



2026 PARENT MANUAL

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**This handbook has been written for parents by veteran parents and the RCR Administration. We've tried to address a wide range of questions and concerns. If you have a question and can't find the answer here, please feel free to ask on the RCR Friends and Family Facebook page or contact Corps Director, Jordon Pinchback at jordon@rivercityrhythm.org or Don Dorn at

ddorn66@charter.net. There are no silly questions and no question is insignificant. We were all newbies once!

Dear Parent,

Your child is about to embark on a hard and rigorous yet rewarding and fulfilling musical and performing journey. Joining a Drum Corps International ensemble - corps - is not an easy process. While simultaneously balancing school, friends, extra-curricular activities, chores, and job/volunteer events, your child will be perfecting their audition materials in hopes of earning a contract of membership.

Each year, thousands of students from the ages of 14-21 are preparing for auditions to be amongst one of DCI's corps. Earning a position in a corps is hard work, and the work after that is even harder. Your child will continue to balance their life with the expectation of both musical and visual video assignments from corps educational teams to prepare them for the summer months. In addition to these assignments, there are monthly camps to check-in on progress and to give the next bit of content in preparation for the summer.

Upon move-in day, your child then does drum corps each and every day for upwards of 14 hours a day, perfecting their craft in preparation for the DCI Summer National Tour - a journey of thousands of miles performing and competing across the country in a caravan of charter buses, equipment semi-trailers, food trailers, box trucks, medical and media mini-vans, and hopes of performing multiple times in Lucas Oil Stadium.

This journey is not easy, but it's so transformative and positive for any young student to do.

I hope that you and your child make the decision to pursue one of the many open positions at River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps.

Best Wishes,
Jordon Pinchback
Corps Director

What is a drum corps?

Modern drum corps are divided into two divisions, World Class and Open Class. World Class drum corps are composed of 165 performers ranging in age from about 16 to 21. Open Class drum corps are typically smaller in number with an age range of 14 to 21. Each corps is made up of brass musicians, percussionists and a color guard. They perform a 12-minute program on a standard football field. Programs are extravaganzas of musical excellence, marching precision, color, drama, dance and emotion. All members of the corps (except the front percussion ensemble) march in intricate formations which are coordinated with the musical productions.

Brass musicians in River City Rhythm play on top-quality King Marching Brass trumpets, mellophones, baritones, and tubas.

Percussion instruments include Pearl marching snare drums, tenor drums (often referred to as "quads" or "quints"), bass drums in five sizes and stationary Adams "front ensemble" instruments including various drums, cymbals, tympani, mallets (marimba, vibraphone, xylophone and chimes) and electronic synthesizers.

The color guard adds color and drama through the coordinated use of flags, rifles, sabers and dance. The modern color guard is as much a dance ensemble and storyteller as it is a precision marching unit.

What are the benefits to the performers?

Drum corps is an activity which attempts to do much more than provide a performance opportunity for students or entertainment for the audience. Through the drum corps experience, students will learn useful life skills such as leadership, goal setting and teamwork, among others. The River City Rhythm curriculum includes opportunities for students to exercise their potential not only as musicians, but as complete human beings

Chapter 1: What is River City Rhythm?

Your child has accepted a contract to be a member of the River City Rhythm Drum & Bugle Corps! Congratulations and welcome to the RCR Family! The RCR mission is "To educate and inspire lifelong excellence in young people through unique opportunities in the performing arts." Our vision: RCR offers life-changing educational experiences and builds community through performances that create a more connected world. RCR is a leader in the marching arts within Minnesota, and its presence positively impacts the quality of local music programs.

Starting as a competitive drumline, RCR was added to the list of competing Open Class Corps and began its journey to become a successful Open Class Drum and Bugle Corp in 2015. The Corps has since achieved significant success, including a DCI Open Class Finalist (2015-2019, 2022-2025) and reaching World Class Semi-finals in 2025.

With the growth and continued excellence of the corps each year, the growth of expenses and support are needed. Whether you are able to volunteer your time, make a monetary donation or even serve on the Board of Directors, your contribution will ensure RCR will continue to educate and inspire lifelong excellence in young people through the performing arts.

