



Band Application – Rose Parade - Jan. 1, 2011

The Rose Parade's musical tradition dates back to 1891 when the Monrovia, California City Band joined the procession of flower-covered pony carts in the second Tournament of Roses Parade. "I think we have started something," remarked Dr. Francis F. Rowland, one of the Tournament's founders. Since then, hundreds of thousands of musicians have made the famous march down Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards on New Year's Day.

Actually, not every band member has marched down these streets. In 1934, members of the Roberts Mounted Band appeared on horseback, and in the 1950's, the Los Angeles Boy Scout Band was chauffeured in official Tournament automobiles. Pasadena Public School bands of the 1930's entertained from atop flowered floats, and the 1933 Parade featured a marimba player riding on a decorated car.

From Holland, Michigan's High School Band marching in wooden shoes to The Toppers Band of the 50's and 60's, performing in full black tie and tails, band members have sported Scottish kilts, Hawaiian shirts, Arabian fezzes, Indian headdresses, Robin Hood costumes, Spanish dresses, pirate hats and court jester outfits.

Several of the bands that appear annually in Rose Parade have been a part of the Tournament family since its early years. The Salvation Army Band has appeared in the Parade every year since 1920. The Pasadena Area Community College District Band first appeared in 1930 as the Pasadena Junior College Band. The Composite United States Marine Corps Band has been a part of the Rose Parade for more than 50 years.

Whether a band is a Rose Parade veteran or a newcomer from across town or across the globe, and no matter what it's wearing or playing, it becomes an important part of the history of marching bands in the Tournament of Roses, adding to well over 100 years of harmony to the world's most-watched celebration.

Introduction

Thank you for considering the Rose Parade as an opportunity to showcase your band to the world. This document will answer basic questions, guide you through the application process, and offer suggestions on how to submit the best possible application to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Expectations

Marching in the Rose Parade is a remarkable experience, to be remembered and treasured for a lifetime. Participating bands not only march the nearly 6 mile parade route, but also in the days immediately preceding the parade, they have the opportunity to take a band photo in front of the historic Rose Bowl, and perform along with other Rose Parade bands in shows at Bandfest. In addition, Band Directors are invited to a Brunch with the President of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.



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Although there are no entry fees, each band must finance its transportation, accommodations and all other expenses while in southern California. This can cost from \$1,400 - \$1,700 per person, depending on distance traveled, length of stay, and additional activities you might arrange.

Throughout the year, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses expects Band Directors to respond to various requests for additional information relevant to press coverage, parade planning, and the various events associated with the Rose Parade. A few days before the parade, all directors and drum majors must attend a final morning breakfast meeting for last minute instructions and a tour of the parade route.

Application Requirements

Each year, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses selects bands from among the many applications submitted. The attached application form and accompanying materials must be received at the Pasadena Tournament of Roses offices on or before **June 15th** to be considered for the Rose Parade 20 months hence. Invitations are issued in the fall, more than a year in advance of the parade, to allow bands to raise the funds necessary for a trip of this magnitude.

Bands are selected based on three criteria: musicianship, marching ability, and showmanship. They are evaluated on how they will appear and sound on the parade route. There are no set size requirements and no automatic invitations based on competitive awards. Other than a few time-honored regular participants, bands are not invited more than once every four years. This does not prohibit bands from applying in successive years.

To complete an application to the Rose Parade a band must submit *all* of the following:

- A fully completed application form which is located at the end of this document or may be downloaded from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses web site at: www.tournamentofroses.com
- A DVD or VHS video cassette showing the band and auxiliary units in full uniform, marching in parade formation while playing. (See the section below "Preparing Your Application" for detail)
- An 8x10 inch color photograph of the entire band and color photographs clearly displaying band uniforms, auxiliary unit uniforms, drum major uniforms, banner, and color guard equipment
- Letters of recommendation from respected individuals confirming musicianship, showmanship, dedication, consistency, and fundraising ability

Preparing Your Application

Your application tells your band's story and your director's story.

- Complete each item. Each item has specific meaning, either in the selection process or in preparing for the Rose Parade.
- Provide full answers. The selection committee is comprised of parade experts, not necessarily band experts. They may not understand association abbreviations or the value of certain awards. Tell them what it means.
- Ask questions. If something is unclear, contact the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Participant Relations department at 626-449-4100. They can help you better represent your band in the application process.



Band Application – Rose Parade - Jan. 1, 2011

Photographs

The photographs of your band in uniform present a clear image of how the band would appear in the Rose Parade and provide valuable showmanship information.

- Many bands take an annual group photo in uniform. This will fulfill the requirement for an 8x10 photograph of the entire band.
- Show it all, head-to-toe. Include photographs that show the whole uniform, from the plume to the shoes.
- Don't stand too far back. Be sure uniform details are clearly visible.
- About-face! What does the back of the uniform look like? Is there a contrasting color or other feature noticeable only once the band has passed?
- Be inclusive. Incorporate photos of the band, drum major, auxiliary units, and any variations in uniform. Do the sousaphones or percussion wear different headgear?
- Ask students to model. Don't rely on grainy photographs taken through a zoom lens at last year's homecoming field show. Make it easy. Ask a few students to dress in uniform as though going to a parade and take posed photographs.
- No returns. The Pasadena Tournament of Roses cannot return photographs; so make copies of shots you really want to keep.

