

Forsyth Central High School Winterguard
Handbook and Contract



I. Philosophy

Forsyth Central Winterguard is a competitive performance ensemble that performs in multiple shows in the hope of placement. We strive to pursue artistic endeavors that challenge our staff, members, and audiences to grow and stretch the boundaries of our pageantry activity. Through consistent and positive instruction, it is the staff's goal to provide our members with a life-enriching and rewarding experience, as well as a highly competitive and equally entertaining performance opportunity.

II. Membership Dues

Varsity membership dues are \$850.00

Junior Varsity membership dues are \$600.00

All members are required to participate and fundraise \$200 aside from their dues. If not, the fundraising minimum will be added to the membership dues.

These fees are calculated based on the number of members in the ensemble versus the total budget for the current season. You must adhere to that payment schedule to remain a member in good standing. Failure to comply with the payment schedule could result in a member being pulled from the show or termination of their membership without advance notice. If a situation arises, and you cannot meet a payment deadline, don't hesitate to contact us, and we will work to assist you. There will be fundraising opportunities; if finances are a concern for you please participate.

You will be asked to supply makeup and hair accessories for yourself and any undergarments that may be required.

Tech wear may be included in the price depending on the ability to fundraise for the season.

You are expected to have Dance Blacks: sport/form-fitting solid black attire for every rehearsal and show.

III. Varsity Payment Schedule:

Payment 1/Deposit Due Nov.19th	\$200 due
Payment 2 Due Dec. 19th	\$200 due
Payment 3 Due Jan. 16th	\$200 due
Payment 4 Due Jan. 30th	\$250 due

Junior Varsity Payment Schedule:

Payment 1/Deposit Due Nov.19th	\$200 due
Payment 2 Due Dec. 19th	\$200 due
Payment 3 Due Jan. 16th	\$200 due

If you are dismissed from the FCHS COLORGUARD at any time due to: a violation of federal or state law; violating SAPA, OR WGI or Forsyth Central HS rule or policy, or any disciplinary reasons; no refunds will be given.

IV. Code of Conduct

For any group to achieve success, all members must agree to adhere to a standard set of rules and procedures. It is crucial that the program members genuinely desire to be a hard-working, disciplined ensemble, willing to work together towards common visions, standards, and goals. All members are expected to adhere to the following rules, without exception. Failure to do so could result in the member being pulled from the show or one's membership being terminated without prior notice.

V. Attendance

This section is the most important, along with dues! Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals, camps, and shows/competitions. Excused absences are for extreme circumstances only. Any conflicts with the rehearsal schedule must be cleared with the director in advance (please see the protocol listed below). It is **unacceptable** for you to tell another member that you will not be there without letting the team leadership/staff know. **Even if an absence is excused, you may be taken out of the show** until the staff evaluates whether or not you are competent with the material you may have missed. If you are injured, please come to rehearsals and observe to be aware of what is being taught at rehearsals.
Any unexcused absence is grounds for dismissal without prior notice. Any member that misses more than two days of the rehearsals will be put on the alternate list unless otherwise determined by the staff.

Performances are mandatory under all circumstances. We understand that emergencies do come up, and we will deal with those on a case-by-case basis. Please recognize that EVERY rehearsal is essential. It weakens the overall success and growth of the group if there are breaches in attendance commitments. The rehearsal schedule is given out with plenty of advance notice with which to plan. Please arrange this with your place of employment so that this will never be an issue. Knowing these attendance expectations in advance should help you prepare for situations that might jeopardize your position within the unit. All doctor's appointments, hair appointments, etc., MUST be scheduled around your obligations as a color guard member. It is also not acceptable for a member of the color guard to leave rehearsal early or to show up late because of transportation scheduling.

Reliable transportation is a commitment from students' parents that do not drive themselves. If you miss a Thursday rehearsal you will NOT be able to perform that week.

This commitment is to be your top priority aside from your Academic Success. Other sports, clubs, teams, community service time, ACT times. All need to be taken into account before committing to the colorguard. Excused absences are as follows: Family death, Religious holiday, or a medical emergency with a doctor's note. "Family matters" are not an excusable absence.

