

SCV26 Member Finance Packet

About Vanguard Music and Performing Arts (VMAPA)

Mission

The mission of VMAPA is to inspire communities and enrich lives by increasing opportunities for participation, education, and excellence in the performing arts. We envision a world in which everyone has access to life-transforming performing arts.

Vision

We envision a world in which everyone has access to life-transforming performing arts.

Values

Integrity

Future Focus

Personal Responsibility

Excellence

Respect

Communication

Positivity

Community

Belonging

Payment Information

Members who have auditioned and received a spot in The Santa Clara Vanguard are responsible for paying a membership deposit of $200 within seven (7) days of contract offer and automatically put on a five month payment plan to total $5,500.

Payment Schedule

Due Date	Payment Amount
Within seven (7) days of contract offer	$200.00
January 10th, 2026	$1,100.00
February 10th, 2026	$1,100.00
March 10th, 2026	$1,100.00
April 10th, 2026	$1,100.00
May 10th, 2026	$1,100.00

Available Discounts

Pay In Full Discount

Members who make a full payment (inclusive of rehearsal fees for musicians) **on or before February 10th** will receive a discount of $100.00. This discount is eligible to members joining after February 10th only for the first 14 days after receiving an offer of membership.

Returning Member Discount

Members who have marched previous seasons with The Santa Clara Vanguard/The Santa Clara Vanguard Cadets will receive the following discount on their membership fees:

- Second year members will receive a $100 discount
- Third year members will receive a $200 discount
- Fourth year members will receive a $300 discount

Sibling Discount

In the case of siblings marching in the same season, each will pay the full audition/rehearsal fee. One sibling will be billed at the full corps membership fee and each additional sibling will be billed at 75% of their corps membership fee.

Payment Methods

1. Monthly payments can be made through a member's MySCV account using Visa or MasterCard.
2. Cash payments can be made at any camp, but please make sure you obtain a receipt. We ask that you *DO NOT send cash through the mail to the VMAPA Headquarters.*
3. Payments can be made by check or money order through the mail or at any camp.

PLEASE NOTE: In the memo portion of all checks/money orders, please print the prospective member's name (first & last), MySCV account number, and "for SCV". All checks should be written to: Vanguard Music and Performing Arts. There is a $45 penalty fee for returned checks.

Compliance

What happens if I fall behind on my payments?

Any member of the Santa Clara Vanguard who finds themselves behind on their financial obligations for whatever reason is responsible for communicating with corps administration **as soon as possible**. A member is not considered to be in good standing should a payment be missed with no payment or communication from the member. Repeated missed payments with no communication or concrete plan to get back on track may result in removal from the ensemble.

Financial obligations need to be met in order to join the corps at pre-tour in late May. Requests for extensions beyond the move-in date may only be made to members who are in good standing and have communicated and/or up to that point made regular, consistent, and significant payments and are up to the discretion of the Corps Director and CEO. Extensions may not be granted beyond the last day of pre-tour prior to corps bus travel.

What if I get my offer for membership after the first scheduled payment?

Members continue in the audition process following the December 19-21 camp in Dallas, TX and gain membership on a date on or after January 10, 2026 are expected to make all previous payments within three (3) weeks of their initial membership offer, including the membership deposit within seven (7) days of contract offer. Should a new payment be due within those three weeks, an extension may be granted for that next payment (no later than the following month's pay date).

- For example, someone who gains membership on March 1st will be responsible for the January 10th and February 10th payments no later than March 22nd, and it is preferred that they also pay the March 10th payment on the due date but may make that payment any time between March 10th and April 10th

I am in the color guard, how does the payment plan affect me?

All contracted members regardless of section are expected to stay on schedule with their payments. Prospective members of the color guard continuing the audition process at the April 24-26 camp are expected to have their finances in order upon arrival in the event of gaining membership.

Any outstanding dues following the end of the competitive season will be a deterrent from continued membership and/or attending any audition events or similar the following season. Age outs of the organization in their final year of membership who carry a balance will not be eligible for participation within the organization in any facet until the balance has been paid. Statements will be sent to those not in good standing until the balance is paid.

About VMAPA Financial Assistance

What Financial Assistance is Offered?

VMAPA offers scholarship opportunities to assist passionate performers who possess the skills and talent necessary to earn a contract with the Santa Clara Vanguard as well as financial aid based on need. Aid is distributed based on the level of financial need of each applicant and the amount of funds available. VMAPA is wholly committed to increasing the accessibility of our programs and removing financial barriers, so that all performers, regardless of their financial situation, have the opportunity to participate in life-transforming performing arts experiences.

Who is Eligible for VMAPA Financial Assistance?