Chapter 2: Being an RCR Parent

Your child will learn many things besides improvement of their given talents. They will learn to deal with responsibility, discipline, and organizational skills. They will learn how to deal with disappointment and success. They will travel around the Midwest over the summer competing in several DCI competitions and holiday parades. They will learn how to do their own laundry, manage their money, and clean up after themselves. They will also make friends that will last a lifetime.

The best thing you can do for your child as they embark on this life experience is to support their success, hard work, and dedication. Offer support, be proud of them, and have faith that they will survive this as they learn new life skills. Know that they will return to you in a short time, back to the safety of home and family, with a new family in tow. As a member of RCR, they will have another family that will support their success, hard work, and dedication.

Drum corps is a very difficult sport. The level of competition demands both physical and mental focus. Physical and mental focus becomes critical as the corps marches fast with precision on a large field with a few lines, hitting a spot and then moving again. It is 15 minutes of giving everything they have as they play an instrument or throw a flag with great expertise.

A parent's job is not to sweat the small stuff. There is so much that your child will experience through the course of the season, trust that your child will learn to deal with what comes their way. When they contact you with their pain, frustration, or self-doubt, continue to be positive and encouraging. Remind them to take their concerns to the Caption heads, staff, and RCR administration. Remind them to lean on their RCR family. It is time to let the bird out of the nest and watch them fly. Be proud of your achievement as parents. This is your time to watch them soar.

When you want to see, talk, or be with your child as they pass close to you on tour, remember this and ask yourself, "Will my actions distract them?" Their job is to stay focused on the field until they are on break. If they are distracted and miss their spot, they, and others, could be hurt. Imagine them being run over by a fast-moving bass drummer or a swinging tuba ... focus, focus, focus.

Your child is surrounded by people who are there to help them succeed. If you have any concerns, check in with them. If you feel they are struggling (scared, home sick, or just don't sound normal) use the contacts at the end of this handbook to communicate these concerns. Don't panic, communicate.

Boundaries:

As parents, we must respect boundaries. The tour buses are one of the living spaces our RCR members enjoy. This is their private space. Parents are not to be on the buses. There is also a staff bus that is off limits.

Another private space for our RCR members is the gym. **Parents are not to be in the gym.** There will be designated living quarters for the members, staff, and volunteers.

It is important that parents respect these boundaries.

Pictures, Video, and Audio Recordings:

Absolutely **NO** video or audio recordings of RCR music or shows are allowed. This includes periscope, live streaming, and other new technology. Much of the music played has copyright rules. Breaking these rules can have high dollar fines. These fines can be charged to you, River City Rhythm, and DCI. Please honor these copyright rules.

Parents may take pictures of the members but cannot interfere with rehearsals or performances. Please **STAY OFF THE FIELD!**

Sharing appropriate pictures on the Parent Facebook page and RCR Friends and Family Facebook page is encouraged. We all have limited access to our members throughout the summer and love to see pictures of them!

As you find pictures of your child posted on Facebook pages, you might consider saving a copy in a file folder. These pictures can be used later for Inspiration Wall posters and mementos for your child.

Chapter 3: Auditions & Camps

Auditions generally begin in November or December. At these audition events, your son or daughter will audition for some of the top instructors in the nation. After the first round of auditions there is generally a callback camp in January for brass and percussion, and then monthly camps in February, March and either late April or early May. For color guard, the callback camp and next camp for all color guard will be the camp in late April and early May (since our color guard members have a busy winter season). One day audition events do not provide housing, food or transportation. Full weekend camps provide top level instruction, great food from our food staff and amazing volunteers, airport transportation, and lodging. Information on which camps provide accommodations will be a part of the ticketing description. Once a member is contracted, all remaining camps are mandatory, and members must reach out to their Caption Heads to be excused if there is a conflict with a school performance or event.

All audition dates, camp dates and information can be found at the following link. Additionally, all audition fees and camp fees may be paid online via credit or debit card or using Venmo on our website at [Drum Corps Auditions — River City Rhythm](#).

