



THE CADETS

Parent Handbook



Youth Education in the Arts
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www.yea.org

What is Cadets²? What is drum corps?

The Cadets² Drum Corps is operated by Youth Education in the Arts (YEA!), the Allentown-based non-profit organization which also operates USBands, The Cadets, and Xcape.

Cadets² is a regional drum and bugle corps made up of approximately 128 young men and women ages 16 to 25 that competes in the Drum Corps Associates circuit. Founded in 2012 as a weekend only alternative to the 10-time DCI World Champion Cadets nationally touring ensemble, Cadets² maintains The Cadets' standard of excellence while offering a more time and cost effective drum corps experience to young people in and around the Lehigh Valley.

While Cadets² does take a different approach to drum corps than The Cadets, necessary due to the level of time commitment, the corps is managed very much in the same way. There is an expectation of excellence, a clear intention that the image of The Cadets is maintained, and a promise from the organization that Cadets² will operate with the same degree of quality as all of YEA!'s programs.

Modern drum corps in the DCA circuit are comprised of 128 performers, and each corps is made up of brass musicians, percussionists, and a color guard. Members perform an 11-minute program on a standard football field. Programs are extravaganzas of musical excellence, marching precisions, 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.

What has my child gotten ME into?

Drum corps is an activity that requires a lot of time, energy, money and commitment from everyone involved – whether you are in the corps or not! The road from here until the final product is not an easy one but it is well worth it!

Travel to and from camp, rehearsal supplies, member fees, and a summer of weekends away from home are all things to consider when your child decides to participate in a drum corps.

Winter Camps

Beginning in November with the Cadets/Cadets² Audition Camp and continuing through April, we hold 6-7 weekend winter camps. The camps are for music rehearsals and further auditions. Contracted members are required to attend all winter camps.

Winter Camps:

Jan 13-14	Brass & Percussion Only
Feb 3-4	Brass & Percussion Only
Feb 24-25	Brass Only
April 6-8	Brass Only
April 27-29	Guard and Percussion Only



Beginning the first weekend in May the corps will rehearse/perform every weekend through, and including, Labor Day weekend.

In late May Friday evening rehearsals will also be added to the weekend schedule.

Sample Winter Camp Schedule

SATURDAY

8:30am Registration
10:00am Sectionals
1:30pm Lunch
2:30pm Sectionals/Marching
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Sectionals/Marching
9:00pm Sectionals/Ensemble
12:00am Snack
1:00am Lights Out

SUNDAY

8:00am Breakfast
9:00am Sectionals
1:00pm Quick Snack & Setup
1:30pm Ensemble Rehearsal
3:00pm Cleanup
4:00pm Dismissed & Depart

Auditions

Cadets² approaches auditions a bit differently than some other organizations. We do not make “cuts” in any way. Instead, we provide feedback and tips for improvement for each individual. The audition is intended to feel like a private lesson. At the end of the weekend, each individual receives a rating of 1, 2, or 3.

1 = We feel that you’re ready to become a Cadet, so begin getting your finances, schedules, and plans in order!

2 = We feel that you have potential to be a Cadet, but we need you to work on some specific items, come back to the next camp, and show us your progress.

3 = We don’t feel that you’re quite ready to be a Cadet this year, but we’ll provide you with suggestions for improvement, marching with another group, or anything else that may help you to reach your goal of being a Cadet in the future.

It is the responsibility of each student to make sure that all of their questions regarding their audition are answered prior to the end of each camp.



Fees

The member fees charged cover about a third of the corps total expenses for the entire season. Fees are the same for every member, regardless of years marched. Members have the option to participate in one of two discount options. These discounts will be detailed in the financial contract that each member receives.

Member Fees:

- Winter Camp Fees
- Tuition

Expenses covered in these fees include:

- Lodging
- Food (4 meals a day)
- Instruction & Staffing
- Uniform Care & Maintenance
- Equipment Care & Maintenance

Member Paperwork

There is a Member Contract and Financial Contract that your child, and you if they are under 18, will be required to sign and submit. These contracts cover the variety of member responsibilities, including their commitment to the corps, to themselves and to one another, as well as their financial commitments.

A great deal is expected of your child in terms of the time commitment as well as monetary commitments but the experience is WELL worth the investment!

We also require a copy of their birth certificate and insurance card and a completed Member Medical History Form. The corps is not responsible for personal medical bills; whether your child is insured or not insured.

Volunteering for the Cadets²

Volunteering is an investment of your time, energy and travel but allows you the chance to see your child grow and have the experience of a lifetime as a member of Cadets². It is impossible to explain the feeling that drum corps emits, you must experience it yourself!

There are opportunities to volunteer throughout the year, beginning in the off-season. You can attend the winter camps with your child and see just how the corps is started and built. We have sleeping accommodations at the rehearsal site for our volunteers.

You may also choose to join us in the summer. We have individuals that help prepare, cook, and serve food; others fit, alter, and repair uniforms; and still others help to repair props or drive vehicles. Cadets² simply could not function without the help of our volunteers!

Additionally, some companies will match your volunteer hours with a donation. So please, if you decide to volunteer, check with your company to see if they have a matching program.



Responsibility

We treat each and every member as a mature young adult. They are responsible for taking care of their communications, finances, paperwork, and themselves. We will provide all information and any assistance that is needed, but at the end of the day, they must be sure that all aspects of their membership are taken care of.

Helpful Links

- Drum Corps International Parent Information - <http://www.dci.org/parents/>
- Cadets² Volunteers - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/155072634623928/>

Contact Information

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TOUR DATES

(As of 1/11/17, Subject to change)

FULL CORPS REHEARSALS BEGIN

- May 5-6 Rehearsal, Lancaster PA
- May 11-12 Rehearsal, Lancaster PA (Sunday off for Mother's Day)
- May 19-20 Rehearsal, Lancaster PA
- May 25-27 Rehearsal, Lancaster PA
- June 1-3 Rehearsal, & NYC Parade on Sunday
- June 8-10 Rehearsal, Allentown PA
- June 15-17 Rehearsal, Allentown PA
- June 22-24 Weekend Rehearsal - Show #1 Milton, PA on the 23rd
- June 29- 7/1 Philadelphia, PA DCI Show – Performance on June 30th
- July 6-8 Full weekend - Show #2 in Hempfield, PA on Sat.
- July 13-15 Full Weekend – Show #3 in Clifton, NJ on Sat.
- July 20-22 Full Weekend – Show #4 in Nazareth, on Sat.
- July 27-29 Full Weekend – Show #5 in Peckville, PA on Sat.
- July 31 **Start Mini Tour Rehearsal in PA**
- Aug 1 **Rehearsal – Performance in Chester, PA**
- Aug 2 **Rehearsal in PA**
- Aug 3 **Rehearsal – Performance at DCI East In Allentown, PA**
- Aug 4 **Rehearsal – Attendance at DCI East in Allentown, PA**



Aug 5 Rehearsal (AM) ... Banquet in PM
Aug 10-13 OFF
Aug 17-19 Full Weekend. Show #6 at Woodbridge, NJ on Saturday
Aug 24-26 Full Weekend. Show #7 at Reading, PA on Saturday
Aug 30-31 Rehearsal Thursday evening and all day Friday in Williamsport, PA
Sep 1 DCA Prelims Saturday evening
Sept 2 DCA Finals Sunday evening
Season Complete. Pick- ups for most will be in Williamsport, PA