All current or prospective (auditioning) members of the Santa Clara Vanguard can apply for both scholarships and financial aid. Each scholarship has unique requirements, and thus not everyone will qualify to apply for every scholarship. Please be sure to read the details of each scholarship in order to determine if you qualify prior to filling out an application. Performers are encouraged to apply to all scholarships for which they are eligible.

What is the Application Process?

Timeline:

Application Process Opens: **Saturday, November 1, 2025**
Application Deadline: **The first of each month beginning December 1 through March 1 (FINAL SUBMISSION DATE for financial consideration is ~~March 1, 2026~~ expanded deadline March 31, 2026)**
Scholarships and financial aid may be awarded throughout the months of December through May of the 2026 season

Selection Process:

Applications are evaluated by a committee of VMAPA staff, corps director(s), and executive leadership. Committee members work collaboratively to assess applicants. Financial need, merit, and character are contributing factors to the decision making process when awarding financial assistance. The information provided by assistance applicants is 100% confidential and will not be shared outside the committees responsible for selecting awardees. Both partial and full assistance may be available, and will be distributed on a case-by-case basis. Funds will be distributed appropriately amongst selected applicants according to the amount of funds available and the level of need of each applicant.

VMAPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
VMAPA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

List and Description of VMAPA Scholarships

Brass Memorial Scholarship

The Brass Memorial Scholarship provides financial assistance to members who perform in the drum corps' hornline under one of the following instruments: trumpet, mellophone, baritone, euphonium, or tuba.

Percussion Memorial Scholarship

The Percussion Scholarship provides financial assistance to members who perform in the drum corps' drumline or front ensemble under one of the following instruments: snare drum, bass drum, tenor drum, cymbals, marimba, xylophone, piano/keyboard, and other various percussion instruments.

Color Guard (BelieVe) Scholarship

The Color Guard Scholarship, also referred to as the BelieVe Scholarship, provides financial assistance to color guard members who are visual performers in the drum corps specializing in dance and equipment work including flag, rifle, and sabre. The BelieVe Scholarship was originally created by SCV Color Guard Alumni to assist financially struggling members of the color guard section who exemplify SCV spirit.

Leadership Scholarship

The Leadership Scholarship provides financial assistance to members in the drum corps who hold the title of section leader, color guard captain, horn sergeant, assistant drum major, or drum major. These individuals take on an increased level of personal responsibility, ensuring that members' under their leadership have the resources and support needed to achieve their full potential as individuals and as a group.

Mosaic Scholarship

The Mosaic Scholarship provides financial assistance to members who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), and those who identify as LGBTQ+. The additional socio-economic barriers that BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals face have historically prevented many talented young people from participating in the Drum Corps activity. VMAPA is invested in making our programs more inclusive and representative of marginalized communities, so that all are able to benefit from the transformative performing arts experiences we offer.

Scholarships vs. Individual Member Contributions

What is the Difference Between a Scholarship and an Individual Member Contribution?

A scholarship is a restricted fund of money raised by VMAPA through donors. The recipient of the scholarship is decided on within the previously described voting committees, based on the information provided in the scholarship application including the level of financial need of each applicant and other relevant factors.

An individual member contribution is any amount of money given to a member by a private party to assist them in paying their membership fees. An individual member contribution does not need to be decided on by any party other than the contributor. Individual contributions of this nature are different from donations to VMAPA scholarship funds in that they provide financial assistance to an individual member and are not tax-deductible. If you are interested in raising funds for your membership fees through individual member contributions, please refer to the tips listed on the following page in order to maximize your success. You are also provided a letter template that you are encouraged to use when reaching out to anyone regarding individual member contributions. The links below can be provided to those interested in making an individual member contribution. Those contributing must specify the amount they are contributing and the full name of the member who their contribution will benefit.

SANTA CLARA VANGUARD INDIVIDUAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Tips to Secure Individual Member Contributions

A sample request for a financial contribution letter can be found here and here. Please make a copy in order to be able to edit and distribute.

1. Any individual member contribution must be received before the summer season starts, in order to be credited to your account. A verbal or written promise will not suffice and will not be accepted in lieu of payment.

2. All monies received will be credited toward your MEMBERSHIP FEE.

3. If the money you raise is more than your MEMBERSHIP FEE – either through individual member contributions or in combination with your own personal payments - you may apply it to a fellow member who might be in need of assistance or to other personal fundraisers (fuel fund & food fund). If you prefer a refund, a check will be issued for funds received except for contributions which will be refunded back to the contributor. Funds sent to VMAPA CANNOT be transferred for personal spending on tour or back to you to cover personal expenses of transportation to camps.

4. Seek frequently and start early! The earlier you seek contributions, the earlier it will be credited to you. The earlier money is turned in, the less you have to pay. We recommend starting with a list of people and for everyone you ask, request the names of two people they know who might be willing to contribute to your fees.