Parents may volunteer at any of these camps. However, there is a process that all adults must adhere to including background checks and mandatory online safety training. You can register to volunteer by using the Volunteer page on the RCR website or by clicking here: [Volunteer — River City Rhythm](#).

During the audition process, staff will evaluate the abilities of the individual and how they work as an ensemble. While auditioning at a camp, your son or daughter will get to know the staff members. They will learn about drum corps and about what it takes to be a part of RCR. They will meet new people and will learn from some of the best instructors in the activity. Drum corps is a life-changing experience that will provide a lifetime of memories.

Not just anyone can become a member of RCR. While musical and marching ability is important, key requirements are commitment, desire, a positive attitude and financial responsibility. If your son or daughter has what it takes to become a member of this corps, they will join the hundreds of alumni who have proudly marched across those fields as a member of the River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corp.

When your child attends an overnight camp (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr/May), they should bring the following:

- Sleeping bag, pillow and a twin size air mattress or pad
- Comfortable clothing and quality athletic shoes
- Toiletries and a towel

Personal equipment for rehearsal

- Required section materials as communicated by their caption staff
- 1 gallon water jug
- Members will have access to a packing list provided by their section leaders with more detailed information

Chapter 4: Tuition

2026 TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE

Once a member has been offered a contract to participate in the season, the member must submit these forms within 15 calendar days along with a \$500 non-refundable Participation Deposit. We work very hard to keep our dues among the lowest in all of DCI. We are also proud of the fact that the fee includes everything (housing, meals, transportation, uniform and more), our veterans receive a discount, any money paid for winter audition camps is applied to the fee, it is not all due up front, we provide payment plans to spread the cost out across the season. We offer a number of optional scholarships and fundraising opportunities to contracted members to help offset these costs. We work with each individual who asks because we don't want the cost to prohibit anyone from joining if they want to do it!

Payment Schedule

Payment Due	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Dec 2025	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Jan 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Feb 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Mar 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in Apr 2026	Contracted and Deposit Paid in May 2026
1/1/2026	\$500					
2/1/2026	\$500	\$700				
3/1/2026	\$500	\$500	\$740			
4/1/2026	\$500	\$500	\$740	\$925		
5/1/2026	\$500	\$500	\$740	\$925	\$1,300	
6/1/2026	\$500	\$500	\$740	\$925	\$1,200	\$1,850
7/1/2026	\$200	\$500	\$740	\$925	\$1,200	\$1,850
Total	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700

Any member who is offered a contract following any of these due dates will be expected to be current on their payments within two weeks of the date of their contract offer.

How To Make Payments

Payments toward all registration and tuition fees can be made by Venmo: venmo@rivercityrhythm or for PayPal: payments@rivercityrhythm.org.

What does tuition cover?

Tuition covers uniforms/costumes, busing, housing, equipment, spring training expenses, instruction, and a portion of the RCR annual food budget. Tuition only covers about half of the corps annual budget and does not include the winter camps.

Why is tuition so expensive?

Tuition is more expensive this year due to it being a full season, plus the state of inflation, fuel prices, and external expenses outside of our control. However, we are traveling over 8,000 miles, performing in over 13 events with some pretty incredible free days being planned in major cities along our tour. All busing, food, housing, and fuel is included in this price. We're starting you off with a pretty hefty scholarship. Plus you have some of the greatest instructors in the world, and you'll be performing in some of the most spectacular venues in America. To see where we are traveling, Click here; [Schedule & Tickets on Sale at the DCI Box Office](#)

What do the fees include?

- Summer instruction
- Housing
- Uniforms
- Equipment
- Transportation while on tour
- Food
- Various Corps insurance policies

Tuition for this season does not include:

- Laundry money
- Snacks and drinks outside of the Food Truck
- Spending money on souvenirs, etc...
- Spending money during laundry days meals
- Spending money on your days off.
- Transportation to move-in.
- Transportation home after the season is over.

Your payment schedule may look different if you sign at a later date.