Time for Time: What rehearsal time you miss, you must make up! It is REQUIRED that if you miss rehearsal time you make up this time before the next performance. You must reach out to the captains to make up this time. It is YOUR responsibility to schedule your time for time! We all must put in the same work! Failure to make up your time will result in being pulled from performances until the time is made up. Time for time is required for ALL absences/tardies/early dismissals.

VI. Behavior

It is imperative to the staff of Forsyth Central Winterguard that our reputation be one of class, dignity, and maturity. We are big on IMAGE and how it should relate to any given group- especially this one. We will not tolerate inappropriate behavior at any time. The directors hold the right to dismiss any member, at any time, who is inappropriately representing the guard. You will represent yourself as a member of the Winterguard guard always and never speak ill of another member, performer, or color guard, at any time. This also includes all family and friends supporters of the colorguard.

You will always treat your fellow members and staff with the utmost respect and courtesy. We ask that you please instruct your friends and families to do the same. We will not tolerate bigotry of any kind, EVER. If you cannot refrain from making comments of a negative nature, you do not need to participate in nor support this activity, where diversity is embraced and encouraged.

We applaud all performers in every organization for their hard work and dedication to this activity.

Social media is another rising issue. Each member is expected to conduct behavior that does not negatively reflect the unit. Be mindful of what you are posting AT ALL TIMES. People are watching the growth of this program and are also seeing who is a part of this organization. Any cyberbullying of any person, team, or situation will result in immediate termination and a report to the FCHS administration.

VIII. Rules and Conduct

- No drugs or alcohol during rehearsals or competitions. If you do not adhere to these policies, you will be dismissed from the guard and reported to Administration.
- No destruction of school/rehearsal/performance facilities or guard property. You will be charged to replace anything you destroy.
- Clean up after yourself (PRE-BUS!!!). No one leaves until a facility is clean. It is up to the guard as a whole to maintain this.
- No gum while you are rehearsing.
- Equipment must ALWAYS be sufficiently padded and taped to protect each other and ourselves. This is just as important as making sure that your costume is in good condition.
- Wear appropriate clothing to rehearsal. Dance blacks
- No disruptive talking during rehearsals. Pay attention, so you don't miss important information!
- No arguing with fellow members. Handle issues maturely outside of the rehearsal setting.
- Do not aggressively question your instructors within rehearsal. Address any concerns you may have outside of the rehearsal setting.
- Occasionally, members will be asked to take on leadership roles or carry out leadership responsibilities. You are to extend the proper respect and your willingness to assist them.
- Everyone loads and unloads, and this is everyone's responsibility.
- Be on time! It is disrespectful to everyone to limit their success by not allowing the group to function efficiently and cohesively on time. If there is an issue and you know that you will be late, please inform the director. It is hard to conduct a successful rehearsal with the members missing. We understand that things come up and sometimes are beyond our control; however, you must inform your staff so that we can work around any issue.
- We will practice as scheduled unless you hear from us through email, phone call, or group message. This applies to any inclement weather or other situation. We will inform you promptly if anything changes. Please do not call or assume that rehearsal will be canceled unless you hear from a STAFF MEMBER.

- Show day attire (if not in uniform or otherwise dictated by staff) will be announced the week of the show. Please look presentable when walking into any performance venue. Any attire differing from this will be noted on the week's show itinerary.
- All rehearsal information, show itineraries, fundraising info, etc will be in the MICROSOFT ONENOTE we will invite students and parents to.
- All students, units, prop crew, staff, and supporters will adhere to all FCHS, SAPA, and WGI Policies.

IX. Equipment and Props

All equipment **MUST** be taped properly.

Every member must have a roll of white electrical tape and a roll of black electrical tape in their equipment bag. It is imperative that you take good care of your equipment and always travel with it in a protective equipment bag. Loss or damage to your equipment or other show items is your sole responsibility, and you will be responsible for any replacement or repair. No one will be released until all setup/breakdown is completed. Jobs may be assigned to specific members to see that all things are handled accordingly.

