



Willow Spring High School Bands

1704 Old Honeycutt Road | Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Kevin M. Still, director

(919) 694-8030, ext. 28239 | kstill@wcpss.net

www.willowspringbands.org

September 4, 2025

Dear Willow Spring Wind Ensemble member and parent,

It is with great pride and excitement that I announce that the Willow Spring High School Wind Ensemble has been selected to perform in the **"The President's Cup" National High School Concert Band Festival** this coming April! This national festival features EIGHT (8) high school wind ensembles from across the country to spend a full day of performing and rehearsing alongside members of the **United States Army Band "Pershing's Own"**, the top US Army band in our nation's capital. In addition, this trip will also be open to other students in the band program and will include a performance at one of the monuments in D.C. as part of our nation's **250th birthday celebration**. Literally, this trip is a "once in a lifetime" due to the historical significance of 250 years of our country AND the opportunity our Wind Ensemble has to perform with the US Army Band. The performance venue is the beautiful [Hylton Performing Arts Center](#) on the campus of George Mason University in Manassas, Virginia. This trip is designed to offer our entire band family the chance to travel and make life-lasting memories through amazing performances! I feel confident that this trip will be one to remember for years to come, and will serve as a celebration of our 5th year as a school and band program! Due to the nature of this trip and the high caliber ensemble needed to perform, our ENTIRE Wind Ensemble must be able to attend. I want ALL members to have the opportunity to experience a performance opportunity like this. Basically... this will not be a "standard" concert that we normally do here at school. This will be an experience that I hope all students will remember fondly as one of those "I actually did that in high school"!

The trip dates are **April 15-18, 2026**. In addition to a formal concert on stage in the Hylton Center and a fully adjudicated festival, students will spend part of the day on Friday, April 17 in masterclasses and rehearsals with members of the US Army Band "Pershing's Own". The Army Band will also present a concert that evening and we will make it into formal dinner and show night for the students! Cost is estimated to be \$1000 per person (we are waiting on a few bus quotes but that is what we anticipate it to be). Due to the nature of this trip, students will be fully excused from classes.

Trip cost includes:

- Round trip charter bus transportation
- Three nights lodging (Location TBD)
- Admission to all excursions/museums in D.C.
- Two Performances* *One will be the Wind Ensemble's performance at the Hylton. Other will be announced at a later date.*
- A formal dinner and concert by the US Army Band "Pershing's Own" on Friday night
- 3 breakfasts, 3 Dinners while in D.C. *a few meals will be the responsibility of students/parents (mainly fast food stops on the trip up and back... our boosters will work to also provide a meal or two for participants).

Payment Information

The estimated total cost for the trip is \$1000 per person. We will know specifically the final number by the end of September based on buses. A non-refundable** \$200 deposit is due Friday, September 24, 2025. The remaining balance is payable in equal installments of \$200 due on November 2, January 2, February 2, and March 2 (*last day to pay in full*). Payment in full with the online intent form is also accepted. Payment can be made by Check (made payable to "WSBBA"), Credit Card/PayPal or deducted from student account provided funds are available. Online payments can be made through www.willowspringbands.org.

Please note that student accounts must be current prior to signing up or you must be on a payment plan scheduled to pay off accounts prior to departing on the trip. Students with outstanding balances from marching band/winter guard must clear these balances prior to departing on the trip. You can check your account balance through MyMusicOffice. All financial questions should be directed to the booster treasurers (willowspringbands@gmail.com) Also, any students with outstanding band account balances after the final payment date are subject to removal from the trip. *Due to the nature of this trip, we will have multiple fundraising opportunities available and even some limited financial aid from the boosters.*

IF YOU CAN NOT AFFORD THIS TRIP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO HELP WITH THE TRIP!

We will provide rooming information, a detailed itinerary and packing list later in the spring.

Final Thoughts

We are very fortunate to offer this trip to our band program! This "honor" type of trip does not happen every year, and my desire is for every student to experience a trip of this nature one time in their high school career. It requires much support and trust from the administration and boosters. These trips can be a defining moment in a student's educational experience and provide lasting memories for years to come! Adhering to the policies and procedures will ensure future trips for our outstanding program. We hope that this experience will be an enjoyable one for all students and parents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yay Band!

Mr. Still

Wind Ensemble Performance at the "President's Cup" National Concert Band Festival
Washington, D.C.
April 15-18, 2026

Please fill this form out and return to Mr. Still by Wednesday, September 17, 2025. We want ALL members of the Wind Ensemble to be able to go on this experience so we have our full band in attendance. Our Band Boosters will work with families to ensure that all students can participate regardless of financial situations. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out at kstill@wcpss.net.

_____ We are fully committed to the trip and do not need financial assistance outside of the regular fundraising.

_____ We are fully committed to the trip but may need some financial assistance from the boosters. Please contact us at the following email or phone number.

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ We have a calendar conflict with the dates above for this trip.

_____ PARENTS: Interested in chaperoning for this trip? Check this option and Mr. Still will reach out separately.

The estimated total cost for the trip is \$1000 per person. We will know specifically the final number by the end of September based on buses. A non-refundable** \$200 deposit is due Friday, September 24, 2025. The remaining balance is payable in equal installments of \$200 due on November 2, January 2, February 2, and March 2 (*last day to pay in full*). Payment in full with the online intent form is also accepted. Payment can be made by Check (made payable to "WSBBA"), Credit Card/PayPal or deducted from student account provided funds are available. Online payments can be made through www.willowspringbands.org.

STUDENT NAME (Please print): _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____