TUITION POLICY

Cancellations of the Member Contract

Payment penalties: Members cannot be financially obligated to another ensemble before accepting a contract with River City Rhythm. These obligations must be resolved before the start of the ensuing season, or the contract will be voided; no refund (including audition money) will be awarded. Failure to remain up to date on payments can result in a member being held from rehearsals and/or performances until it is made current. The administration and Board of Directors reserve the right to charge additional penalties at their discretion; and these penalties will be announced to the members in advance of their implementation. If any member who is receiving a previously agreed upon credit leaves RCR (voluntary or not), the credit is not redeemable in future seasons, and any fundraising money will be absorbed by the organization. If a member misses two or more consecutive payments, a written payment plan adjustment will be e-mailed to the corps administrative staff.

All members must be fully paid by July 1st. If a member is not on track, a written payment plan adjustment will be e-mailed to the corps administrative staff. Failure to submit a written plan will result in disciplinary action that may include ineligibility to travel to and perform at the DCI World Championships. All written payment plan adjustments MUST be approved by the Executive Director, in communication with the winter guard administrative staff. Members are encouraged to pay the entire participation fee earlier if they are able to do so. A member's financial obligation to RCR holds in perpetuity until it is paid in full. Any member who is dismissed from the group due to a breach of contract or leaves against the staff's wishes prior to the conclusion of the season will not receive any refund of any paid dues and must pay the remainder of their participation fee. If a member leaves due to extenuating circumstances and for non-disciplinary reasons, a member may petition for a refund, which may be granted by the Board of Directors based on the circumstances of the request.

If this contract is in default and is placed for collection, members shall pay all reasonable costs of collection at a maximum of 30% APR to include any reasonable accessed attorney fees.

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarship opportunities are available, click here for more information. [Scholarships](#)

DCI also has scholarship opportunities. Those opportunities will be communicated with membership once they are announced by DCI.

Refunds

Note: Any refund of direct payments made by the member or parent or guardian will be made directly to the member. Monies collected through sponsorships are nonrefundable and will be converted to credits in the RCRs' yearly scholarship fund to benefit another member.

Chapter 5: Move Ins and Spring Training

Where: Rocori Education Center, 527 Main St., Cold Spring, MN 56320

Date: Sunday June 14th, 2026

Arrival Time: TBD

Transportation information will be shared through a link on Pumble for members to enter flight information.

Important Admin Contacts

Jordon Pinchback, Corps Director – jordon@rivercityrhythm.org
727-946-8097

Ernad Sisic, Corps Manager – ernad@rivercityrhythm.org
404-213-8661

Madison Mason, Volunteer Coordinator – madison@rivercityrhythm.org
319-936-5680

Health Team (Dr. Walsh or Sarah Shade) – healthteam@rivercityrhythm.org

PACKING LIST FOR SPRING TRAINING AND TOUR

Please Note: There is very limited space available under the buses. Please use a soft-shell suitcase or rolling duffel bag rather than a hard-shell type suitcase.

We recommend having your child talk to an RCR vet or section leaders about this list to modify it to what their section uses. Your child is encouraged to write his or her name clearly on all personal property, especially newly purchased gear; everyone else's looks just like theirs! Your child is expected to bring the following items:

[Tour Packing List](#)

Be sure to have your ATM Card & Insurance Card

The organization is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** for cell phones, iPads, chargers, personal jewelry, wallets, etc.

River City Rhythm is **not responsible** for items left in schools. The cleaning crew will pick up unattended items and create a lost-and-found but will keep items only for a few days. Lost-and-found items will be disposed of after a few days.

River City Rhythm is **not responsible** for any lost or stolen property including phones, tablets, etc.

Communication:

Communication from your child during Spring Training may be very limited. Believe that no news is good news! Spring Training is just as demanding on staff. If you have any concerns or just want someone to check in on your child, use the contacts listed in [Chapter 10: Who to Call](#). Do not hesitate to call. You can also post a request on the Parent's Facebook page, and a parent volunteer can also help.

Volunteers during Spring Training are welcome! If you would like to volunteer, use the volunteer registration form found here; [Volunteer — River City Rhythm](#)

Uniform Fitting:

During spring camps, measurements are taken of every member. Final fittings are done during Spring Training. As the members rehearse, many of them tone up and lose weight. Uniforms need to be altered. We will need volunteers to help with the uniform

fitting during spring training and during the year as needed.