X. Costumes

Once you have accepted a position with Forsyth Central Winter Guard, we will take your measurements and provide you with your custom-made costume for our show. It is your responsibility to see that it is well taken care of and does not get lost or damaged. Loss or damage to your costume is your sole responsibility, and you will be responsible for any replacement or repair. Make sure to keep them clean as well. Washing instructions will be provided. Please follow those instructions after every performance. The staff will also give out makeup and hair instructions. Your hair and makeup must be acceptable for every performance. Don't forget your supplies when we travel. It is your responsibility, not your fellow members. Follow instructions to the letter. Consistency is the key to our success as a unit.

Dress code:

Students are **REQUIRED** to wear dark form-fitting athletic clothes at **EVERY** rehearsal unless specified.

Tennis shoes. Shorts **MUST** be mid-thigh height. Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in being sent home and the use of an unexcused absence.

XI. Pass-Off System

This is a requirement for all members. Members will be required to pass off their skills and retention of choreography for staff. If staff finds that a member is not able to successfully perform the necessary skills the member will be pulled from performances until they do pass off. This is used to ensure the level of excellence and competitive integrity of our unit. Any

argumentative responses from someone not passing off will result in immediate dismissal from the unit. This is an accountability resource to make our unit successful!

XII. Rehearsal Expectations

The staff reserves the right to alter and extend any rehearsal based on the overall need of the guard. The majority of our rehearsals will end at the specified time. If it isn't, the staff will let you know promptly.

XIII. Performance Standards

Basic rule: **Practice** is what you do on your own (to develop individual needs and work through any deficiencies), and **rehearsal** is what we do together (to develop ensemble needs and strengthen group performance). Because we are a highly competitive unit, we expect 100% commitment and effort from every member 100% of the time. If we find that you cannot maintain a high standard of performance in the show, you may be moved to another spot, or removed from that portion of the show, without prior notice. You may also be placed on alternate status until you can bring your performance level back up to the level of the others. The instructors are committed to assisting you in reaching your peak performance and maximum skill level. Thorough evaluation and critique of your performance is not a personal matter, and you should not let it create an ill attitude or awkward atmosphere in a rehearsal setting. Do not take constructive criticism as anything other than a means to make you a better performer. Please work with your staff and learn from them. We know that no one is perfect, but you must strive for perfection to achieve success. If you always give your best, it will reflect in your growth and performance. Develop and maintain positive practice habits and perform in rehearsal with the same effort you would perform in competition. Consistency is ALWAYS key!

XIV. Utilization of Alternates

Alternates always have a place in the ensemble and will be utilized at rehearsals and contests. We are equally as interested in the growth of these students as well. Alternates are encouraged to learn and grow with us because they can ALWAYS learn the show if needed. Alternates can be utilized to fill spots when a member is out or replace members who do not meet requirements.

XV. Postseason Standards

As a member of the Winterguard, it is your responsibility to continue the growth of the program. We cannot do this without following through with your commitment – even in the off-season. After you have completed any obligations with the guard program, you are to return all equipment and uniforms at the appointed time. Just like you are responsible for your equipment throughout the season, you are also responsible for turning yours in.

XVI. Additions

The staff reserves the right to make amendments throughout the season as necessary or as individual situations or occurrences arrive. Once you are a member, you have agreed to continuous growth as an individual and a unit. It is your responsibility to commit and hold yourself to a new, higher level of success

Forsyth Central Colorguard Contract

Please print, fill out, and turn in by the next rehearsal

Student Agreement

I have read and understood the information presented in the Forsyth Central Winterguard Handbook. By signing below, I agree to abide by the guidelines listed in the handbook. I acknowledge that by signing below, I am committing not only to myself but also to the other members of the Winterguard. My peers will depend on me to attend all rehearsals and performances, be prepared for rehearsal, and meet all the other obligations outlined in the handbook. I understand that if I choose to work or act contrary to the standards and expectations listed in the handbook, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, including my being removed from the winter guard.

Print Student Name

Signature

Date

_____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I have read and understood the information presented in the Forsyth Central Winterguard Handbook. By signing below, I agree to support the guidelines listed in the handbook. I acknowledge that if my student does not follow these guidelines, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including being removed from the color guard.

Print Parent Name

Signature

Date

_____ / ____ / ____