5. Should you leave the program voluntarily, any money you've raised will be retained by VMAPA. Money raised is then considered a donation to the corps in your name. Refunds may be given to you and/or your parent/guardian should your departure from the program fit within the restrictions outlined in our most current Membership Fee and Member Handbook Policy.

HOW DOES ONE REQUEST INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS? WHO SHOULD BE ASKED?

Always include a handwritten note or letter that details your participation in the program. Why do you enjoy being a participant? What lessons have you learned? How have you become a better person? You want someone to understand why being part of the Santa Clara family is important and beneficial to you.

PERSONAL CONTACT ALWAYS YIELDS THE BEST RESULTS

Make a personal visit. A smile, a handshake, and personal conversation make a better impression than a letter in the mail. That being said, a letter with some polite personal comments is better than a form letter. Of course, a form letter is better than no letter at all (make sure you sign it!). Whatever your approach, keep in mind that you're representing VMAPA, so do it with our trademark characteristics of courtesy, respect, and kindness.

FAMILY

Reach out to grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and godparents. Marching with Vanguard is an honor and high individual achievement. Not many have the opportunity to have this educational, enriching and rewarding experience.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

Contract your band boosters, band director, fraternity/sorority, music fraternity, teachers, and other

school groups. Being selected to join either drum corps is an outstanding achievement. You will spend the summer on tour, building music and leadership skills, just like at a summer workshop or music camp. You will be representing your school throughout the country before tens of thousands of fans.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Churches, VFW, Rotary, Lions, Chambers of Commerce, Moose, Elks, Shriners, etc. Drum corps is a positive youth music activity that challenges members to grow musically and as individuals. You will be representing your hometown on tour throughout the country and in front of tens of thousands of fans.

LOCAL YOUTH-ORIENTED BUSINESSES

Doctors, dentists, banks, barbers, salons, hardware stores, restaurants) These are companies, large AND small, that have probably sponsored community students and events and may be willing to support a young person in drum corps (a musical athlete!). Be sure to ask those businesses your family has patronized for a good number of years because if you've been a loyal customer, they're generally more willing to help. Also be sure to ask the vendors that your parents do business with.

VANGUARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Vanguard Music and Performing Arts has a close relationship with the Vanguard Alumni Association and has had success in previous years with membership contributions from some of our past members. Vanguard administrative staff will collect and distribute any letters from current members who wish to receive any financial assistance from our alumni base (you can submit your letter here!). Vanguard administrative staff will connect interested alumni with the process in which to make financial contributions for current member accounts.

*NOTE: DO NOT **directly** solicit sponsorship from our Alumni or any of our corporate partners listed on the website.*

Other Financial Resources

Other Ways to Pay Your Fees

Work for VMAPA

VMAPA runs a comprehensive bingo game at the VMAPA headquarters located at 1795 Space Park Drive in Santa Clara, CA. Members who are local, 18 years or older, and are in need of additional sources of income to pay their membership fees, may apply to become a Bingo Sales Clerk. The Bingo Sales Clerk position is a part time employee position with VMAPA. Wages earned for payable hours worked can be credited towards your own/or other members' financial obligations. Members interested in becoming Bingo Sales Clerks should intend to continue working the position beyond just the amount needed to pay for their membership fees. Below is a job description for Bingo Sales Clerks:

Reporting to the Director of Bingo Operations, the Bingo Sales Clerk is responsible for maintaining accuracy throughout all phases of the game process and assists in monitoring bingo play, all the while actively selling various games (flash, strip, paper).

What You Would Be Doing

- Sell Session Bingo Paper and Electronics including Strip sales
- Promote the sales of special bingo paper on the bingo floor
- Redeem instant winning tickets as part of sales or cash redemption
- Assist with the sorting and entering of instant win tickets during game sessions
- Sell Session Bingo Flash Games and Strip Games at Flash Window
- Redeems instant win tickets
- Assist with flash and strip floor sales during the session
- Assist with the sorting and entering of instant win tickets during sessions
- Proactively sell multiple flash games (daub and ball)
- Redeem instant win tickets of $25.00 or less
- Manage and organize both cash and redeemed instant win tickets in their care
- Proactively sells $3 and $5 strip games on the bingo floor

Those interested in paying membership fees by working for VMAPA in this capacity should email hr@scvanguard.org and CC Colby Vasquez cvasquez@scvanguard.org with their resume and a cover letter.

Never written a resume/cover letter before?

Visit the resources below to help you get started:

Resumes: https://resumegenius.com/blog/resume-help/how-to-write-a-resume

Cover Letters: https://novoresume.com/career-blog/how-to-write-a-cover-letter-guide

Questions?

Please direct any questions regarding scholarships, sponsorships, etc to Giovanna Bastante-Siegelman gbastante@scvanguard.org.