Please know that the administration does everything possible to keep all members looking good on the field. Your child is responsible to report any issues with the uniforms to the appropriate people.

Chapter 6: On Tour

While there will likely be a preview event prior to the start of the tour, the RCR DCI Tour will begin on Sunday July 5th and will conclude with the DCI competition in Indianapolis the first weekend in August.

Some of the information below is tentative and additional events may be added. For up-to-date schedules and ticket details go to: <https://www.dci.org/events/>

DATE	EVENT	EVENT	LOCATION
June 14 th	Sunday	Move-Ins	Cold Spring, MN
July 5 th	Sunday	River City Rhapsody	LaCrosse, WI
July 7 th	Tuesday	The Kiwanis Thunder of Drums	Mankato, MN
July 8 th	Wednesday	Celebration in Brass	Des Moines, IA
July 10 th	Friday	Music on the March	Dubuque, IA
July 11 th	Saturday	The Whitewater Classic	Whitewater, WI
July 22 nd	Wednesday	March On! (Home show)	Champlin, MN
July 25 th	Saturday	Midwestern Championship	DeKalb, IL
July 27 th	Monday	Summer Music Games	Mason, OH
July 30 th	Thursday	The Marion Open	Marion, OH
July 31 st	Friday	DCI Michigan	Allendale, MI
Aug 3 rd	Monday	DCI Open Class Prelims	Dayton, OH
Aug 4 th	Tuesday	DCI Open Class Finals	Dayton, OH
Aug 6 th	Thursday	DCI World Class Prelims	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 7 th	Friday	DCI World Class Semifinals	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 8 th	Saturday	DCI World Class Finals	Indianapolis, IN

RIVER CITY RHYTHM

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

2026 SUMMER TOUR

JULY 5 LA CROSSE, WI ^{FLO}

JULY 7 MANKATO, MN*

JULY 8 ANKENY, IA ^{FLO}

JULY 10 DUBUQUE, IA

JUL 11 WHITEWATER, WI ^{FLO}

JULY 22 CHAMPLIN, MN*

JULY 25 DEKALB, IL ^{FLO}

JULY 28 MASON, OH

JULY 30 MARION, OH ^{FLO}

JULY 31 ALLENDALE, MI

AUG 3 – 4 ^{FLO}

DCI OPEN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

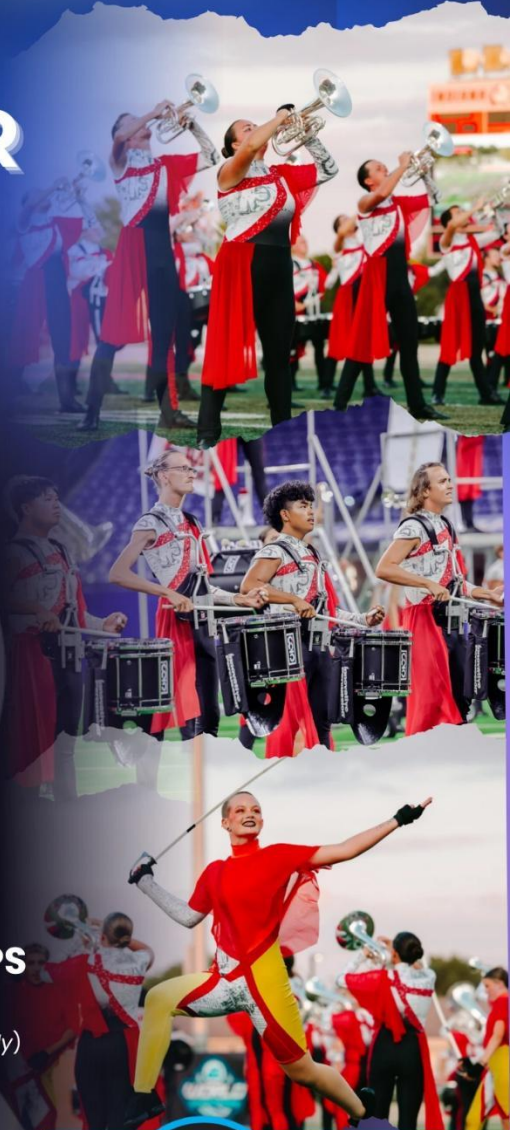
AUG 6 – 8 ^{FLO}

DCI WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

^{FLO}MARCHING Watch RCR Live (subscription fees may apply)



www.RiverCityRhythm.org



Attending Performances:

It is wise to purchase your tickets ahead of time. If you want to see the designs and layout of the performance, select seats that are high and at the 50-yard line. If you want a more intimate feeling with the music, select a seat closer to the field. We encourage you to experience both options.

Parents sometimes sit together in a block. Check the Facebook page for who is attending shows and where they are sitting.

What to Expect During Tour:

During the tour, your child continues rehearsal blocks. These rehearsals are in the morning before a show and on non-show days. These days are just as demanding as rehearsals during Spring Training.

Expect little contact. They are very busy and very tired at the end of the day. Don't worry if they do not respond to your texts or calls right away.

Be prepared for the home sick, "I'm ready to quit", "I want to come home" calls. It happens to every kid at one point or another. Heck, it even happens to the adults! The road life is tough, and it makes people tough. Listen and encourage them to talk to their section leader or the member experience liaison.

Consumption of alcohol or being under the influence of any illegal substances while with the program at a rehearsal facility, school campus, in your vehicle, or on tour **will NOT** be tolerated and is grounds for **immediate dismissal**.

Laundry Days and Supplies:

There are approximately 5 designated days for laundry. The members are dropped off at laundromats and are expected to do their laundry. Once finished, the buses will pick them up. Generally, we also do a Walmart run during laundry days so that they can restock on personal items.

If your child runs out of supplies, don't hesitate to ask for help on the Parent Facebook page. Parents are willing to help one another and purchase supplies your child may need.

Mail Drop Guidelines and Expectations:

Your child will appreciate a message from home. Consider sending a card or a care package! Although a treat is nice, be careful not to send too many sweets. The Food Crew works hard to serve meals that have high-nutritional value and will sustain their bodies for their hours of work. Individuals approved by RCR administration have volunteered to have packages mailed to their homes or businesses and will deliver all packages received by the posted deadline to the members.

Mail delivery is available to all River City Rhythm members, volunteers, and staff throughout the season. Please reference the schedule below to ensure you send your letter or package to the correct address in the correct time frame.

If you send a package, please consider the size of the item and the high volume of mail we receive. We do our very best to deliver packages and letters in a timely manner. If the mail does not arrive by the dates specified below, it will be returned to the sender.

- Please be sure any items sent to River City Rhythm **DO NOT** require a signature
- We recommend using the USPS, but we should be able to receive deliveries from most commercial shipping services.
- We can receive/deliver Amazon.com orders.
- Under **NO** circumstances should anything ever be sent to housing sites
- Please e-mail Haley Herem, Tour Director, should any package be time sensitive so we can try to get the package to the members sooner.

Maildrop locations:

Mail Drop 1 - **June 28, 2026, must arrive by June 27th**

- <Recipient Name Here>
- River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps
- 3642 Brentwood Drive
- Monticello, MN 55362

Mail Drop 2 - **July 21, 2026, must arrive by July 20th**

- <Recipient Name Here>
- River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps
- 3642 Brentwood Drive

- Monticello, MN 55362

Mail Drop 3 - **August 5, 2026, must arrive by August 4th**

- <Recipient Name Here>
- River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps
- c/o Nita Koehl
- 122 N. Brewer St.
- Greenwood, IN 46142

Parades:

Periodically, the corps will march in a parade. This information is posted on Facebook as opportunities are scheduled. Currently, there are four parades planned for this season.

RCR Alumni:

Alumni remain an important part of the RCR organization. Current members love hearing their stories about how things were “back in the day.”

Chapter 7: Volunteering

We HIGHLY recommend volunteering. While you are probably not going to see much of your child, you will get to experience, first hand, the hard work and dedication it takes to be an RCR member. There are many opportunities to get involved, whether it be for a few days or a few weeks, the organization would love to have you!! Volunteers are truly the backbone of the organization. Anyone who has traveled with the corps will tell you it is a highly rewarding experience.