DVD or Video of the Band Marching

The video gives the Pasadena Tournament of Roses the clearest idea of how your band would look and sound in the Rose Parade.

- Simple is best. Focus on what is assessed: the band's sound as it passes, how the uniforms look in motion, and precision marching.
- Showcase your band's uniqueness. Make sure your footage captures the showmanship and the qualities that will help add to the entertainment value of the Rose Parade.
- Avoid submitting video clips of your band from recent televised holiday and bowl parades. Footage from televised coverage is often short and the broadcast announcers talk over the music!
- Please provide recent footage. Do not submit footage from prior Rose Parade appearances with band members that have since graduated.
- Make it all LIVE! The Pasadena Tournament of Roses needs to see and hear your band marching. Record the audio and visual simultaneously.
- The video doesn't need to be of an actual parade. Some of the most effective submissions show bands marching along a practice street or back and forth across a football field. Please do not provide field show footage where the band is not marching.
- Take a corner. The Rose Parade has a famous 110° corner directly in front of the television cameras. If possible, demonstrate your band turning a corner, real or imaginary.
- An advantageous camera angle helps. Position the camera slightly above the band if you can, whether from the stands at the football stadium or from an overpass above the street. This helps assess marching precision and provides a better visual of the entire band.
- Balance distance with sound. As you strive for good visuals, keep audio in mind. Musicianship and overall sound are very important in the selection process.
- The Pasadena Tournament of Roses cannot return videos so please make a copy of your footage before you submit your application.



Band Application – Rose Parade - Jan. 1, 2011

Letters of Recommendation

- Focus on what's important. The Pasadena Tournament of Roses looks for musicianship, showmanship, dedication, consistency, and fundraising ability. Use letters of recommendation to confirm and emphasize your band's strengths in these areas.
- Ask respected individuals. Consider people whose opinions carry weight, such as university band directors, festival or competition sponsors, and education officials.
- Begin this process early. Because you're relying on important people, chances are they have busy schedules. Allow sufficient time to make the connections, gain the support, and receive the letters.

Begin preparing well in advance of the **June 15th** deadline. You will invest a significant amount of time assembling the components of your application. You'll need both straightforward items (such as numbers of participants, the band's accomplishments, and the director's experience), as well as items more difficult to orchestrate (such as letters of recommendation, assurance of adequate financial support, and a video of the entire band marching and playing in uniform). So begin early, talking to school officials and band booster groups, taking photographs and filming the video while the band is in prime marching form, and reestablishing the connections you'll need for the letters of recommendation.

Consider designating an assistant director or booster club officer to help keep the process on track and on time. Give yourself time to represent your band at its best and to assemble an attention-getting application.

Questions

If you have questions at any point during the application process, please contact the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Participant Relations department via telephone at 626-449-4100. We look forward to reviewing your application.



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Application Deadline: June 15, 2009

Name of Band

Representing _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Band Director

Home address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Work phone _____

FAX: _____

Home phone _____

E-mail: _____

Cell phone _____

Prior Tournament of Roses Appearances

Band Director Experience

Time in current position _____

Total Director experience _____

(Please attach director's resume, if available)

Major parade and competition experience

(Please attach a separate sheet or formal listing if additional space is needed)

Fundraising Plan

If invited to march in the 2011 Rose Parade, your band would be expected to participate in the Bandfest field show exhibition scheduled for December 29 and 30.

This form is an application, not an invitation to participate in the Rose Parade. To be considered for participation in the Rose Parade, submit this completed application with the following:

- DVD, VHS or other digital media of the band playing and marching in uniform. **Must be current taping [last 18 months] showing band's marching [not a field show] and musical abilities. Sound is critical.**
- 8"x10" color photograph of the band in uniform
- Color photographs of the drum major, typical band member, and auxiliary unit member in uniform*
- Letters of recommendation
- Any additional information pertinent to the selection process

Please label all items with the band name and year of Rose Parade for which applying. Once submitted, all items become property of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association and cannot be returned.

Signature & title of submitter: _____

Date submitted: _____

Signature of Principal or Superintendent: _____

Please send complete application packet to:

Chair, Music Committee
Pasadena Tournament of Roses
391 South Orange Grove Boulevard
Pasadena, CA 91184

*Note that weapons or replica weapons are not allowed in the Rose Parade.
For office use only- Application rec'd by ___ Photo ___ Video ___ Letters

Band Composition	
	<u>Number</u>
Brass	_____
Woodwinds	_____
Percussion	_____
Total Playing	_____
Non-playing*	_____
Total Band Size	_____
*Non-playing members should not exceed 15% of total band size.	