibilities of a Mentor are:

- Give and explain the Twirler Handbook to the Newbie
- Be the first contact for any questions or concerns
- Be a guide through the various events
 - What to expect
 - Carpool possibilities
 - Etc.

Mentors are NOT responsible for teaching the Newbie routines nor for having the answers to ALL questions (but they will know where to ask!).

Routines

The twirlers have specific routines to specific songs but most are based on a set of core routines. All twirlers should be able to perform these core routines:

- Parade routines
 - Beat It
 - Combo
 - EZ 03
 - Kung Fu
 - Louie, Louie
 - Pretzel
 - Ragtime
 - Shooting Star
 - Street
 - Texas
- Standstill routines
 - Anita's routine
 - Bang, Bang
 - Run Away Baby
 - Shut Up and Dance
 - We've Got the Beat

Miscellaneous

The Beat Goes On Marching Band is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) organization. Donations as well as volunteer expenses are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law; consult a qualified tax professional for details. The band also qualifies for various matching programs; see the Support section of the band website for details of the programs.