The organization needs your help for the upcoming Tour. Please look over your summer schedules and see when you can volunteer. Your help is needed and appreciated. If you plan to volunteer this season, please be aware that you will have to follow our health and safety guidelines. In addition, a background check and online SafeSport Volunteer training courses **may be required**.

Please complete the volunteer form on the RCR web page. Once it is submitted our volunteer coordinator will be in contact with you about specific dates. Register to volunteer at the following link: [Volunteer — River City Rhythm](#)

Typical Volunteer Roles:

Spring Training: Cook Crew, Airport Runners, and Uniforms Crew

During Summer Tour: Cook Crew, Uniform Crew, Merchandise, Wash Crews, and Drivers

Parents traveling with the corps will need to pack your belongings, including a sleeping bag with an air mattress or sleeping pad.

Volunteers sleep on the floor and will shower in locker rooms during designated times when the membership is not using them. Remember to bring your towel and shower shoes!

Chapter 8: Finals Week

Rehearsals: to be communicated at a later date.

Event Tickets:

Please visit www.dci.org for complete details concerning ticket information at all events happening this summer.

Chapter 9: Banquet and Departure

The RCR Finals Awards Banquet is held on Saturday, August 8th, and the location will be shared once finalized.

Before the banquet, everyone will pack their bags and clean up the housing site. As soon as the banquet is over, the members will be bused to Lucas Oil Stadium for finals.

Chapter 10: Who's Who and Who to Contact

The RCR administrative staff is here, first and foremost, to serve the members of the Corp. Their roles are varied but their goal is the same: To provide an educational and life experience that members will remember for the rest of their lives.

Key RCR Personnel:

Jordon Pinchback, Corps Director – jordon@rivercityrhythm.org
727-946-8097

Ernad Sisic, Corps Manager – ernad@rivercityrhythm.org
404-213-8661

Madison Mason, Volunteer Coordinator – madison@rivercityrhythm.org
319-936-5680

Health Team (Dr. Walsh or Sarah Shade) – healthteam@rivercityrhythm.org

In Case of Emergency

Most members have cell phones, and the best times to contact them are during dinner and after shows, although they may also find time throughout the day to return calls/messages. If there is an URGENT need to contact a member who is not responding to personal communications, parents may call our administrative staff, but please use this contact information ONLY in case of an emergency:

- Jordon Pinchback, Corps Director 727-946-8097

RCR Educational Team:

The instructors teaching our members come with experience and expertise. Click on this link to find out more about this incredible team:

[Drum Corps Staff — River City Rhythm](#)

RCR Member Leaders:

These are key people who can support your child throughout the summer. Encourage your child to get to know these individuals. **Parents are not to contact these member leaders with any concerns as per RCR Member policy. Parents address all concerns with RCR Administration or with the Parent Liaison.**

Members will be able to reach their leadership teams via Pumble or in person.

River City Rhythm Family and Friends Facebook:

This Facebook page has much of the same general information as the parent page but is open to all family, friends and fans of members. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/389457844770686>

Here are other notable links:

Online Merchandise Store

<https://www.rivercityrhythm.org/merch>

Drum Corps International

<http://www.dci.org/>

Complete DCI Schedule

<https://www.dci.org/events>

Flo-Marching

<https://www.flomarching.com/>

Jolesch Photography

<http://www.bandgroupphotography.com/>

Chapter 11: Acronyms

BIS – “Butt in Seat” is the time given by the administration that your Trooper should be in his or her bus seat. When visiting with your child, be sure to honor this expectation.

EPL – Eat, Pack, Load While on tour this will be posted on the daily schedule. This is the time after rehearsal and before leaving a housing site heading to a performance.

Food Truck – Is the truck where all meals are prepared and served.

Free Days – Are a few scheduled days during tour when the members have several hours “off”. These dates will be announced throughout the tour. The members enjoy having down time with one another, going to a restaurant, a movie, and shopping.

On the Line – The time the corps is on the line, ready to perform.

Rehearsal Block – Typically a 4-hour block of time in which the members rehearse

Vet – Members or parents who have been RCR than one year

Chapter 12: Suggestions from Parents of RCR Veterans

- Have your new member ask for, and act on all advice offered from vets! They should ask what to pack, attitude, water intake, etc.
- Pack light!
- When packing laundry supplies, use a plastic pencil box to hold a Ziploc with 6 or so pods, dryer sheets, and \$30 worth of quarters. You can also use washer/dryer sheets and put a few in a Ziploc bag with \$4 in quarters. You can make 5 Ziploc baggies for the season.
- Good shoes and physical therapy tape make for a smoother season.
- Pack extra underwear and socks. They are more important than a clean t-shirt each day.
- Take lots of sunscreen AND sunglasses!
- Buy good shoes. Asics seem to be a popular brand.
- Must have good shoes WITH good support inserts! Spenco Polysorb Cross Trainer Insoles are recommended.
- They stay with the group on tour. No hotel with the family or dinner at a restaurant with the parents, unless they are on rare free time. We can do this September through April.
- When you get the "homesick" phone call, tell them they can do this and encourage them to talk with their section leader.
- No news is good news, especially during spring training.
- Expect limited cell phone calls and communication during Spring Training as the kids' time is really limited.
- Be respectful of boundaries set by RCR administration. All boundaries are set for the safety of your child and productiveness of the show.
- Your child is tougher than you think. They CAN survive without you.
- Do not be reactive to texts or phone calls you receive from your marching member - as tempting as it might be to do so - ALWAYS confirm with the RCR Office before panicking. Do not rely on other section parents for accurate and/or up-to-date information.

- If your child contacts you with a problem, encourage them to go to their member advocate first. Section leader, administration, or parent volunteers are also available to help.
- Follow and access The Parents Facebook frequently.
- Positivity at all times! Support your child, the staff, and the organization.
- Mail drops! Send goodies but remember to send small stuff. There is limited space on the bus and in their suitcases. Even if it is only a card, send something to each mail drop. If a friend is going to a show and asks if they can take something to your child, a Gatorade, a box of snacks and a few dollars go a long way.
- Soaking the yellow sweat-stained socks and t-shirts in BLZ gets them white again.
- When the packing list says bring a jacket or a hoodie, DON'T ignore that. The temps do not account for wind or rain, and it doesn't matter if you're hot-natured. You WILL need a hoodie.
- Pack more sunscreen & bug spray than you think is humanly possible to use.
- Have a jacket for inside Lucas Oil. Cause I always freeze!
- Spring Training in June can also get a bit chilly. Members should have a good jacket for those cold evening rehearsals.

Chapter 14: Final Thoughts

JD FUNCORPS is an age-out from a World Class Drum Corps. He's put together some funny but very insightful videos on Drum Corps life. Here are a few that hit on topics parents need to know about. He's got plenty more on YouTube that you'll probably find laugh out loud funny!

What to pack: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1Arr03Kwag>

(Some items may vary. Members should also consult with their caption staff if they are unsure of specific items.)

Bus Box: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdAVFC43CeA>

DCI Bus Culture and Bus Boxes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz6lmYsmzwk>

Laundry Days: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfV8Vn8M0O4>

Hitting The Wall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlcWqbR1Frs>

Rookie Year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISxeNDeEqs>

Post Tour Depression: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klu842JWt9c>

And finally ... as your child leaves for Spring Training, know that they have chosen to participate in something special. This is their dream and they obviously have a gift. They are about to embark on an adventure of a lifetime, and as parents it is hard to send your child off with so many questions and concerns. They are in one of the best places with some of the best teachers in the country.

If you have any questions, PLEASE ASK! You can contact Corps Director, Jordon Pinchback at jordon@rivercityrhythm.org or if you need an immediate response, feel free to text or call at 727-946-8097 [please mention in your text who you and your member(s) are]. *During the non-touring part of the year, please call or text during business hours 8:00am MT - 5:00pm ET.*

If you are unable to reach the Corps Director, you can also check with Don.

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